

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

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Synopsis N° 2005 / 37**

6 April 2005

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 5 April 2005, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) and Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG) in the Chair,

- paid tribute to the memory of Pope John Paul II;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- took note of a statement by the Chair following the co-ordination meeting of the Committee's Bureau and Chairs of the Sub-Committees, on the priorities of the Committee and future work;
- took note of the Bureau of the Assembly's decisions relating to follow-up of the January part-session 2005 and decided:
 - to ask the Sub-Committee on the Middle East to submit proposals on the composition, programme and working methods of a tripartite forum, under Resolution 1420 (2005);
 - to invite the Sub-Committee on External Relations to submit proposals on the possible organisation of a colloquy on the Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union's new neighbourhood policy;
 - to appoint Mr Marty (Switzerland, LDR) to submit proposals concerning the follow-up to the initiatives of President Saakashvili and to appoint, at a future meeting, a Rapporteur to submit a follow-up to the initiatives of President Yuschenko;
- took note of a proposition by Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG), Rapporteur on the Middle East, to invite Mr Walid Djumblad, leader of the Lebanese opposition, to an exchange of views with the Sub-Committee on the Middle East during the Assembly April part-session 2005, and invited Mr Mollazade, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, and Mr Margelov to foresee the possibility of opening this exchange of views to other Lebanese political forces;

as regards:

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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

- **Iran's nuclear threat** (Mr Ateş, Turkey, SOC): accepted the change of title put forward by the Rapporteur (new title: "Iran's Nuclear Programme: need for international response"), amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Referendums: towards good practices in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Elo, Finland, SOC): amended and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation;
- **Round Table on the Political Situation in the Chechen Republic**: took note of a preliminary statement by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), Chair of the ad hoc Sub-Committee, on the results of the Round Table (Strasbourg, 21 March 2005), following an exchange of views, authorised Mr Gross to represent it at a Round Table on Chechnya organised by the Brookings Institute and the Centre for Strategic Studies (Berlin, 23-24 May 2005);
- **The situation in the "former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"** (Rapporteur: Mr Bianco, Italy, EPP/CD): accepted the change of title put forward by the Rapporteur (new title: "Recent political developments in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in the context of regional stability"), took note of a statement by the Rapporteur following his visit to the country (23-25 March 2005), and held an exchange of views on the basis of a preliminary draft report;
- **Current situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Mrs Tritz, Germany, SOC): was informed by its Chair of the work programme agreed upon with the Rapporteur, which foresees the examination of a preliminary draft report by the Committee during the April part-session 2005, a mission to the region - already authorised by the Committee – on 25-27 May, adoption by the Committee at its meeting on 31 May 2005, with a view to its presentation at the Assembly's plenary session in June 2005;
- **Symposium on Strengthening Democracy in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Wielowieyski, Poland, EPP/CD): approved the final conclusions of the Symposium presented by the Rapporteur, asked the Chair to write to the President of the Assembly concerning the implementation of propositions put forward at the Symposium asking him to inform the Committee of Ministers of the position of the Committee;
- **Situation in the Kazakhstan** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): authorised its Chair to ask the Assembly's Bureau for a prolongation of this reference until the end of 2005;
- ***Date and place of the next meetings:***
 - Plenary Committee***
 - . Strasbourg, 2nd part-session, 25 to 29 April 2005
 - . Paris, 31 May 2005
 - . Baku (Azerbaijan), 4 July 2005 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau)
 - Sub-Committee on External Relations***
 - . St. Petersburg, 14 April 2005

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