



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis n° 2002/039

9 April 2002

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting on 5 April 2002 in Paris, under the chairmanship of Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR),

- *Situation in the Middle East:*
 - o held an exchange of views on the latest developments to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and adopted a *declaration*;
 - o decided to ask for the inclusion of this subject – in the form of an urgent debate – on the agenda of the April 2002 part-session;
 - o nominated Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG) rapporteur;
- heard a statement by Mr Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, then held an exchange of views on current affairs, and in this context:
 - o discussed the situation in Moldova and took note of the measures decided upon in this respect by the Standing Committee at its meeting held from 26 to 28 March 2002 in St Petersburg (Russia), together with the inclusion of a report of the Monitoring Committee (Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe) on the *Functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova* on the agenda of the April 2002 part-session;
- approved a *Declaration on the opening of work on the Convention on the future of the European Union*;

As regards:

- *Future of co-operation between European institutions (Rapporteur: Mr van der Linden, Netherlands, EPP/CD)*: decided, in view of the absence of the Rapporteur, to postpone the adoption of the report, and to ask the Bureau to postpone this debate until the June 2002 part-session;
- *New Russian law on religion (Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Gatterer, Austria, EPP/CD)*: approved a draft opinion and amendments to the draft Resolution presented by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

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

- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic (Rapporteur: Lord Judd, United Kingdom, SOC):* held an exchange of views on the meeting of the Joint Working Group in Chechnya (JWG) held in Moscow on 20 March 2002 based on information provided by the co-chairmen, Lord Judd and Mr Rogozin;
- *Situation in Georgia (Rapporteur: Mrs Lörcher, Germany, SOC):* in the absence of the Rapporteur, was informed about the dates (27 to 30 April 2002) and the programme of her visit to the country;
- *Inter-parliamentary Forum on the fight against terrorism (St Petersburg, Russia, 27 to 28 March 2002):* took note of the Final Declaration adopted at the Forum;
- *Accession of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Council of Europe:* took note of the decision of the Committee of Ministers to invite Bosnia-Herzegovina to become a member of the Council of Europe;
- modified the composition of its sub-committees as follows:
 - o *Sub-Committee on the Middle-East:* Mr Pourgourides (alternate: Mr Christodoulides);
 - o *Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries:* Mr Pourgourides (alternate: Mr Christodoulides);
- *Appointment of rapporteurs:* appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - o *Threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe:* Mrs Feric-Vač (Croatia, SOC);
 - o *Contribution of the Council of Europe to the future constitution-making process of the European Union:* Mr Pangalos (Greece, SOC)
- *Work Programme:* entrusted its Chairman to submit to the Bureau the following:
 - o prolongation of the validity of reference n° 2013 of 22 May 1995 (Doc. 7305);
 - o to take no further action on reference n° 2420 of 20 September 1999 (Doc. 8475), n° 2461 of 4 November 1999 (Doc. 8576) and n° 2593 of 14 March 2001 (Doc. 8856);
- *next meetings:*
 - 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), 28 May 2002 – Spring Session

Bariş Perin, Pavel Chevtchenko, Catherine Entzminger