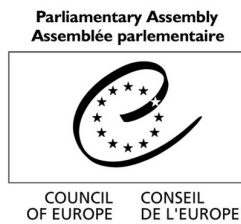


# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Political Affairs Committee  
Commission des questions politiques



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

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

### **Synopsis N° 2006 / 28**

20 March 2006

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 14 March 2006, with Mr Ateş (Turkey, SOC) in the Chair:

- paid tribute to the memory of Mr Lennart Meri, former President of Estonia who passed away;

*as regards:*

- **Implementation of the decisions of the Third Summit of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Kosachev, Russian Federation, EDG): decided to request that the Bureau put, as part of reference 3163, a report on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union on the agenda of 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2006 of the Assembly and asked for a derogation to the Rules of procedure so as to allow the adoption of a draft recommendation by the Committee on 11 April 2006;
- **Assembly's priorities for 2006**: held an exchange of views on the basis of proposals prepared for the Bureau, agreed to suggest a number of amendments and asked its Chair to communicate those amendments to the Bureau;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum prepared by the Rapporteur, with the participation of Mr Hasan Khreishe, Vice-President of Palestinian Legislative Council, and of Mr Abdullah Abdullah, member of Palestinian Legislative Council, and invited the Rapporteur to prepare a report for adoption at its next meeting with a view to the presentation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2006;
- **Enhancing the visibility of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft report presented by the Rapporteur, with the participation of Ambassador Vlasta Štěpová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe, Rapporteur on Information policy, and Mrs Seda Pumpyanskaya, Director of Communication and Research of the Council of Europe ;
- **European Muslim communities confronted with extremism** (Rapporteur: Mr Goulet, France, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the basis on an outline for a report presented by the Rapporteur;

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

- **Situation in Kazakhstan** (Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by the Rapporteur, and authorised him to make a study visit to the country, subject to the approval by the Bureau;

- **The situation in the republics of Central Asia** (Rapporteur: Mr Mercan, Turkey, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by the Rapporteur, and took note of his intention to organise a hearing and to conduct study visits to the region;

- **Situation in Belarus**: heard a statement by the Chair on the Conference on Belarus (Prague, 22-23 February 2006), jointly organised by the Parliamentary Assembly and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and appointed Mr van Winsen (Netherlands, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur;

- **The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the Minsk Conference of the OSCE**: held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by Lord Russell-Johnston, Chair of the Bureau's Ad Hoc Committee;

- **Appointment of Rapporteurs for report**: appointed:

. Mr Mihkelson (Estonia, EPP/CD): *Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure*;

. Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG): *Compliance by Observer countries with the values of the Council of Europe*;

. Mr Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD): *The provisional name of the Republic of Macedonia in the Council of Europe*;

. Mr Hörster (Germany, EPP/CD): *Situation in Cyprus*;

. Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD): Iran (subject to a formal reference to the Committee);

- **Appointment of a Rapporteur for opinion**: appointed:

. Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC): *The activities of the International Organisation for Migration* (Committee on migration, refugees and population for report).

- **Reply by the Committee of Ministers to the Committee's adopted text**: took note of the Committee of Ministers reply on:

. Recommendation 1712 (2005): *Follow-up to the Third Summit*

- **Next meetings**:

. Strasbourg, 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2006 (10-13 April 2006)

. Brussels or Paris, 10 May 2006 (to be confirmed)

. Paris, 2 June 2006

. Strasbourg, 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session 2006 (26-30 June 2006)

\* \* \*

**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 March 2006 with Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) in the Chair,

- held an exchange of views on the situation in Chechnya on the basis of the public opinion survey released by the Institute for Social Marketing (Russia Federation);

- was informed by its Chair of a letter by Mr Zakayev stating his acceptance of the criteria for participation in the Round Table;

- decided to invite to one of its future meetings the President of the Chechen Republic and Chairs of both Chambers of the Chechen Parliament.

- **Date and place of the next meeting**: Paris, 1 June 2006

\* \* \*

**Sub-Committee on the Middle East** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 15 March 2006 with Mr Goris (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair:

- *elected* Mr Margelov (Russian Federation, EDG) Vice-Chair;

*as regards:*

- **Tripartite Parliamentary Forum:** held an exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement by Mr Margelov (Russian Federation, EDG), Rapporteur on the Situation in the Middle East, with participation of Mr Hasan Khreishe, Vice-President of Palestinian Legislative Council, and of Mr Abdullah Abdullah, member of Palestinian Legislative Council, and unanimously took position in favour of inviting a delegation of Palestinian Legislative Council including a representative of Hamas to take part in its next meeting to be held in Strasbourg during 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2006 (10-13 April 2006).
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** Strasbourg, 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2006 (10-13 April 2006)

\* \* \*

**Sub-Committee on External Relations** (of the Political Affairs Committee), meeting in Paris on 15 March 2006, with Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) in the Chair:

*As regards:*

- **Relations with Morocco:** held an exchange of views with Mr Hassan Maaouni, Vice-President of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives;
- **Relations with Kazakhstan:** heard a statement by Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC), Rapporteur on *Situation in Kazakhstan*, and held an exchange of views on the situation in the country and the perspectives for its relations with the Council of Europe with the participation of:
  - . Mr Mukhambet Kopeyev, Vice-President of the Senate;
  - . Mrs Nurlygaim Joldasbayeva, member of the Senate Committee on welfare development, member of the group on cooperation of Parliament of Kazakhstan with the Assembly;
  - . Mr Tulebek Kosmambetov, member of the Mazhilis;
  - . Mr Nurdaulet Sarsenov, member of the Mazhilis;
  - . Mr Akezhan Kazhegeldin, former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Chairman of RNPk Party;
  - . Mr Zharmakhan Tuyakbai, Presidential Candidate of the United Opposition;
  - . Mrs Zhanara Balgabayeva, representative of youth movement "Kahar";
  - . Mr Serik Netalin, representative of youth movement "Kahar";
  - . Mr Michael Laubsch, Executive Director, the Eurasian Transition Group;
- **The External Relations of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Severin, Romania, SOC): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum presented by the Rapporteur.
- **Date and place of the next meetings:**
  - . Strasbourg, 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session 2006 (10-13 April 2006)
  - . St. Petersburg (Russia Federation), 27 April (to be confirmed: meetings with counterpart committees) – 28 April 2006 (International Conference on European Parliamentarianism)

\* \* \*

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner