

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2005 / 21

3 March 2005

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Warsaw on 28 February and 1 March 2005, first with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) and then Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG) and Mr Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Symposium on Strengthening Democracy in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Wielowieyski, Poland, EEP/CD): held a symposium with the participation of:

Mr KUTZ, Vice-Marechal of the Senate, Poland;
Mr WOLSKI, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland;
Mr DI STASI, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe;
Mr MIFSUD BONNICI, member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
Professor GAXIE, University of Paris;
Professor PERRINEAU, Institute of Political Studies, Paris;
Professor KOLARSKA-BOBINSKA, Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw;

- **Iran's nuclear threat** (Rapporteur: Mr Ateş, Turkey, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency Headquarters (IAEA) in Vienna (17 February 2005), held an exchange of views on an outline explanatory memorandum and decided to ask the Bureau to place this item on the agenda and in the order of business of the 2nd part-session 2005 of the Assembly;

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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

- **Need for international condemnation of the crimes of communism** (Rapporteur: Mrs Aguiar, Portugal, EEP/CD) held an exchange of views on a memorandum, took note that Mrs Aguiar would not be able to continue as Rapporteur, appointed Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) as new Rapporteur and decided to ask the Bureau to propose that the Assembly holds a joint debate on this item as well as on the reports on Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime and on Condemnation of the admiration and justification of Nazism, on the grounds that they all fall under the category of condemnation of totalitarianism;
- **Guidelines for good practices in the holding of referenda** (Rapporteur: Mr Elo, Finland, SOC): held an exchange of views on the study prepared by Professor Auer of the University of Geneva, considered a preliminary draft recommendation and a preliminary draft resolution, changed the title of the report to: 'Referendums: towards good practices in Europe' and decided to ask the Bureau to place this item on the agenda and in the order of business of the 2nd part-session 2005 of the Assembly;
- **Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states** (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Establishment of a stability pact on the Caucasian region** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): took note of an outline for a report and authorised the Rapporteur to conduct fact-finding missions to the region as well as to Turkey, Russia and Brussels for an exchange of views with the European Union;
- **The Round Table on the Political Situation in the Chechen Republic:** heard a statement by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), Chair of the ad hoc Sub-Committee, on the state of progress of the preparation of the round table and authorised him to conduct a visit to Moscow prior to the round table with a view to finalising its preparation;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG): authorised Mr Mollazade (Azerbaijan, LDR), Chair of the sub-Committee on the Middle East, to accompany the Rapporteur during his fact-finding mission to the region on 17-23 April 2005 (subject to an approval by the Bureau);
- **Appointments:** appointed:
 - a. Rapporteurs:**
 - Mr Brincat (Malta, SOC) as Rapporteur on Need for international condemnation of the Franco regime;
 - Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC), as Rapporteur on Parliamentary dimension of the United Nations; and
 - Mr van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for opinion on Regionalisation in Europe;
 - b. members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to take part in the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, organised by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Paris, 21 March 2005:**
 - Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC), Mr Mollazade (Azerbaijan, LDR) and Mr Pangalos (Greece, SOC) and left it to its Chair to finalise the composition of the ad hoc Committee with the appointment of two additional members;
 - c. representatives:**
 - decided to suggest to the Bureau to appoint Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, LDR) as alternate of Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) in her capacity as representative of the Assembly at the Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission);
- **Future meetings of the Committee and its sub-Committees:**
 - was informed that the parliamentary delegation of Canada had the intention of inviting the Committee to hold a meeting in Canada in 2005;
 - was informed that the Sub-Committee on External Relations was invited to participate in a joint meeting with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly's Permanent Commission on Political Issues and the WEU Assembly's Political Committee, to be held on 14 April 2005 in St. Petersburg (Russia), on the eve of the Conference dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the anti-Hitler coalition in World War II, agreed to support the holding of this meeting (subject to authorisation by the Bureau), and

approved the proposals for the agenda of the joint meeting presented by Mr Severin (Romania, SOC), Chair of the Sub-Committee on External Relations;

- was informed of an informal discussion with the participation of the Vice-Chairs of the Committee and the Chairs of Sub-Committees, at the initiative of its Chairman, on matters related to the Committee's activities, functioning and timetable;

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:***

Plenary Committee

- . Paris, 5 April 2005
- . Strasbourg, 2nd part-session, 25 to 29 April 2005
- . Baku (Azerbaijan), 4 July 2005 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau)

Sub-Committee on External Relations

- . St. Petersburg, 14 April 2005 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau)

Ad hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the Political Situation in the Chechen Republic

- . Strasbourg, Round Table on the Political Situation in the Chechen Republic, 21 March 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 Warsaw on 1 March 2005 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***Organisation of the Round Table:***

- confirmed the decision to hold the Round Table in Strasbourg, on 21 March 2005;
- held an exchange of views on the programme, the list of participants and the modalities of discussion to be followed during the Round Table;
- decided that the admission to the meeting room would be restricted only to those whose names figure on the pre-established list.

Barış Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner