



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

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/Pol/CB (2008) 03

21 April 2008

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 14 to 17 April 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***European Muslim communities confronted with extremism*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP-CD*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution and draft recommendation and asked its Chair to propose that the amendments approved unanimously should be declared adopted by the Assembly, according to Rule 34.10;
- ***Electronic Democracy*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Szabó, Hungary, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur;
- ***The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member States*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to the UN Headquarters in New York (7-9 April 2008);
- ***The State of Democracy in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft memorandum presented by the Rapporteur, took note that the Rapporteur proposes to modify the title of the report and that it would be submitted for adoption at the next Committee meeting in Stockholm;
- ***Situation in Cyprus*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP-CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an introductory memorandum presented by the Rapporteur, and took note that the Rapporteur is planning to visit Cyprus in June 2008;
- ***Situation in the Middle East***: heard a statement by Mr Pavlidis, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, agreed to ask the Bureau to authorise the Rapporteur, Mr Margelov (Russian Federation, EDG) to carry out a fact-finding visit to the region (Israel, Palestinian Authorities and Jordan) in the framework of the preparation of his report (16-20 June 2008); took note of the decisions taken by the Sub-Committee for the preparation of the Tripartite Forum (Rhodes, 11-12 June 2008);

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
 Director of Communication
 Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

These documents are published on PACE extranet website (restricted area for PACE Members) when they become available: <http://assembly.coe.int/extranet>. PACE IT Unit staff (it.unit@coe.int) remains at your disposal for any technical assistance.

- **Use by Assembly members of their “double mandate”, national and European** (*Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC*); heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the meeting held with the Presidents of the national delegations;

- **External relations:** heard a statement by Mr Iwiński, Chair of the Sub-Committee on External Relations on the meeting held in St-Petersburg (3-4 April 2008), and agreed with his proposal to invite Mr Rustemov, Chair of the Commission on Political Issues and International Co-operation of the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States for an exchange of views at one of the following Committee meetings;

- **Forum on the future of democracy:** was informed that the next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on 18 April and appointed Mr Lindblad and Mr Szabó as its representatives;

- **Political situation in China on the eve of the Olympic Games:** held a public hearing with the participation of:

- . Mr Jianli Yang, Chinese researcher and human rights defender, founder of the non-profit forum *Initiatives for China* (Boston, USA);
- . Mr Jampal Chosang, Representative of the Dalai Lama (Paris);
- . Mrs Corinna-Barbara Francis, Researcher, East Asia team, Amnesty International (London);
- . Mr Olivier Basille, Permanent Representative of Reporters Without Borders to the European Institutions (Brussels);

adopted a declaration and agreed to propose to the Bureau to hold a general policy debate on the *Political situation in China on the eve of the Olympic Games* at the third part-session in June 2008 and to invite the Dalai Lama to address the Assembly on the occasion of this debate;

- **Future work**

a. Appointment of Rapporteurs: appointed

. Mr Daems (Belgium, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *Threshold level in parliamentary elections, and their impact on representativity of Parliaments in Council of Europe member States*;

. Mr Badré (France, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *Euro-Mediterranean: call for a Council of Europe strategy*;

. Mrs Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Impact of electoral systems on women's representation in politics*

and heard from all of them a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;

b. Authorisation of visits by Rapporteurs: authorised:

. Mr Wodarg (Germany, SOC), Rapporteur on *Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force*, to visit the Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (Geneva, Switzerland)

c. Appointment of representatives of the Committee

. Mr Szabó (Hungary, SOC), Rapporteur on *Electronic Democracy*, to attend the 3rd meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on E. Democracy (CAHDE), Strasbourg 20-21 May 2008.

d. Meeting in Stockholm: took note of the draft programme of the meeting;

- **Next meetings**

- . 15-16 May 2008 (Stockholm, Sweden)
- . Strasbourg, 3rd part-session 2008 (23-27 June 2008)

The Sub-Committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 15 April 2008, with Mr Pavlidis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views on the organisation of the Tripartite Forum to be held in Rhodes on 11-12 June 2008

with the participation of:

- . Mr Michael EITAN, Member of the Knesset
- . Mr Ran COHEN, Member of the Knesset
- . Mr Fuad KOKALY, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

- agreed on the topics and modalities of the Forum.

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** Rhodes, 11-12 June 2008

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