

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° 2003 / 022

4 February 2003

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 to 30 January 2003 under the chairmanship of first Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP), oldest member present, and then Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR),

Re-elected by acclamation:

Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR) Chairman,
Mr Rogozin (Russia, EDG) First Vice-Chair,
Mrs Feric-Vač (Croatia, SOC) Second Vice-Chair,
Mr Spindelegger (Austria, EPP) Third Vice-Chair;

As regards:

- *The request for a debate on Iraq under urgent procedure:* appointed Mr Martínez-Casañ (Spain, EPP) rapporteur, adopted a draft Resolution and prepared the urgent debate in the Assembly on 30 January by examining the amendments which had been submitted;
- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic (Rapporteur: Lord Judd, United Kingdom, SOC):* heard a report by the Rapporteur on his visit to Moscow and the North Caucasus (19 - 24 January 2003), adopted a draft Resolution, a draft Recommendation and a draft Order, took position on the amendments which had been presented, held an exchange of views on the debate in the Assembly, and took note of the declaration by the Rapporteur about his intention to resign if the referendum in the Chechen Republic was not postponed;
- *Contribution of the Council of Europe to the constitution-making process of the European Union (Rapporteur: Mr Pangalos, Greece, SOC):* took position on the amendments submitted on the draft Resolution;
- *Code of good practice in electoral matters:* confirmed the appointment of Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR) as Rapporteur for the urgent procedure debate, took position on the amendments submitted;

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cc *Secrétaire Général de l'Assemblée parlementaire*
Directeurs et agents du Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire
Secrétaires des délégations nationales de l'Assemblée
Secrétaires des groupes politiques de l'Assemblée
Invités spéciaux et Observateurs auprès de l'Assemblée
Directeurs Généraux
Secrétaire du Comité des Ministres
Directeur de Cabinet du Secrétaire Général
Directeur de la Communication et de la Recherche
Représentations Permanentes auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

- *Amendments to the Constitution of Liechtenstein proposed by the Princely House of Liechtenstein*: took note that the Assembly did not agree with the proposal of the Bureau to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this subject, and asked Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP) to make his opinion on this subject known to the members of the Committee in the form of a memorandum:
- *Appointment of rapporteurs*: appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - *Request for Council of Europe membership: Principality of Monaco*: Mr Slutsky (Russia, SOC);
 - *Presence of the Council of Europe in Northern Ireland*: Mr Ouzky (Czech Republic, EDG)
 - *Situation in Belarus*: Mr Goris (Belgium, LDR);
 - *New methodological concepts of democracy to evaluate its implementation*: Mr Severin (Romania, SOC);
 - *Western Sahara*: Mr Puche (Spain, EPP)
 - *Relations between Europe and the United States*: Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP)
- *Nomination of representatives*:
 - *Joint Round Table between 'ECRI and the EUMC on Community Cohesion (Strasbourg, 21 March 2003)*: nominated Mrs Feric-Vač (Croatia, SOC), and decided to discuss, at a future meeting, the opportunity to create an ad hoc sub-committee to participate at the Round Table;
- *Sub-Committees*: reconstituted its sub-committees, and asked the French, Italian and Russian delegations to present only candidate per sub-committee and decided to define the final composition of its sub-committees at its next meeting.
- *Dates and places of its next meetings*:
 - Paris, 5 March 2003;
 - Strasbourg, 31 March - 4 April 2003 (2nd part-session 2003);
 - Berlin (Germany), 29 April 2003, on the occasion of the meeting of the Standing Committee;
 - Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19 - 20 May 2003, on the occasion of a colloquy co-organised with the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina (*Subject to the Bureau's authorisation*);
 - Athens (Greece), 9 - 10 June 2003;
 - Strasbourg, 23 - 27 June 2003 (3rd part-session 2003).

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The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg

- *on 27 January 2003, under the chairmanship of Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR)*:
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Anatoly Lebedko (United Civil Party of Belarus), Mrs Valentina Polevikova (Women's Party "Nadzeya" of Belarus) and Mr Yaroslav Romanchuk (United Civil Party of Belarus);
 - thanked Mr Behrendt (Germany, SOC) for his outstanding work as Rapporteur on the situation in Belarus over the last years, which came to an end with his departure from the Assembly this week;

- on 30 January 2003 after the meeting of the plenary Committee:
 - re-elected Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) Chair;
 - left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting, if possible at the beginning of March in Paris.

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2003 following the meeting of the plenary Committee:

- re-elected Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP) Chair;
- decided to hold its next meeting on 6 March 2003 in Paris.

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The Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2003 following the meeting of the plenary Committee:

- re-elected Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, LDR) Chair;
- left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

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The Sub-Committee on Strengthening Democratic Institutions (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2003 following the meeting of the plenary Committee:

- re-elected Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP) Chair;
- left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting, if possible at the beginning of March in Paris.

Bariş Perin, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow, Catherine Entzminger, Alexandra Alléon