

# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

### **Synopsis N° 2004 / 36**

10 March 2004

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 8 March 2004, with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Borut Pahor, President of the National Assembly of Slovenia, and Mr Dimitrij Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- heard a statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Walter Schwimmer, on his recent activities, followed by an exchange of views;

*as regards:*

- *The Persecution of the Press in the Republic of Belarus: (Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD):* unanimously adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation with a view to submitting the report to the Assembly during the April 2004 part-session (26-30 April 2004);
- *Strengthening of the United Nations: (Rapporteur: Mrs Tana de Zulueta, Italy, SOC):* heard a statement by its Rapporteur on the exchange of views between members of the *United Nations High-Level Panel on Global Threats, Challenges and Change* and a Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly (Paris, 16 February 2004), and unanimously adopted a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation with a view to submitting the report to the Assembly during the April 2004 part-session (26-30 April 2004);
- *Symposium on Strengthening Democratic Institutions: (Rapporteur: Mr Andrzej Wielowieyski, Poland, EPP/CD):* held an exchange of views based on a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur and agreed in principle that a symposium be organised in Poland, in co-operation with the Polish Parliament, in spring 2005, subject to approval by the Bureau;
- *Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference of the OSCE (Rapporteur: Rt. Hon. Terry Davis, United Kingdom, SOC):* heard a statement by its Rapporteur on his visit to the region on 22-27 February 2004;

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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  
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

- *Abolishing the last piece of Iron Curtain in Central Europe (Rapporteur: Mr Mátyás Eörsi, Hungary, LDR):* authorised its Rapporteur to visit the village of Slemence, as well as Slovakia and Ukraine in the framework of preparing his report;
- *Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Transatlantic Dialogue (London, 19 April 2004):* heard a statement by Mr Claudio Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on *Relations between Europe and the United States*, on the state of progress;
- *Colloquy on the Dialogue Between Europe and the Middle East (Istanbul, 7 April 2004):* took note of the preliminary draft programme and heard a statement by Mr Mehmet Tekelioğlu (Turkey, EPP/CD) on the state of progress;
- *Follow-up to Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee:* took note of the reply by the Ministers' Deputies to Recommendation 1644 (2004) on *Terrorism: a threat to democracies*;
- *Membership of the sub-committees:* appointed Mr Loncle (France) member of the *Sub-Committee on Belarus*, and Mr Torosyan (Armenia) member of the *Sub-Committee on the Middle East* and Mr Arsenyan his alternate;
- *Dates and places of next meetings:*

Plenary Committee

- . London, 18/19 April 2004 (*Interparliamentary Forum on Transatlantic Dialogue*, as part of the *Ad Hoc Committee* of the Bureau);
- . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's April part-session (26-30 April 2004);
- . Paris, 25 May 2004
- . Strasbourg, during the Assembly's June part-session (21-25 June 2004)

Sub-Committee on the Middle East

- Istanbul (Turkey), 6/7 April 2004 (*Colloquy on the Dialogue between Europe and the Middle East*)

Barış Perin, Marja Ruotanen, Rüdiger Dossow