

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Political Affairs Committee
Commission des questions politiques

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

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2 May 2005

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 26, 27 and 28 April 2005 with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **The 3rd Summit**: heard a statement by its Chairman and asked him and the Rapporteur (Mr Kosachev, Russia, EDG) to put written questions to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers;
- **Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones**: appointed Mr Mihkelson (Estonia, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for oral opinion for the debate under urgent procedure: approved his oral opinion, including the proposed amendments;
- **Iran's nuclear programme: need for international response** (Rapporteur: Mr Ateş, Turkey, SOC): considered the amendments which had been tabled;
- **Referendums: towards good practices in Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Elo, Finland, SOC): considered the amendment which had been tabled and decided to table two sub-amendments;
- **Democratic oversight of the security sector in member States** (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC): approved a draft report; amended and adopted a draft Recommendation;
- **Recent political developments in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in the context of regional stability** (Rapporteur: Mr Bianco, Italy, EPP/CD): approved a draft report, amended and adopted a draft Resolution and adopted a draft Recommendation;
- **Current situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Mrs Tritz, Germany, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the basis of her memorandum;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG): heard a statement by the Rapporteur about his visit to Jordan, Israel and Palestinian territories (17-22 April 2005) and authorised him to carry out a further visit to the region after the parliamentary elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council, and held an exchange of views with representatives of the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council;

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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

- **Strengthening of democratic institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina** (Rapporteur: Mr Kirilov, Bulgaria, SOC): heard a preliminary statement by the Rapporteur on the Opinion of the Venice Commission on *the constitutional situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the powers of the High Representative*, following Resolution 1384 of the Assembly, and took note that an exchange of views with Prof. Jowell, member of the Venice Commission, will be held at the next meeting (31 May 2005);
- **Need for international condemnation of the crimes of the communism:** (Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD): authorised the Rapporteur to conduct information visits to Russia, Bulgaria and Latvia on the condition that the deadline for the adoption of the report is maintained;
- **Situation in Chechnya:** took note of the conclusions of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic, held on 25 April 2005;
- **Sub-Committee on External Relations:** heard a statement by Mr Severin (Romania, SOC), Chair of the Sub-Committee, on:
 - the results of a joint meeting with committees of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Assembly of Western European Union (St. Petersburg, 14 April 2005);
 - preliminary conclusions of the Sub-Committee on a Council of Europe contribution to the European Union's new neighbourhood policy;

Future work

- appointed:
 - Mr Timmermans (Netherlands, SOC) as Rapporteur on *The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations*;
 - Mr Mollazade (Azerbaijan, LDR) as Rapporteur on *Situation in Belarus*;
 - Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, LDR) as Rapporteur on the follow-up to initiatives of President Yushchenko expressed in his speech to the Assembly during the January 2005 part-session;
- asked the Sub-Committee on External Relations to consider the motion on *The Council of Europe and the promotion of democracy (report on the external relations of the Council of Europe)*;
- It also asked the Sub-Committee to consider possible follow-up to the letter from the Chairman of *the Executive Board of North-South Centre*, inviting competent committees for greater involvement in the activities of the Centre;
- *Meeting of the Committee in Baku:* at the request of the Bureau, discussed the opportunity of holding this meeting on 4 July, decided to confirm its demand for authorisation, and held an exchange of views on issues to be put on the agenda;
- *Invitation to hold a meeting in Canada:* welcomed an official invitation from the Canadian Observer delegation;

Next meetings

Plenary Committee:

- . Paris, 31 May 2005
- . Strasbourg, 3rd part-session (20-24 June 2005)

Sub-Committees on External Relations:

- . **Paris, 30 May 2005 (afternoon)**

Ad hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic:

. Paris, 30 May 2005 (afternoon)

The Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 April 2005 with Mr Mollazade (Azerbaijan, LDR) in the Chair,

- heard a statement by Mr Margelov (Russia, EDG), Rapporteur on the situation in the Middle East on his visit to Jordan, Israel and Palestinian territories (17-22 April 2005);
- supported his proposal to carry out a further visit to the region after the parliamentary elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- held an exchange of views with representatives of the Knesset and of the Palestinian Legislative Council on the situation in the region;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chairman to convene the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 April 2005 with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Joint meeting with Committees of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and WEU Assembly (St. Petersburg, 14 April 2005):** held an exchange of views on the results of this meeting, and agreed on the need to further develop working relations with Committees of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, with special attention to standards for democratic elections and to promoting the parliamentary dimension of the United Nations;
- **Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union's new neighbourhood policy:** held a preliminary exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum prepared by the Chair, on the possible organisation of a colloquy on this matter, and decided to continue the discussion at its next meeting;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on 30 May 2005.

The Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 29 April 2005 with Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Political situation in Belarus:** held an exchange of views on the case of Mikhail Marinich as well as the activities of the Committee of Ministers, with the participation of Mr Pavel Marinich, son of Mikhail Marinich, and Ambassador Jean-Claude Joseph, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Rapporteur Group for Democratic Stability (GR-EDS);
- **Future work:** discussed the need to improve co-operation with international institutions working on Belarus and held an exchange of views on the possibility of organising another meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2005 or early 2006, at a venue that would facilitate the participation of Belarusian guests.
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chair to convene the next meeting.

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 Strasbourg on 25 April 2005 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Follow-up to the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic (Strasbourg, 21 March 2005)**: held an exchange of views on the results of the first meeting of the Round Table and on the timing, venue, participants and the subjects for a further Round Table;

- **Date and place of the next meeting**: decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on 30 May 2005.

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