



Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme

SECRETARIAT

28 June 2010
Synopsis AS/Jur No 2010/05rev

To the Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis (revised) of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 21 to 24 June 2010

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg

- on 21 June 2010 at 14 h, with Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **The situation in Kosovo and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): considered a report presented by the Political Affairs Committee, and approved an opinion and 10 amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;
 - **Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Rafael Huseynov, Azerbaijan, ALDE*): considered a report presented by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, and approved an opinion and 9 amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;
 - **The protection of witnesses as a cornerstone for justice and reconciliation in the Balkans** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting them at a forthcoming part-session of the Assembly;
 - **Flare-up of tension in the Middle East**: appointed Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) rapporteur for opinion;
 - **Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy (Yerevan, 19-20 October 2010)**: appointed the following members to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau: Mr Tamás Gaudi Nagy (Hungary, NR); Mr Franz Eduard Kühnel (Austria, EPP/CD); Mrs Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD); Mr Janusz Rachoń (Poland, EPP/CD); Mr Øyvind Vaksdal (Norway, EDG);
 - **Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights**: heard a report by Mrs Renate Wohlwend, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the meeting held in Paris on 31 May 2010;

- on 22 June 2010 at 8 h 30, with Mr Christos Pourgourides in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dick Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;
 - **The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages** (*Rapporteur: Mr József Berényi, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the rapporteur, considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** heard a report by the following representative:
 - Conference on the integration of national minorities in Europe (Skopje ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), 7-8 June 2010): Mr Boriss Cilevics (Latvia, SOC)

- on 22 June 2010 at 14 h, with Mr Christos Pourgourides in the Chair, as regards:
 - **The situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr József Berényi, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD*): took position on amendments to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;
 - **Flare-up of tension in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered a report presented by the Political Affairs Committee, and approved an opinion with 2 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur who informed the Committee that he had not yet received an invitation from one of the 8 states which he had been authorised to visit;

- on 24 June 2010 at 8 h 30, with Mr Christos Pourgourides in the Chair, as regards:
 - **An internationally recognised status of election observers** (*Rapporteur: Mr Frans Weekers, Netherlands, ALDE*): in the absence of the rapporteur, considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting them at the November 2010 Standing Committee;
 - **The definition of political prisoners / The follow-up to the issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christoph Strässer, Germany, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of the following experts:
 - Mr Andrew Grotrian, United Nations Security Council expert on the definition of political prisoners in Namibia, former Judge on the Human Rights Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Mr Javier Gómez Bermúdez, Judge, President of the Criminal Chamber, Audiencia Nacional (Spain)
 - Mr Stefan Trechsel, Judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, former President of the European Commission of Human Rights

and decided that the Rapporteur would deal with the two motions in a single report;

- **Membership of sub-committees:** took note of the following change:
 - Mr Yüksel Özden (Turkey, EDG) to become titular member of the Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities, with Mr Erol Aslan Cebeci (Turkey, EPP/CD) as alternate;

- **Human Rights and business** (*Rapporteur: Mr Holger Haibach, Germany, EPP/CD*): decided to ask the Bureau for an extension of the mandate until 31 December 2010;
- **Plenary Committee meeting in Tbilisi (Georgia) 16 and 17 September 2010**: decided to hold a hearing, with the participation of experts, on "Abuse of state secrecy and national security: obstacles to parliamentary and judicial scrutiny of human rights violations" (*Rapporteur: Mr Dick Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*), and to invite the Chairperson of the European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights to an exchange of views;
- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- Tbilisi (Georgia), Thursday 16 and Friday 17 September 2010
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2010 (4-8 October 2010)
- Paris, Wednesday 17 November 2010 at 9 h (Council of Europe Office)

Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:

- Paris, Friday 10 September 2010 at 9 h 30 (Council of Europe Office)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Mario Heinrich, Agnieszka Szklanna, Gregory Thuan

- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
 Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
 Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
 Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
 Observers to the Assembly
- Secretary General of the Congress
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
 Directors General
 Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
 Director of Communication
- Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe