



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

**Synopsis** AS/MIG/CB(2011)05

27 June 2011

**The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population**, meeting in Strasbourg, on 21, 22 and 23 June 2011, with Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair,

- **ON TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2011, from 8.30 to 9.50 am, as regards:**
  - ***Living together in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe: follow-up to the report of the Group of Eminent persons*** (*Rapporteur for opinion, Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): considered a report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee and approved an opinion;
  - ***Asylum seekers and refugees: sharing responsibilities in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): with Mr Giacomo Santini, First Vice-Chairperson (Italy, EPP/CD) in the chair, took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
  - ***The interception and rescue at sea of asylum seekers, refugees and irregular migrants*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): was informed that no amendments were tabled to the draft resolution and to the draft recommendation;
  - ***Reform of the Parliamentary Assembly***: considered a report tabled by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Reform of the Parliamentary Assembly and was informed by its Chair of his intention to table two amendments to the draft resolution;
  - ***Living library co-organised with the UNHCR in Strasbourg on 21-22 June 2011***: heard a statement by Mr Olivier Beer, Representative of the Office of the UNHCR, and held an exchange of views with two “books” (persons involved in the living library);
  - ***Demographic trends in Europe: turning challenges into opportunities*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nursuna Memecan, Turkey, ALDE*): considered an outline for the report and heard a statement by the rapporteur;
  - ***Undocumented migrant children in an irregular situation: a real cause for concern*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the rapporteur, took note of a revised preliminary draft report;
- **ON WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2011, from 2 to 3 pm, as regards:**
  - ***The portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Daphné Dumery, Belgium, NR*): considered an outline for the report and heard a statement by the rapporteur;

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 Organisation Developments 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

- **Follow-up on the humanitarian consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia: the humanitarian situation in the war-affected areas** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tina Acketoft, Sweden, ALDE*): heard from the rapporteur a statement concerning the absence of conflict of interest, heard her communication, confirmed its agreement for her to visit Georgia, and also authorised her to make a fact-finding visit to Moscow, subject to the availability of funds;
- **The situation of IDPs and returnees in the North Caucasus region** (*Rapporteur: Mr Nikolaos Dendias, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his forthcoming fact-finding visit to Moscow and to the North Caucasus region (19-24 September 2011);
- **The situation of Roma in Europe: movement and migration** (*Rapporteur: Ms Annette Groth, Germany, UEL*): postponed this item;
- **Work programme:**
  - Appointments of rapporteurs
    - For report:
      - Controlling irregular migration and asylum claims beyond the European Union's Eastern border: decided to postpone the appointment to its next meeting, in Paris (13 September 2011);
      - The arrival of large numbers of irregular migrants to Italian coastal areas as a result of tensions in the Southern Mediterranean countries: appointed Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG);
      - Lives lost in the Mediterranean sea: who is responsible?: appointed Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC);
    - For opinion:
      - "Health-care rationing : a threat to equal access to health?" and "Guaranteed access to health care for migrants/ foreign nationals" (for one report): appointed Mr Mikael Cederbratt (Sweden, EPP/CD);

and heard from the appointed rapporteurs a statement concerning the absence of conflict of interest.
- **Membership of sub-committees:** approved the following changes:
  - Sub-Committee on Migration
    - Mr Edgar Mayer (Austria, EPP/CD) to become a titular member, in replacement of Mr Kühnel, who is no longer member of the Committee;
    - Ms Pia Kauma (Finland, EPP/CD) to become a titular member, in replacement of Mr Jaakko Laakso (Finland, UEL) who is no longer member of the Committee;
  - Sub-Committee on Refugees
    - Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) to become a titular member, in replacement of Ms Gisela Wurm, who is no longer member of the Committee;
    - Mr Ismo Soukola (Finland, NR) to become a titular member, in replacement of Mr Jaakko Laakso;
  - Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the large-scale arrival of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on Europe's Southern shores
    - Mr James Clappison (UK, EDG) to become an alternate member (EDG titular member: Christopher Chope, UK);
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to texts adopted by the Assembly presented by the Committee:** considered the reply to Recommendation 1925 (2010) on Readmission agreements: a mechanism for returning irregular migrants and heard a statement by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC), rapporteur;
- **Meeting of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the large-scale arrival of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on Europe's Southern shores** (*which took place in Strasbourg, on 21 June 2011*): heard statements by Mr Christopher Chope, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee and by Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee and took note of its intention to seek the agreement of the Turkish authorities to a visit to the Turkish-Syrian border (to be confirmed and subject to the Bureau's authorisation);

- **Lives lost in the Mediterranean sea: who is responsible?** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur, took note of her intention to have the assistance of a consultant, and authorised her to carry out fact-finding visits to Rome, Brussels and Geneva, in the framework of the preparation of her report (subject to the availability of funds);

- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
  - **Paris**, 13 September 2011
  - **Strasbourg**, during the 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2011 (3-7 October 2011)
  - **Paris**, 7 December 2011 (to be confirmed)

• **ON THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2011, from 2 to 3 pm,**

- **took part in a joint hearing on the Council of Europe relations with the European Union** (*co-organised with the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*), with the participation of:

- Ms Tonje Meinich, Chair of the Informal Working Group on the Accession of the European Union to the European Convention of Human Rights (CDDH-UE);
- Mr Morten Kjaerum, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

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**The Sub-Committee on Refugees**, meeting in Strasbourg on 21 June 2011, from 9.50 to 10am, with Ms Tineke Strik (Netherlands, SOC) in the Chair, *as regards*:

- **Election of the Vice-Chairperson:** elected Mr Jørgen Poulsen (Denmark, ALDE) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;

- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chair to convene the next meeting.

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**The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the large-scale arrival of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on Europe's Southern shores**, meeting in Strasbourg, on 21 June 2011, from 2 to 3pm, with Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG) in the chair, *as regards*:

- **Follow-up to its visit to Lampedusa (Italy) on 23-24 May 2011:** held an exchange of views, heard statements by Olivier Beer (UNHCR) and by Rita Patricio (Amnesty International), and was informed by its Chair that the draft information report on the visit could be ready to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee (Paris, 13 September 2011);

- **Future activities of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee:** held an exchange of views;

- **Next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting on the Turkish-Syrian border, in Summer 2011 (subject to the agreement of the Turkish authorities and subject to the Bureau's authorisation and the availability of funds).

Mark Neville, Ivi-Triin Odrats, Isild Heurtin