

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 23, 24, 25 and 26 September, under the chairmanship of Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR),

- heard a communication by Mr Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

As regards:

- *Threat of military action against Iraq (Rapporteur: Mr Martínez-Casañ, Spain, EPP/CD):* appointed Mr Martínez-Casan as rapporteur; adopted a draft Resolution and prepared the urgent procedure debate of the Assembly on 26 September by examining the tabled amendments;

- *Situation in Georgia and the consequences for the stability of the Caucasus region (Rapporteur: Mrs Lörcher, Germany, SOC):* adopted a draft Recommendation and took position on the amendments which were presented;

- *Joint session with the European Parliament:* held an exchange of views on the preparation of the joint meetings on 24 and 26 September 2002;

- *Parliamentary conference on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe (Tirana, 14-16 October 2002):* formed an *ad hoc* sub-committee composed of Mr Behrendt (Germany, SOC), Mr Berceanu (Romania, SOC) and Mr Vella (Malta, EPP/CD);

- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Rapporteur: Mr Frey, Switzerland, LDR):* took position on the amendments to the draft Opinion;

- *The Council of Europe and the new issues involved in building Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Prisăcaru, Romania, SOC):* took position on the amendments to the draft Recommendation;

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cc Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
 Directors and all staff of the Office of the Secretary of the Parliamentary Assembly
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 Directors General
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General
 Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
 Director of Communication and Research
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- *Situation in the Middle East (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG):* heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur on his visit *in situ* in his capacity as a member of the State Duma of the Russian Federation;
- *Situation in Belarus (Rapporteur: Mr Behrendt, Germany, SOC):* took position on the amendments to the draft Recommendation and authorised Mr Behrendt to participate in the meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Parliament on 7 October in Brussels;
- *Election of a Vice-Chairperson :* elected Mr Rogozin as first Vice-Chairman of the Committee;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs:* appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - *Parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Stability Pact : Mr Vella (Malta, EPP/CD);*
 - *Situation in Cyprus : Mr Eörsi (Hungary, LDR);*
 - *Relations with the Tunisian Parliament : Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD);*
 - *Greater transparency of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers : Mr Blaauw (Netherlands, LDR);*
 - *Situation in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: Mr Bianco (Italy, EPP/CD);*
 - *Biological safety / Joint development of public health measures against bio-terrorism in Europe: Rapporteur for Opinion: Mr Maass (Germany, EPP/CD);*
 - *Prefential treatment of national minorities by their kin-state: the case of the Hungarian Status Law of 19 June 2001: Rapporteur for Opinion: Mr Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/DC)*
- *Appointment of representatives:*
 - *OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Conference on security in the Mediterranean (Madrid, 2-4 October 2002):* appointed its President to take part in the Conference;
- *Next meetings:* decided to hold its next meetings as follows :

Plenary Committee

- . Budapest, 22 October 2002
- . Paris, 10 December 2002

Sub-Committee on Strengthening of Democratic Institutions

- . Budapest, 21 October 2002
- . Strasbourg, 4-5 November 2002

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 September 2002, under the chairmanship of Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD):

As regards:

- *Situation in the Middle East (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG):* held an exchange of views on the situation in the region; was informed about a letter addressed to the President of the Assembly from the Chairman of the Palestinian Legislative Council concerning the forthcoming elections of next January; decided to have a more indepth discussion on its future work at its next meeting;
- *Next meeting:* decided to hold a meeting in Paris on 14 October 2002.

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The Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries (of the Political Affairs Committee) meeting in Strasbourg on 27 September 2002, under the chairmanship of Mr Bergqvist (Sweden, SOC):

As regards:

- *Relations with the United Nations (Rapporteur : Mrs Severinsen, Denmark, LDR) :* held an exchange of views with Ambassador Bernotas, (Rapporteur on the United Nations and European Sub-Regional Organisations of the Committee of Ministers) and Mr de Jonge (Director of External Relations of the Council of Europe) on co-operation with the United Nations and prepared the meeting which will take place in New York on 19-22 November on the occasion of the 57th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- *Situation in Kazakhstan:* held an exchange of views on the organisation of a hearing with the members of a delegation of the Parliament of Kazakhstan as well as representatives of the opposition once the co-operation agreement between the Parliament of this country and the Bureau has been concluded;
- *Relations with Maghreb Countries:* held an exchange of views on strengthening political contacts at parliamentary level with the Maghreb Countries;
- *Next meeting:* decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Budapest, 21 October 2002
 - . New York, 19-22 November 2002 on the occasion of the 57th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

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