

# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

**AS/Pol/CB (2008) 05**

27 June 2008

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg on 23–26 June 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) and Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **General policy debate on “The situation in China”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mignon, France, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views, approved a draft report, amended and adopted a draft Resolution, and took position on the amendments which had been tabled to it;

- **The State of Democracy in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft Resolution and to the 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;

- **Use by Assembly members of their “double mandate”, national and European** (*Rapporteur: Lord Tomlinson, United Kingdom, SOC*): agreed with the proposal by the Rapporteur to modify the title to “Use by Assembly members of their dual parliamentary role – both national and European”, approved a draft report and adopted a draft Resolution;

- **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 draft report and postponed the adoption of a draft Resolution and a draft Recommendation to its meeting of 10 September 2008 in order to give the Russian delegation additional time to prepare amendments, following their request;

- **Need for a Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy** (*Rapporteur: Mr van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD*): took note of an outline for a report;

- **Electronic Democracy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Szabo, Hungary, SOC*): took note of an outline for a report;

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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

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- **Situation in Cyprus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and took note of a preliminary draft memorandum prepared following his fact-finding visit to Cyprus (15-19 June 2008);
- **Private military and security firms** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wodarg, Germany, SOC*): took note of the draft programme for the hearing to be held on 10 September 2008 in Paris;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG*): heard a statement by Mr Pavlidis, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, on the Tripartite Forum held in Rhodes (11-12 June 2008), held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Eitan, member of the Knesset, and Mr Abdullah, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council on the follow up to the Forum and invited MM Pavlides, Eitan and Abdullah to hold an informal meeting to further discuss this question and come up with concrete proposals to the Sub-Committee on the Middle East;
- **External relations**: held an exchange of views on the draft Resolution on the *Co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe* with Ambassador Daryal BATIBAY, Permanent Representative of Turkey and Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT);
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, Mrs Hurskainen, on the meeting held on 24 June 2008;
- **Forum for the future of democracy** (*Madrid, 15-17 October 2008*): heard a statement by Mr Lindblad on the meeting of the Advisory Board held on 26 May 2008;
- **Future work:**
  - a. **Appointment of Rapporteurs:** appointed
    - . Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for the merged report on *The need for international condemnation of Holodomor (artificial famine) in Ukraine in 1932-1933*, and on *75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mass famine in the territory of the former USSR*, heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest; and invited the Rapporteur to come up with a proposal on the title for the report;
    - . Mr Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Promoting parliamentary diplomacy*; subject to him submitting a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest;
  - b. **Consultation by the Bureau:** decided to advise the Bureau to refer the motion on *The eradication of discrimination based on the principle of "collective guilt" in Europe* to the Political Affairs Committee for a report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Right for opinion;
  - c. **Appointment of members in Sub-Committees:**
    - appointed Mrs Ojuland (Estonia, ALDE) and Mr Umakhanov (Russian Federation, EDG) as alternate members of the Sub-Committee on Belarus.
- **Next meetings**
  - . Paris, 10 September 2008
  - . 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2008 (29 September – 3 October 2008)

**The Sub-Committee on Belarus** of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 June 2008, with Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) in the Chair:

- *elected* Mr Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) as Vice-Chair;

*as regards:*

- **Written Declaration on reducing visa fees for Belarusian citizens:** heard a statement by the Rapporteur on Situation in Belarus (Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE);
- **Situation in Belarus and state of relations with the Council of Europe:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
  - Mr Anatoli Krasutski, Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Commission for International Affairs of the House of Representatives, National Assembly of Belarus,
  - Mr Anatoly Lebedko, Chairman of the National Committee of the United Democratic Forces of Belarus (UDF),
  - Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs of the Council of Europe;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

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

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**The Ad Hoc Committee to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy** (of the Bureau), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by the Chair on the Assembly's contribution to the next session of the Forum (Madrid – 15-17 October 2008);
- heard a statement by Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs, on the state of preparation of the Forum;
- held an exchange of views.
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner