

# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

### **Synopsis N° 2003 / 090**

26 June 2003

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 and 26 June 2003 with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR), then Mrs Feric-Vač (Croatia, SOC) and the Rt. Hon. Terry Davis in the Chair:

- heard a statement by Mr Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, followed by an exchange of views;

*As regards:*

- *The Council of Europe and the Convention on the Future of Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Pangalos, Greece, SOC):* held an exchange of views on the latest developments on the matter, adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation and examined the amendments which had been tabled for the urgent procedure debate in the Assembly on 26 June 2003;

- *The situation of Palestinian refugees:* appointed Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG) Rapporteur for an Opinion, approved the draft Opinion and adopted amendments to the draft Resolution and the draft Recommendation presented by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography;

- *Political prisoners in Azerbaijan:* appointed Mr Muratović (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD) Rapporteur for an oral Opinion and adopted amendments to the draft Recommendation presented by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

- *Future of democracy: strengthening democratic institutions (Rapporteur: Mr Wielowieyski, Poland, EPP):* held an exchange of views and adopted a draft Resolution, draft Recommendation and draft Order;

- *Request for Council of Europe membership: Principality of Monaco (Rapporteur: Mr Slutsky, Russia, SOC)* heard a statement by the Rapporteur based on a memorandum prepared by the rapporteurs following their visit to the Principality (2 - 3 June 2003), invited him to present a draft Opinion at its meeting on 11 September 2003 with a view to adopting it and held an exchange of views with a delegation of the National Council of Monaco, led by Mr Valeri, President of the National Council;

- *Positive experiences of autonomous regions as a source of inspiration for conflict resolution in Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC):* heard a statement by the Rapporteur and

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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

because of a lack of time asked him to take position in the plenary on the amendments tabled to the draft Resolution and to the draft Recommendation;

- *Threat posed to democracy by extremist parties and movements in Europe (Rapporteur: Mrs Feric-Vač, Croatia, SOC):* held an exchange of views, adopted a draft Resolution and agreed to propose to the Bureau that it should be presented to the Assembly during the September part-session;
- *Replies by the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee:* took note of the replies;
- *Appointment of rapporteurs:*
  - *Strengthening of the United Nations:* Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC)
  - *The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards:* Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC)
  - *Request for an opinion by the Committee of Ministers on Relations between the Council of Europe and NGOs:* Mr Elo (Finland, SOC)
  - *Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states:* Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC)
- *Authorisations:*
  - authorised Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) to visit Russia in the framework of the report on *The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards;*
  - authorised Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR), Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD) and Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG) to take part in the *World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations" (Rhodes, Greece, 4 - 6 September 2003)*, provided that no expenses are incurred to the Assembly
- *Dates and places of next meetings:*
  - *Paris, 11 September 2003;*
  - *Strasbourg, during the September 2003 part-session*

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**The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee)**, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2003 with Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East and on the "Road Map";
- confirmed its decision to organise a hearing on *The suppression of provocative language and incitements to hatred and violence* on the occasion of its next meeting in Paris on 24 October 2003;
- took note of the proposal by Mr Margelov, Rapporteur on the Middle East, to organise in 2004 a conference on the status of Holy Places, and decided to consider it at its next meeting in more detail;

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**The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee)**, meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2003 with Mr Čekuolis (Lithuania, LDR) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views with Ambassador Heyken, Head of the OSCE Office in Minsk, on the situation in Belarus and the work of the OSCE;
- took note of the decision by the Bureau to set up an *Ad Hoc* Committee for the participation in a seminar with the Parliament of Belarus and expressed its hope that a large number of its members could participate in this seminar;
- left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.