

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2004 / 138
16 December 2004

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 14 December 2004 with Mr Margelov (Russian Federation, EDG) in the chair,

- heard a statement by Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, followed by an exchange of views;
- welcomed the Bureau's decision to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe the presidential election in the Palestinian territories, and the appointment of Lord Kilclooney as its Chair;
- took note of the appointment of its member Mrs Druviete as Minister of Education and Science of Latvia, and asked the Chair to address to her a congratulatory message;

as regards:

- **The Third Summit** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): examined, amended and provisionally adopted a draft Recommendation, and decided to adopt a consolidated text on 22 January 2005;
- **Iran's nuclear threat** (Rapporteur: Mr Ateş, Turkey, SOC): took note of a statement by the Rapporteur, and authorised him to visit the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters (Vienna, Austria), and if need be, the appropriate EU bodies (Brussels, Belgium);

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cc Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Special Guests and Observers to the Assembly

Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic:** considered proposals for membership to the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the preparation of the Round Table made by political groups, and decided to extend its composition as follows:

Mr ATEŞ	Turkey	SOC
Mr BINDIG	Germany	SOC
Mr BLANKENBORG	Norway	SOC
Mr van den BRANDE	Belgium	EPP/CD
Mr BRINCAT	Malta	SOC
Mr DZHABRAILOV	Russian Federation	EDG
Mr ELO	Finland	SOC
Mr GOERENS	Luxembourg	LDR
Mr GOULET	France	LDR
Mr GROSS	Switzerland	SOC
Mr IWINSKI	Poland	SOC
Lord JUDD	United Kingdom	SOC
Mr KOLESNIKOV	Russian Federation	EDG
Mr KOSACHEV	Russian Federation	EDG
Mr LINDBLAD	Sweden	EPP/CD
Mr MIHKELSON	Estonia	EPP/CD
Mr MOLLAZADE	Azerbaijan	LDR
Mr SEVERIN	Romania	SOC
Mr SLUTSKY	Russian Federation	SOC
Mr TIMMERMANS	Netherlands	SOC
Ms de ZULUETA	Italy	SOC

- **Terms of reference of the Committees:** took note of draft terms of references of the Committee as proposed by the Bureau, and was informed that amendments could be tabled before the debate in the Assembly to be held during January 2005 part-session;

- **Terrorism:** was informed that the draft specific legal instrument on the prevention of terrorism would be referred for Opinion to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and asked the Chair to request that the Committee be seized for opinion;

- **Dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein:** took note that the Bureau decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein, and appointed Lord Kilclooney (United Kingdom, EPP/CD) and Mr Mollazade (Azerbaijan, LDR) to participate in that Ad Hoc Committee;

- **Need for international condemnation of totalitarianism:** (Rapporteur: Mrs Aguiar, Portugal, EPP/CD): held a Parliamentary Hearing on "*Need for international condemnation of the crimes of communism*", with the participation of the following experts:

- . Mr Courtois, Director of research, CNRS, chief redactor of "Communism", author of "Black Book of communism: crimes, terror and repression";
- . Mr Bukovsky, former Soviet dissident, author of several books on communism;
- . Mr Lavrov, Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences;
- . Mr Shubin, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences;
- . Mr Hio, Estonian Foundation for the Investigation of the Crimes Against Humanity;
- . Mr Stola, Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Science (PAN);

- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee

- . Strasbourg, 22 January 2005, from 2 pm
- . Strasbourg, 1st part-session 2005 (24 - 28 January 2005)

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The Sub-Committee on External Relations, (of the Political Affairs Committee) meeting in Paris on 13 December 2004, with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Relations with the United Nations: 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly**: held an exchange of views on the follow-up to the Sub-Committee meeting and contacts in New-York (19-21 October 2004), and in particular:

. *Meetings with UN officials:*

- agreed that there is a need for a better information strategy in order to make various Assembly activities, especially reports and adopted texts, better known and duly taken into account at the United Nations;
- considered the possibility of holding regular meetings with representatives of the United Nations subsidiary bodies and specialised agencies situated in Europe;

. *Resolution on co-operation between Council of Europe and the United Nations:*

- was informed of the final text of the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe",
- expressed disappointment that the adopted resolution was a step back as compared to the initial, already weakened draft prepared by the Committee of Ministers,
- expressed interest in enhancing co-operation with the Ministers' Deputies and their appropriate working groups and rapporteurs as regards relations with the United Nations;
- and discussed ways of ensuring that in future those resolutions reflect the core values which are common to the Council of Europe and the United Nations;

. *Parliamentary dimension of the UN:*

- held an exchange of views on perspectives of a stronger parliamentary involvement in UN activities in light of the Cardoso report;
- thought that further dialogue was needed on this matter with the IPU;
- recommended that the Political Affairs Committee give a follow-up to Order 582 (2002) on *Parliamentary scrutiny of international organisations*;
- and expressed the wish that its members be associated in a future meeting between representatives of the Assembly and the UN High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change;

and asked its Chair to take practical steps along these lines;

- **Future activities**: examined ways of promoting Council of Europe values through strengthening working relations with its partners and within its neighbourhood, and in particular:

. *Transatlantic dialogue*: found it appropriate to further initiate, more structured and regular exchanges of views with US parliamentarians, scholars and representatives of civil society;

. *Relations with neighbouring areas:*

- *Kazakhstan*: expressed its willingness to develop working relations and dialogue with this country in the framework of the co-operation agreement between the Assembly and the Kazakh Parliament;
- *South Mediterranean*: agreed that there is a need for a more systematic approach to relations with the three Maghreb countries, and asked the Chair to explore the possibilities for reactivating the dialogue with representatives of these countries, subject to the Bureau prerogatives;
- *Iraq*: held an exchange of views on possible initiatives to be suggested in order to implement paragraph 12 of Resolution 1386 (2004) on *the Council of Europe's contribution to the settlement*

of the situation in Iraq, including, *inter alia*, organisation of a round-table with Iraqi representatives, assistance in electoral and legislative matters, observation of elections, training at the Assembly of Iraqi elected representatives and the staff, welcomed the proposal to organise a seminar on these issues in Turkey, and asked the Chair to inform the Political Affairs Committee on various proposals mentioned;

. *Promoting relations with institutional partners of the Assembly:*

- *European Parliament:* recommended to the Political Affairs Committee organising a joint meeting with European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs;

- *Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS:* asked the Chair to explore ways of establishing working relations with appropriate bodies of that Assembly;

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the Assembly's first Part-Session 2005 (24 – 28 January 2005).

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The **Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 14 December 2004 with Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC) and later Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

- elected Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as its Chairperson and Mr Kosachev (Russia, EDG) as its Vice-Chairperson;

as regards:

- **Organisation of the Round Table:**

. took note of a list of persons suggested by the Chairman of the State Council of the Chechen Republic, Mr Taus Dzhabrailov, to be invited from the Chechen Republic to a Round Table;

. took note of a letter by Mr Konstantin Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG) dated 9 December 2004, concerning the possible themes of the Round Table;

. held an exchange of views on the organisation of the Round Table and agreed to decide on the themes, participants, venue and date of the Round Table at its next meeting;

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg on 22 January 2005, in case a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee is scheduled for this date, or alternatively during the Assembly's first Part-Session 2005 (24 – 28 January 2005).

Bariş Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Rüdiger Dossow