

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

Synopsis n° 2002 / 122 Revised

30 October 2002

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Budapest on 22 October 2002 under the chairmanship of Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR),

- heard an address by Mr Bársony, Political Secretary of State of Hungary;
- held a round table discussion with members of the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO) on inter-cultural dialogue, the participation of youth in political life as well as democracy, rule of law and human rights;

As regards:

- *Contribution of the Council of Europe to the constitution-making process of the European Union (Rapporteur: Mr Pangalos, Greece, SOC):* held an exchange of views based on a memorandum prepared by the Rapporteur;
- *Threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe (Rapporteur: Mrs Feric-Vač, Croatia, SOC):* heard a statement by the Rapporteur; held an exchange of views and decided to organise a hearing on this theme during the first semester of 2003;
- *Appointment of members of the Sub-Committee on Belarus:* appointed Mr Behrendt (Germany, SOC), Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR), Mr Davis (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC), Mr Martínez-Casañ (Spain, EPP/CD), Mr Neguta (Moldova, UEL), Mr Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EDG), Mrs Wohlwend (Liechtenstein, EPP/CD);
- *Participation of members of the Committee in various events:* heard statements by representatives of the Committee concerning the following events:
 - . *Parliamentary Conference of the OSCE on Security in the Mediterranean (Madrid, 2-4 October 2002):* Mr Jakič, Slovénia, LDR;
 - . *Parliamentary Conference on the Stability Pact in South-Eastern Europe (Tirana, 14-16 October 2002):* Mr Davis, United Kingdom, SOC;
 - . *Council for Democratic Elections (Venice, 16 October 2002):* Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR;

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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
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
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research
Permanent representations to the Council of Europe

- *Replies by the Committee of Ministers to texts adopted by the Assembly presented by the Political Affairs Committee:* was informed about the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 1516 (2001) on financing political parties;

- *Sub-Committees :*

- heard statements by the presidents of the sub-committees concerning recent meetings:

- . Strengthening of Democratic Institutions, on 21 October 2002 in Budapest
- . Relations with Non-Member Countries, on 21 October 2002 in Budapest

- appointed Mrs Domingues to the Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries to replace Mr Mota Amaral;

- *Other business:*

- *Colloquy in Sarajevo :* approved the theme of the Colloquy: '*Development of Democratic Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina*' and stressed its preference that the colloquy should take place on 6 and 7 March 2003, subject to the Bureau's authorisation, expressed its wish to discuss the programme and sub-topics at a future meeting in the presence of the members of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- *Chechen Republic (Russian Federation) :* authorised Lord Judd, Rapporteur, to participate in a meeting of the International Helsinki Federation, in The Hague on 15 November 2002;

- *Monaco:* was informed that because Mr Švec, Rapporteur, Slovakia, LDR, had not been reelected, he will not be a member of the new delegation of Slovakia and must therefore be replaced once he has officially left the Assembly;

- *Iraq :* took note of the reply by the United Nations to the letter of the President of the Assembly concerning Resolution 1302 '*Threat of military action against Iraq*' adopted by the Assembly during the September 2002 part-session;

- *Motion for an Order on relations between Europe and the United States:* took note of the initiative of its Chairman to submit this text;

- *Work Programme:* was informed that the Bureau had rejected all requests for extensions of expiry dates for reports, the following subjects will therefore no longer appear in the Work Programme:

- . *Conception of a European Federation* (Rapporteur: Mr De Puig, Spain, SOC)
- . *Relations with the Tunisian Parliament* (Rapporteur: Lord Kilclooney, United Kingdom, EPP/CD)

- *Next meetings:* decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee

- . Paris, 10 December 2002
- . Paris, 15 January 2003

Sub-Committee on Strengthening Democratic Institutions

- . Strasbourg, 4 - 5 November 2002

Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries

. New York, from 19 to 22 November 2002 on the occasion of the 57th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Sub-Committee on Belarus

- . Paris, 10 December 2002

The Sub-Committee on Strengthening Democratic Institutions of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Budapest on 21 October 2002 under the chairmanship of Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP/CD),

- approved the questionnaire prepared by the Chairman and proposed to send it to all members of the Political Affairs Committee;
- held an exchange of views with:

Mr Jonas Simon of the Academy of Science of Hungary and Chief Editor of the '*Central European Political Review*'

on key problems concerning the functioning of democratic institutions and issues specific to transition democracies;

- *decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg on 4 and 5 November 2002 on the occasion of the Citizens Forum "NGOs – key players in democratic governance";*

The Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Budapest on 21 October 2002 under the chairmanship of Mr Bergqvist (Sweden, SOC),

- debated the mandate of the Sub-Committee;

As regards:

- *Relations with the United Nations (Rapporteur: Mrs Severinsen, Denmark, LDR):* prepared the meeting which will take place in New York from 19 to 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 situation in Kazakhstan and was informed about the draft Co-operation Agreement between the Parliament of that country and the Assembly;

- *Relations with Maghreb Countries:* held an exchange of views on strengthening contacts at parliamentary level with Maghreb countries;

- *Next meeting:* decided to hold the following meeting:

- New York, from 19 to 22 November 2002 on the occasion of the 57th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Bariş Perin, Rüdiger Dossow, Alexandra Alléon