

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis n° 2003 / 032

11 March 2003

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 5 March 2003 under the chairmanship of Mr Jaki (Slovenia, LDR),

As regards:

- *Statement by the Chairman*: approved the proposal by the Chairman to systematically request the inclusion of debates on general policy on the Order of Business of the Assembly, as foreseen in Rule 25.3 of the Rules of Procedure;

- *Conflict in the Chechen Republic (Rapporteur: Lord Judd, United Kingdom, SOC)*: held an exchange of views with Mr Alvaro GIL-ROBLES, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, following his visit to the Russian Federation (Chechnya and Ingushetia) from 10 to 16 February 2003, took note of the preliminary statement by the OSCE/ODIHR – Council of Europe Joint Assessment Mission on the preparation of the referendum on the draft constitution of the Chechen Republic, to be held on 23 March 2003, pronounced itself in favour of an Assembly presence in Chechnya on the day the referendum takes place, and instructed its Chairman to inform the President of the Assembly of its position in view of the forthcoming discussion on the subject during the Bureau's meeting on 10 March 2003;

- *Preferential treatment of national minorities by the kin-state: the case of the Hungarian Law of 19 June 2001 on ethnic Hungarians ("Magyars") living in neighbouring countries (Rapporteur for Opinion: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP)*: held an exchange of views on a preliminary draft Opinion, decided to postpone its adoption in order to permit the Rapporteur to take into consideration the modifications introduced during the adoption of draft Resolution on this subject by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and authorised the Rapporteur to visit Romania and Slovakia, if he considered it necessary;

- *Iraq*: held an exchange of views on the latest developments to the situation in Iraq and decided to ask the Bureau to include on the Order of Business of the April part-session a debate under urgent procedure on Europe and the crisis in Iraq;

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

- *Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference of the OSCE (Rapporteur: Rt. Hon. Terry Davis, United Kingdom, SOC):* was informed by the Rapporteur about his meetings with the co-chairmen of the Minsk Group and the personal representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE (Warsaw, 22 February 2003), took note of the new provisional title of the report proposed by the Rapporteur, and authorised him to visit Armenia, Tbilisi (Georgia) and Azerbaijan in March 2003;
- *Threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe (Rapporteur: Mrs Feric-Va , Croatia, SOC):* held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr Hans-Georg BETZ, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Geneva,
 - Mr Roger LINSTER, Luxembourg, Member of the Bureau of ECRI,
 - Mr Josip KREGAR, Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb,
 - Mr Giovanni SABBATUCCI, Professor of Modern History, University of Rome,

and decided to present a report before the end of 2003;

- *Colloquy on the evolution and future development of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, 19-20 May 2003, subject to authorisation by the Bureau):* held an exchange of views with Mr Muratovi , new Chairman of the parliamentary delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Assembly, and decided to form an ad hoc working group to prepare the colloquy comprising MM. Jaki , Muratovi , Wielowieyski, and to invite representatives of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo to take part in it;
- *Appointment of representatives:*
 - *Council for Democratic Elections (Venice, 13 March 2003):* Mr Clerfayt (Belgium, LDR), subject to the approval of the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - *ECRI: Mrs Feric-Va (Croatia, SOC);*
- *Sub-Committees:* confirmed the composition of the Sub-Committees (see Appendix);
- *Dates and places of next meetings:*
 - Strasbourg, 31 March - 4 April 2003 (2nd part-session 2003);
 - Berlin (Germany), 29 April 2003;
 - 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 approval of the Bureau*);
 - 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 Paris on 5 March 2003 under the chairmanship of Mr Šekuolis (Lithuania, LDR):

- held an exchange of views on the orientations for the future action by the Sub-Committee prepared by Mr Šekuolis, and took note of the initiatives taken by the OSCE and the European Parliament concerning Belarus;
- heard a statement by Mr Šekuolis concerning his meeting with the delegation of Belarus during the January part-session of the Assembly;
- heard a statement by Ambassador Pietro Ercole AGO, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe and the President of GR-EDS, on the relations of the Committee of Ministers with Belarus;
- decided to meet during the April part-session of the Assembly.

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 6 March 2003 under the chairmanship of Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP):

- elected Mr Pangalos (Greece, SOC) Vice-Chairman;
- heard a statement by Ambassador Andrew CARTER, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe, on the London meetings on Palestinian reforms (18-20 February 2003);
- held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East, with the participation of Mr Haim RAMON and Mrs Naomi BLUMENTHAL, deputies of the Knesset, and Mr Ziad ABU-ZAYYAD, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- decided to organise in autumn 2003 a hearing on the suppression of provocative language and incitements to hatred and violence in Israeli and Palestinian school textbooks and the press;
- decided to meet during the April part-session of the Assembly.

Bar Perin, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow, Catherine Entzminger

Appendix

Lists of Sub-Committees / Listes des sous-commissions

Members / Membres

Alternates / Remplaçants

Sub-Committee on the Middle East / Sous-commission sur le Proche-Orient

Ms	ARNOLD	Denmark / Danemark	
Mr	AZZOLINI	Italy / Italie	Mr PROVERA
Mr	BERES	Slovakia / Slovaquie	
Mr	CLERFAYT	Belgium / Belgique	
Mr	DAVERN	Ireland / Irlande	Mr O'KEEFFE
Ms	DRUVIETE	Latvia / Lettonie	
Ms	DURRIEU	France	Mr GOULET
Ms	FEHR	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr FREY
Ms	FERIC-VAC	Croatia / Croatie	
Ms	HAKL	Austria / Autriche	Mr SPINDELEGGER
Mr	HÖRSTER	Germany / Allemagne	Mr HEDRICH
Mr	HOVHANNISYAN	Armenia / Arménie	
Ms	KAUTTO	Finland / Finlande	
Lord	KILCLOONEY	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord JUDD
Mr	KOSTENKO	Ukraine	
Mr	MARGELOV	Russia / Russie	Mr ZIUGANOV
Mr	MARKOWSKI	Poland / Pologne	Mr IWINSKI
Mr	MEDEIROS FERREIRA	Portugal	Ms AGUIAR
Mr	MOLLAZADE	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Mr SEYIDOV
Mr	NEGUTA	Moldova / Moldavie	
Ms	NEMCOVA	Czech Republic / Rép. Tchèque	
Mr	PANGALOS	Greece / Grèce	
Mr	POURGOURIDES	Cyprus / Chypre	
Mr	PRISACARU	Romania / Roumanie	Mr BACIU
Mr	PUCHE	Spain / Espagne	Mr de PUIG
Mr	TEKELIOGLU	Turkey / Turquie	
Mr	VELLA	Malta / Malte	
Mr	JAKIC (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Slovenia / Slovénie	

Sub-Committee on Relations with Non-Member Countries / Sous-commission des relations avec les pays non membres

Mr	ATE	Turkey / Turquie	
Mr	ATKINSON	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Lord KILCLOONEY
Mr	ATTARD MONTALTO	Malta / Malte	Mr VELLA
Mr	BERCEANU	Romania / Roumanie	Mr SEVERIN
Mr	BRAUN	Hungary / Hongrie	
Mr	CLERFAYT	Belgium / Belgique	
Ms	DOMINGUES	Portugal	Mr MEDEIROS FERREIRA
Mr	DREYFUS-SCHMIDT	France	Ms DURRIEU
Ms	DRUVIETE	Latvia / Lettonie	
Mr	GRAAS	Luxembourg	
Mr	GROSS	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr FREY
Mr	HOVHANNISYAN	Armenia / Arménie	
Mr	IWINSKI	Poland / Pologne	Mr JASKIERNIA
Mr	KORKEAOJA	Finland / Finlande	
Mr	MALGIERI	Italy / Italie	Mr ZACCHERA
Mr	MARTINEZ CASAN	Spain / Espagne	Mr SOLE TURA
Mr	O'KEEFFE	Ireland / Irlande	Mr DAVERN
Mr	OLIYNYK	Ukraine	
Mr	OUZKY	Czech Republic / Rép. Tchèque	Ms CURDOVA
Mr	POURGOURIDES	Cyprus / Chypre	
Ms	SEVERINSEN	Denmark / Danemark	
Mr	SPINDELEGGER	Austria / Autriche	Ms HAKL
Ms	TRITZ	Germany / Allemagne	
Mr	VOULGARAKIS	Greece / Grèce	Mr PANGALOS
Mr	WESTERBERG	Sweden / Suède	
Mr	YARYGINA	Russia / Russie	Mr SLUTSKY
Mr	ZHVANIA	Georgia / Géorgie	
Mr	JAKIC (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Slovenia / Slovénie	

Sub-Committee on Strengthening of Democratic Institutions / Sous-commission sur le renforcement des institutions démocratiques

Ms	AGUIAR	Portugal	Ms DOMINGUES
Mr	ATTARD MONTALTO	Malta / Malte	
Ms	CURDOVA	Czech Republic / Rép. Tchèque	
Mr	DANIELI	Italy / Italie	Ms de ZULUETA
Mr	EÖRSI	Hungary / Hongrie	
Ms	FERIC-VAC	Croatia / Croatie	
Mr	GORIS	Belgium / Belgique	
Mr	GRAAS	Luxembourg	
Mr	GROSS	Switzerland / Suisse	Mr LACHAT
Mr	KARPOV	Ukraine	Mr KOSTENKO
Mr	LLOYD	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	Ms GRIFFITHS
Mr	LOUTFI	Bulgaria / Bulgarie	Mr KIRILOV
Mr	MAGNUSSON	Sweden / Suède	
Mr	MARTINEZ CASAN	Spain / Espagne	Ms LOPEZ GONZALEZ
Mr	MERCAN	Turkey / Turquie	
Mr	MOLLAZADE	Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	
Ms	PETROVA-MITEVSKA	"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	
Mr	ROTH	Germany / Allemagne	Mr SCHEER
Mr	SEVERIN	Romania / Roumanie	Mr BERCEANU
Mr	WIELOWIEYSKI	Poland / Pologne	Mr GRZYB
Ms	YARYGINA	Russia / Russie	Mr POPOV
Mr	ZHVANIA	Georgia / Géorgie	
Mr	JAKIC (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Slovenia / Slovénie	

Sub-Committee on Belarus / Sous-commission sur le Bélarus

SOC (3)

Mr BLANKENBORG	Norway / Norvège
Rt.Hon. DAVIS	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
Mr MAGNUSSON	Sweden / Suède

EPP/PPE (2)

Mr KLICH	Poland / Pologne
Ms WOHLWEND	Liechtenstein

LDR (1)

Mr EKUOLIS	Lithuania / Lituanie	Mr GORIS (Belgium / Belgique)
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EDG/GDE (1)

Mr POPOV	Russia / Russie	Mr SEYIDOV (Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan)
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UEL/GUE (1)

Mr NEGUTA	Moldova / Moldavie	Mr ZIUGANOV (Russia / Russie)
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Mr JAKI (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Slovenia / Slovénie
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