

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/Pol/CB (2008) 02

14 March 2008

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 12 and 13 March 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by its Chair and held an exchange of views on possible initiatives of the Committee as regards the situation in Kosovo, the Middle East and the 2008 Olympic Games;

as regards:

- **2008 Olympic Games:** decided to hold a hearing on the freedom of speech of Olympic Athletes with the participation of athletes, representatives of the IOC, the national Olympic Committees concerned and the Chinese representatives during the April part-session 2008;
- **European Muslim communities confronted with extremism** (*Rapporteur : Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views, approved a draft report, amended and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Attitude to memorials exposed to different historical interpretations in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised draft report presented by the Rapporteur with a view to presenting it at the part-session in June 2008;
- **Situation in the Middle East:** heard a statement by its Chair on the meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Middle-East; took note of the change of date of the meeting of the Tripartite Forum (11-12 June 2008) and held an exchange of views on its possible themes;
- **Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Representatives of the Senate:
 - . Mr Mukhambet KOPEYEV, Deputy Chairman of the Senate
 - . Mrs Nurlygaim JOLDASBAYEVA, Chairperson of the Committee on Economic and Regional Policy
 - . Mr Idelbay IMANKULOV, Member of the Committee on Economic and Regional Policy

CC Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
Director General and Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Special Guests and Observers to the Assembly
Directors General
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
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- . Mr Gani KASSIMOV, Member of the Committee on International relations, Defense and Security

Representatives of the Mazhilis

- . Mr Nurbakh RUSTEMOV, Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Defense and Security
- . Mr Tulebek KOSMAMBETOV, Member of the Committee on Finance and Budget
- . Mr Nurdaulet SARSENOV, Member of the Committee on Agrarian Issues

Representatives of political parties not represented in the Parliament

- . Mr Alikhan M. BAIMENOV, Chairman, "Ak Zhol" Democratic Party of Kazakhstan
- . Mr Oraz JANDOSOV, Co-Chairman, "True Ak Zhol" Democratic Party of Kazakhstan
- . Mr Vladislav KOSAREV, Chairman, Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan
- . Mr Amirzhan KOSSANOV, Deputy Chairman, All-National Social Democratic Party of Kazakhstan

- **The Council of Europe and its Observer States – the current situation and a way forward** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EDG*): approved an addendum to the explanatory memorandum;
- **The State of Democracy in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an outline for the report presented by the Rapporteur;
- **Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wodarg, Germany, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an outline for the report presented by the Rapporteur and took note that he would be assisted by an expert;
- **Situation in Belarus**: heard a statement by Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) on the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, authorised her to participate in the meeting of the Chairs of the Parliamentary troika on Belarus (Strasbourg, 22 April 2008) and authorised her, Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) and Mr Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) to conduct a fact-finding visit to Belarus in their respective capacities as Chair of the Sub-Committee, Chair of the Committee and Rapporteur on the Situation in Belarus, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau;
- **External Relations**: heard a statement by Mr Iwiński, Chair of the Sub-Committee, approved the items to be put on the agenda of a joint meeting to be held on the occasion of the PACE-CIS IPA conference on migration (St. Petersburg, 3-4 April 2008), and approved the proposal to invite the Chair of Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group GR-EXT for an exchange of views on elements for a draft resolution on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations;
- **Situation in Cyprus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP/CD*): authorised the Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Cyprus with a view to presenting a report to the Assembly in October 2008;
- **Future work**
 - *Threshold levels in parliamentary elections, and their impact on representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states*: further to the request by the Bureau, held an exchange of views on the motion and agreed to inform the Bureau that it wished to be seized for report;
- **Next meetings**
 - . Strasbourg, 2nd part-session 2008 (14-18 April 2008)
 - . Stockholm, 15-16 May 2008

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The Sub-Committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 12 March 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) and then Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) in the Chair:

- *elected* Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC) as Vice-Chair;

as regards:

- **Exchange of views on the organisation of the Tripartite Forum to be held in Rhodes in June 2008:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Political Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Mr Avevian Sabella, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council; took note that the dates of the Forum had been changed to 11-12 June 2008 and discussed possible themes for the Forum.

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

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The Sub-Committee on Belarus of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 12 March 2008, with Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) in the Chair:

- *elected* Mr Evans (United Kingdom, EDG) as Vice-Chair;

as regards:

- ***Future work:***

- heard a statement by its Chair and held an exchange of views,
- expressed itself in favour of its Chair's participation in the meeting of the Chairs of the Parliamentary Troika on Belarus (Strasbourg, 22 April 2008),
- took note that its Chair, Mr Lindblad (as Chair of the Committee) and Mr Rigoni (as Rapporteur on the Situation in Belarus) had received an invitation from the Belarusian parliament to visit Belarus and expressed itself in favour of them conducting a fact-finding mission to Belarus;

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

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The Sub-Committee on External Relations of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 13 March 2008, with Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair:

- ***Preparation of the meetings in St-Petersburg (3-4 April 2008)***

a) Joint meeting with the Commission on Political Issues and International Co-operation (CIS IPA) and the Political Committee (WEU PA):

- took note of the items for the agenda of the joint meeting suggested by the CIS and WEU Assemblies;
- approved the proposal of the Chair to put on the agenda of the joint meeting the item "Political repercussions of migration", and asked him to present it;

b) International Parliamentary Conference "Globalization of Migration Processes: Problems of Legal Regulation":

- took note of the draft programme of the conference;
- agreed that the Chair or the Vice-Chair would co-chair one of the panels, and that the Chair of the Political Affairs Committee would be invited to co-chair another one;
- ***Co-operation with the United Nations***
 - took note that the debate on co-operation between the United Nations and regional organisations would take place in Autumn 2008, and decided to hold a meeting in New York on this occasion (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);
 - agreed to invite the Chair of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) for an exchange of views on elements for a draft resolution on co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), 3-4 April 2008 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau)

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