

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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis N° 2005 / 79

27 June 2005

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 20, 21 and 23 June 2005 with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC)

- heard a statement from Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, followed by an exchange of views;
- held an exchange of views with representatives of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), with the participation of Mr Ch. Amir Hussain, President of the AAPP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Mr José de Venecia, Chairperson of the Advisory Council of the AAPP, Speaker of the Congress of Philippines, and issued a statement on the decision to transform this Association into an Asian Parliamentary Assembly;

as regards:

- **Follow-up to the 3rd Summit** (Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD): adopted a draft Resolution for debate under urgent procedure, authorised the Rapporteur to table an amendment on behalf of the Committee, took position in relation to other tabled amendments and decided to set up an *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy*;
- **Abolishing the last piece of Iron curtain in Central Europe**: (Rapporteur: Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE): approved a draft report, adopted a draft Resolution and decided, contrary to its initial request, to ask the Bureau to not put this item on the agenda of the Standing Committee in Monaco (1 September 2005);
- **Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russia, EDG): authorised the Rapporteur to table amendments on behalf of the Committee and took position in relation to other tabled amendments;
- **Current Situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Mrs Tritz, Germany, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to table amendments on behalf of the Committee and took position in relation to other tabled amendments;
- **Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states** (Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC): noted that no amendments had been tabled;

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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 Franco regime** (Rapporteur: Mr Brincat, Malta, SOC): heard the Rapporteur and took note of a draft report and a preliminary draft Recommendation;
- **Need for international condemnation of the crimes of communism** (Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/DC): held an exchange of views based on a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur following his fact-finding visits to Bulgaria, Latvia and Russia;
- **Situation in the Chechen Republic**: took note of a statement by Mr Gross, Chair of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the Political situation in the Chechen Republic;
- **Parliamentary dimension of the United Nations** (Rapporteur: Mrs de Zulueta, Italy, SOC): held an exchange of views based on a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur and authorised her to follow the works of the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments organised by the IPU (New York, 7-8 September 2005) and, on this occasion, to hold bilateral meetings in preparation of her report, subject to the approval of the Bureau;
- **Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote** (Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC): noted the absence of the Rapporteur for the debate in the Assembly and appointed Mr Gross to replace him;
- **Meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections, Venice Commission** (Venice, 10 March and 9 June 2005): heard a statement by Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC);

Sub-committees; appointed the following members and alternates:

Sub-Committee on Belarus:

Mr Kastēns (Latvia, EPP/CD), titular member;

Mrs Čurdová (Czech Republic, SOC), alternate to Mrs Konečná;

Mrs Serna (Spain, SOC), alternate to Mr Padilla;

Sub-Committee on External Relations:

Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD), alternate to Mrs Tritz;

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy:

Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC);

Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC);

Mrs Ohlsson (Sweden, SOC);

Mr Severin (Romania, SOC);

Mr Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EDG);

Mr Van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD);

Mr Wielowieyski (Poland, EPP/CD);

Ex officio: Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC);

Next meetings

Plenary Committee:

.Paris, 13-14 September 2005;

.Strasbourg, 4th part session (3-7 October 2005);

.Ottawa, Canada, 24-25 October 2005.

Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 22 June 2005 with Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the Chair

as regards:

- **Political situation in Belarus:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ambassador Neris Germanas, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe, Ambassador Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the Council of Europe and Mr Christopher Davis, Consul General of the United States in Strasbourg and Deputy Permanent Observer;
- **Future work:** discussed the necessity of improving co-operation with the international institutions dealing with Belarus and held an exchange of views concerning the possibility of organising a meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2005 or early 2006, at a venue that would facilitate the participation of invited persons from Belarus;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the 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 23 June 2005 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Organisation of the second Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic:** held an exchange of views based on an oral presentation by its Chair;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

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