



**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis n° 2002/025

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6 March 2002

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 1 March, under the chairmanship of Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR),

- held a hearing on *Positive experiences concerning autonomous regions in Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC) with the following experts:

- Prof. Markku SUKSI, Department of Law, Abo University, Turku
- Mr Kjell-Ake NORDQUIST Ph. D., Assistant Professor, Uppsala University
- Mr Antoni CASTELLS OLIVERES, Professor at the Barcelona Institute of Economics
- Prof. Blanco de MORAIS, Law Faculty of Lisbon

together with Mr LOCATELLI, Executive Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe ;

- heard a statement by Mr Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, then held an exchange of views;

As regards:

- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Rapporteur: Mr Frey, Switzerland, LDR):* held an exchange of views on recent developments based on a memorandum by the Rapporteur and was informed that he would visit the country from 8 to 12 April;

- *New Russian law on religion (Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Gatterer, Austria, EPP/CD):* held an exchange of views based on a statement by the Rapporteur;

- *Future of co-operation between European institutions (Rapporteur: Mr van der Linden, Netherlands, EPP/CD):* examined a preliminary draft Report, decided to adopt its Report at its next meeting (5 April 2002) and confirmed its decision to ask the Bureau to include this debate in the agenda of the April 2002 part-session;

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

- *Parliamentary control of international institutions (Rapporteur: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP/CD):* examined a preliminary draft Report and decided to ask the Bureau to include this debate on the calendar of the June 2002 part-session;
- *Request for Council of Europe membership : Principality of Monaco:* appointed Mr Švec (Slovakia, LDR) Rapporteur;
- *Reconstitution of the sub-committees:* concerning the Sub-Committee on Strengthening Democratic Institutions took note that Mr Prisăcaru (Romania, SOC) had given notice of his resignation and nominated the following members and alternates:

Members:

- . Mr ANDICAN (Turkey, EDG)
- . Mr HENRY (Belgium, SOC)
- . Mr JASKIERNIA (Poland, SOC)
- . Lord KILCLOONEY (United Kingdom, EPP/CD)
- . Mr POPOV (Russia, EDG)
- . Mr ROGOZIN (Russia, EDG)
- . Mrs ZWERVER (Netherlands, SOC)

Alternates:

- . Mr AZZOLINI (Italy, EPP/CD) – Alternate to Mr Ranieri
- . Mr BLAAUW (Netherlands, LDR) – Alternate to Mrs Zwerver
- . Mr KLICH (Poland, EPP/CD) – Alternate to Mr Wielowieyski
- . Mr LCHAT (Switzerland, EPP/CD) – Alternate to Mr Gross

- *Situation in Belarus (Rapporteur: Mr Behrendt, Germany, SOC):* held an exchange of views on the future activities of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee on Belarus which would hold, during the first semester of 2002, a colloquy with representatives of the Parliament of Belarus in Vilnius and carry out a visit to Minsk;
- *Situation in the Middle East (Rapporteur: Lord Kilclooney, United Kingdom, EPP/CD):* approved the decision of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East to meet in Israel and in the Territories under the control of the Palestinian National Authority in Spring 2002;
- *Exchange of views with the Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers:* following a letter from the President of the Assembly, the Committee gave its agreement to the principle that this exchange of views could take place, as of next Autumn in the Standing Committee;
- *Working Group on the South Caucasus:* asked Mr Terry Davis (United Kingdom, SOC) to continue to co-ordinate the work of this group;
- *Next meetings:*

. agreed to request authorization from the Bureau to hold an additional meeting per year in one of the new member States of the Council of Europe and, in this context, expressed its wish to be able to accept the invitations to meet in Azerbaijan at the end of 2002 and in Armenia at the beginning of 2003;

. decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

- Paris, 5 April 2002
- Strasbourg, during the April 2002 part-session (22 - 26 April 2002)
- Luxembourg (6 - 7 May 2002) - Exchange of views with the Chairman-in Office of the Committee of Ministers
- Lucerne (Switzerland) – Spring Session (26 - 29 May 2002)

Bariş Perin, Petr Sich, Pavel Chevtchenko, Catherine Entzminger