

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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25 June 2004

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 21, 22, 23 and 24 June 2004, first with Mr Jakič (Slovenia, LDR), then with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the chair:

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

As regards:

- *The Council of Europe's contribution to the settlement of the situation in Iraq*: appointed Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC) rapporteur for the debate under urgent procedure, adopted a draft Resolution and considered the amendments which had been submitted;

- *Presence of the Council of Europe in Northern Ireland* (Rapporteur: Mr Ouzký, Czech Republic, EDG): took note of a statement by the Rapporteur following his visit to Dublin (Republic of Ireland), Newry and Armagh (Northern Ireland) (15 - 16 June 2004), decided to change the title of the report to *The Council of Europe and the conflict in Northern Ireland*, and considered, amended and adopted a draft Resolution;

- *Strengthening of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Rapporteur: Mr Kirilov, Bulgaria, SOC): took position on the amendments which had been tabled;

- *The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards* (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Moscow, Grozny, Znamenskoye and Nazran (31 May – 4 June 2004), followed by an exchange of views, welcomed his initiative to visit Chechnya in the period leading up to the elections which will be held on 29 August, and took note of a joint debate with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, which should take place during the part-session in October;

- *Situation in the Middle East* (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): took note of a statement by the Rapporteur, and authorised him to carry out a new visit to the region in autumn 2004 (*Subject to authorisation by the Bureau*);

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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

- *Relations between Europe and the United States* (Rapporteur: Mr Azzolini, Italy, EPP-CD): held an exchange of views based on a preliminary draft report presented by the Rapporteur;
- *Western Sahara* (Rapporteur: Mr Puche, Spain, EPP-CD): took note of a preliminary draft Resolution presented by the Rapporteur, and held an exchange of views with MM. Mustapha Nahi, Political Advisor, Embassy of Morocco in Paris, and Mohamed Sidati, Minister for Europe, member of the National Directorate of the Frente POLISARIO;
- *Parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Stability Pact in South-East Europe* (Rapporteur: Mr Toshev, Bulgaria, EPP-CD): took note of an oral report by the Rapporteur on his visit to the Stability Pact Headquarters (Brussels, 14 June 2004) and took note of an outline report;
- *Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference of the OSCE* (Rapporteur: The Rt. Hon. Terry Davis, United Kingdom, SOC): heard an oral statement by the Rapporteur followed by an exchange of views;
- Asked Mr Ateş, one of its Vice-Chairpersons, to participate in the meeting of the Bureau on Friday 25 June, following the adoption of Resolution 1379 (2004) concerning the new composition of the Bureau.

Dates and place of the next meetings:

Plenary Committee:

Paris, 14 September 2004

Strasbourg, 4th Part-Session (4 - 8 October 2004)

Paris, 14 December 2004 (*to be confirmed*)

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Sub-Committee on Relations with Non Member Countries (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 23 June 2004 with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the chair:

- *Relations with the United Nations: 59th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations*: held an exchange of views with Ambassador Åberg, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe, Rapporteur of the Ministers' Deputies on the United Nations, on the state of progress of the draft Resolution on *Co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe* and took note that an exchange of views would take place on this subject in the Joint Committee on Thursday 24 June 2004;
- took note of a statement by its Chairperson on its future work, followed by an exchange of views;
- decided to propose to the Political Affairs Committee to change the name of the Sub-Committee;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Paris, on 14 September 2004.

Bariş Perin, Marja Ruotanen, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow