

To Members of the Committee on the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No. 2003/38
21 March 2003

The Joint Working Party (JWP) to implement Resolution 1272 (2002) on Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan (of the Committee on the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States of the Council of Europe and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) **meeting on Tuesday 4 March 2003 in Paris with the senior member present in the Chair:**

- *Unanimously re-elected Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR) as Chairman, and elected unanimously Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as Vice-Chairman;*

and, continuing its meeting with Mr Clerfayt in the Chair, as regards:

- *Visit of the Joint Working Party delegation to Azerbaijan (10-14 February 2003):* heard statements by the members who had participated in the fact-finding visit, and invited its Chairman to inform the President of the Assembly of the situation;

- *medical situation of political prisoners:* took note of a report by the Vice-Minister of Justice on medical services in prisons in Azerbaijan and considered that this report did not completely answer the request made by members during their visit that the Ministry of Justice should closely examine the situation of the sick political prisoners;

- *GT.Suivi-Ago:* heard a statement by Ambassador Ago on the activities of his working party and the proposals for a future visit in the South Caucasus;

- *moreover the JWP decided:*

- to carry out a second fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan during May 2003;

- to write to the Chair of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to inform him of the situation of a journalist detained in prison;

- to ask the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to consider modifying the present mandate of his independent experts, in order that the experts might communicate to the Working Party the necessary information for the drafting of a report on the current situation;

- to transmit to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the opinion of the Working Party according to which pilot case N° 10 should be re-examined in the light of new facts/documents; and to recommend that his Special Representative in Baku should have the opportunity to meet persons complaining of decisions taken by the administration;

- *Next meeting:* in Strasbourg during the Assembly Part-Session (31 March – 4 April 2003).

David Čupina, Raphaëlle Mathey

cc: Secretary General 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
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe
Director of Communication and Research