

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND POPULATION

Synopsis AS/MIG/2008/CB/03

18 April 2008

The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, meeting in Strasbourg, on 14, 15 and 17 April 2008, with Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- **ON 14 APRIL 2008, AT 2.00 PM, as regards:**
 - ***European Muslim communities confronted with extremism*** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Keskin, Germany, UEL*): approved a draft opinion as amended;
- **ON 15 APRIL 2008, AT 2.00 PM, as regards:**
 - ***Migration and mobility in the Eurasian region – prospects for the future*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - ***Detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Mendonça, Portugal, SOC*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, decided to return to this issue at its next meeting;
 - ***The problem of environmental refugees***: appointed Mrs Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) Rapporteur to replace Mr Bocchino (Italy, EDG) who resigned;
 - ***State of democracy in Europe – measures to improve the democratic participation of migrants*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Greenway, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered a preliminary draft report, decided to ask its members to send their possible comments to the Secretariat of the Committee by 25 April and to consider the report for approval at its next meeting in Paris;
 - ***Activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE*): held an exchange of views with Mrs DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation;
 - ***Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe Member States*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom (2 April 2008) and agreed to organise a hearing in Paris, on 19 May 2008;
 - ***Conference on the globalisation of migration processes*** (*meeting of Sub-committee on Migration, St Petersburg, 3-4 April 2008*): heard a report by Mr Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Migration;

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General in the Secretariat of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of Communication and Research
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **ON 17 APRIL 2008, AT 2.00 PM, as regards:**
 - ***Migration from sub-Saharan Africa*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Branger, France, EPP/CD*): took note that no amendments were tabled on the draft Resolution;
 - ***Unexpected large-scale arrival of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Østergaard, Denmark, ALDE*): considered a preliminary draft report, agreed to change the title of the report to “Europe’s “boat-people”, mixed migration flows by sea into Southern Europe” and decided to ask its members to send their possible comments to the Secretariat of the Committee by 25 April and to consider the report for approval at its next meeting in Paris;
 - ***Housing, land and property considerations as part of durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dendias, Greece, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with Mr BERGER, Jurisconsult, European Court of Human Rights;
 - ***Work programme***
 - Appointment of rapporteurs:
 - *Human rights implications for voluntary return policies and programme for irregular migrants*: appointed Mrs Türköne (Turkey, EPP/CD)
 - *Readmission agreements: a mechanism for returning irregular migrants*: appointed Mrs Strik (Netherlands, SOC);
 - Motion referred to the Committee for consultation:
 - *European expatriates: relations to their countries of origin*: decided to ask its Chair to write to the Bureau requesting that the motion be referred to the Committee for report;
 - ***Other business :***
 - Forum for the Future of Democracy of the Council of Europe (Madrid, 15-17 October 2008) :* decided to propose to the Political Affairs Committee that Mrs Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE), Mr Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG), Mr Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) and Mrs Reps (Estonia, ALDE) be included in the to constitute *Ad hoc sub-committee* to take part in the “Forum for the Future of Democracy”;
 - ***Replies from the Committee of Ministers to texts adopted by the Assembly presented by the Committee:*** took note of the replies to the following Recommendations:
 - *Recommendation 1806 (2007) on Activities of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)*;
 - *Recommendation 1807 (2007) on Regularisation programmes for irregular migrants*;
 - ***Next meetings:*** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Plenary Committee:*
 - Paris, 19-20 May 2008
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part of the Session 2008 (23-27 June 2008)
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part of the Session 2008 (29 September – 3 October 2008)
 - Geneva, Switzerland (25-26 November 2008): Seminar on
 - (i) Europe’s population decline and migration
 - (ii) Human Rights of IDPs
 - (iii) Rights of all migrant workers and their families*(subject to the authorisation by the Bureau)*
 - Paris, 11 December 2008 *(to be confirmed)*
 - Sub-Committee on Migration:*
 - Kyiv, 4-5 September 2008: participation in the 8th Ministerial Conference on Migration *(subject to the authorisation by the Bureau)*
 - Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to take part in the Euro-Mediterranean meetings on Migration, Co-development and intercultural dialogue, organised in cooperation with the North-South Centre and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities:*
 - Tanger (Morocco), 25-26 April 2008

Halvor Lervik, Mark Neville, Dana Karanjac, Ivi Odrats