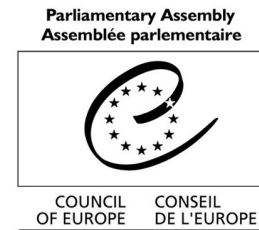


Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

AS/Pol/CB (2008) 08

19 November 2008

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 18 November 2008, in the presence of the President of the Assembly, Mr Luís Maria de Puig and with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- ***Follow-up to the Resolution on “The Consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia”***:

- . held an exchange of views with the President of the Assembly on the follow up to Resolution 1633 (2008) on “the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia;
- . took note of the decision of the Bureau to place on the agenda of the January 2009 part-session a report on the *Implementation of Resolution 1633 (2008)*, and postponed the appointment of a Rapporteur for opinion on behalf of the Committee to its next meeting;
- . held an exchange of views on the matters referred to it by the Bureau, and in this context:
 - . decided to set up an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on early warning systems and the prevention of crises in Europe, with the task of formulating proposals for the organisation of an international conference on early warning systems, and addressing issues relating to regional stability having an impact on Council of Europe member and observer states (see composition in appendix);
 - . heard an oral statement by Mr Mota Amaral, (Portugal, EPP-CD), Rapporteur on *Promoting Parliamentary Diplomacy*;
 - . held an exchange of views on the setting up of an international committee of inquiry;

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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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- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states** (Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to conduct a fact-finding visit to London to meet Lord Malloch-Brown, State Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the United Nations, at no cost for the Assembly;

- **Situation in Kosovo** (Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to conduct a fact-finding visit to Kosovo at the beginning of 2009;

- **Situation in Belarus:** heard a statement by the Chair of its Sub-Committee on Belarus, Mrs Hurskainen, supported her request to join the other Chairs of the Parliamentary Troika on Belarus in a visit to Belarus in 2009 (subject to the authorisation of the Bureau) and agreed that, on her initiative, a hearing on EU policy towards Belarus would be held during the next meeting of the Committee;

- **Situation in the Middle East – Tripartite Forum** (Rapporteur: Mr Margelov, Russian Federation, EDG); heard a statement by Mr Pavlidis, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, on his visit to the region (3-6 November 2008) and on the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 17 November, held an exchange of views with the participation of the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Political Committee and Mrs Najat Alastal, as well as with Ambassador Simona Frankel, Representative of Israel, and agreed to propose to the Bureau to postpone the debate on the Middle East until after the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Israel (2 February 2009).

- **Electronic Democracy** (Rapporteur: Mr Szabó, Hungary, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to participate in the World e-Parliament Conference 2008 (Brussels, 25-26 November 2008) and agreed to propose to the Bureau that the report be included on the agenda of the January 2009 part-session.

- **Forum on the Future of Democracy (Madrid – 15-17 October 2008):** heard a statement by Mr Lindlbad on the meeting of the Forum in Madrid;

- **Future work:** appointed:

. Mrs Nirenstein (Italy, NR) as Rapporteur for report on *The eradication of discrimination based on the principle of “collective guilt” in Europe*, Ref. 3490, 29.09.08,;

. Mr Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia in Europe*, Ref. 3442, 29.05.08;

and heard from them a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest.

- **Next meetings**

Full Committee:

- . Paris, 16 December 2008
- . Strasbourg, 1st part-session 2009 (26 to 30 January 2009)
- . Paris, 17 March 2009

Ad hoc Sub-Committee on early warning systems and the prevention of crises in Europe:

- . Paris, 15 December 2008 (from 3 to 6 pm)

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

The Sub-Committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 17 November 2008, with Mr Pavlidis (Greece, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by its Chair, on his visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories from 3 to 6 November 2008;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Chair of the Political Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Mrs Najat Alastal, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council as well as with Ambassador Simona Frankel, representative of Israel, on the future action of the Tripartite Forum on the Middle East and invited the parties to continue their work on the draft declaration.
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

Baris Perin, Agnieszka Nachilo

The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on early warning systems and the prevention of crises in Europe of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 18 November 2008, first with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) and then with Mr Wilshire in the Chair,

elected by acclamation:

- Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) as Chair and
- Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as Vice-Chair;

as regards:

- **Future work:** endorsed its Chair's initiative that members send their proposals in writing.
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** 15 December 2008 (3 to 6 pm), Paris.

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

Appendix I

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Early warning systems and prevention of crises in Europe

Composition:

Chair: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EDG

Vice:Chair: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC

Mrs Aburto, Spain, SOC

Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD

Mr Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG

Mr Gabashvili, Georgia, EPP/CD

Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE

Mrs Herasym'yuk, Ukraine, EPP/CD

Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC

Mr Jensen, Denmark, SOC

Mr Kox, Netherlands, UEL

Mr Markov, Russian Federation, EDG

Mr Mignon, France, EPP/CD

Mrs Ojuland, Estonia, ALDE

Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE

Mrs Turkone, Turkey, EPP/CD

Ex officio: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD