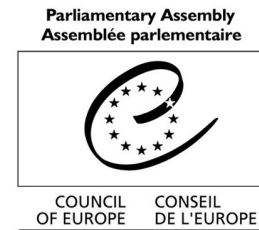


# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

#### **AS/Pol/CB (2008) 06**

11 September 2008

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 10 September 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- observed one minute's silence to pay tribute to its members, Lord Russell-Johnston, who died on 27 July 2008 and Mr Dreyfus-Schmidt, who died on 7 September 2008;

*as regards:*

- ***Conflict in Georgia:***

- . took note of the decision by the Bureau to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure during the forthcoming part-session on "Consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia", and appointed Mr Lindblad, its Chair, as Rapporteur for opinion on the report to be prepared by the Monitoring Committee (subject to a ratification by the Assembly of the proposal on the urgent procedure);

- . took note of the decision by the Bureau to set up an ad hoc committee to study the situation on the ground in Russia and Georgia (21-26 September);

- . held an exchange of views on the situation in the region;

- . decided to consider further action in the light of the outcome of the urgent debate in the Assembly;

- ***Situation in Cyprus*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Hörster, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;

.../...

---

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.

- **Private military and security firms** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wodarg, Germany, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held a hearing with the participation of:

- . Mr Rolf Uessler, independent expert on private security firms
- . Mrs Caroline Holmqvist, Department of War Studies, King's College London
- . Dr Hans Born, Senior Fellow, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- . Mrs Anne-Marie Buzatu, Project Officer, Privatisation of Security Programme Co-ordinator, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- . Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, Chief Executive, Aegis Defence Services Ltd.
- . Mr Daniel Klingele, Head of Section, Section Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Directorate of International Law, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

- **Authorisations by the Committee:**

- . approved Mr Gross's request to carry out a visit to New York in connection with the meeting of the sub-committee on external relations in the framework of the preparation of his report on the UN Reform (no expenses for the Assembly) (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
- . authorised Mr Pavlidis, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, to carry out a visit to the Middle East (Israel and Palestinian Territories) in the framework of the preparation of the next Tripartite Forum; (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau);
- . appointed Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD) to attend the International Scientific Conference "Holodomor 1932-1933 in Ukraine" (Kiyv, Ukraine, 25-26 September 2008) in his capacity as Rapporteur on this subject.

- **Next meetings**

- . Strasbourg, 4<sup>th</sup> part-session 2008 (29 September-3 October 2008)
- . Ad hoc sub-committee on the Forum for the future of democracy, Madrid, 15-17 October 2008
- . Sub-Committee on External Relations, New York, 20-22 October 2008 (dates to be confirmed)
- . Sub-Committee on the Middle East, Paris, 17 November 2008
- . Paris, 18 November 2008
- . Paris, 16 December 2008

\*\*\*

**The Sub-Committee on the Middle East** of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 9 October 2008, with Mr Pavlidis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views on the follow-up to the meeting of the Tripartite Forum held in Rhodes (11-12 June 2008) with the participation of:
  - . Mr Michael EITAN, Member of the Knesset
  - . Mr Abdullah ABDULLAH, Chair of the Political Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council
- invited its Chair to visit the region (Israel and Palestinian Territories) before the next meeting of the sub-committee in order to contribute to the discussions between Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians with a view to the preparation of the next meeting of the Tripartite Forum.
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** Paris, 17 November 2008