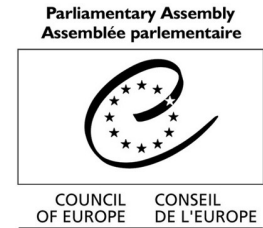


# Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



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

### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

#### **AS/PoI/CB (2008) 09**

17 December 2008

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Paris on 16 December 2008, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **E-Democracy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Szabó, Hungary, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, as amended;
- **Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force** (*Rapporteur: Mr Wodarg, Germany, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft recommendation, as amended;
- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, agreed to his request to ask the Bureau for an extension of the reference of his report until June 2009, and authorised him to visit Moscow (Russian Federation);
- **Follow-up to the Resolution on “The Consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia”**: heard a statement by Mr Wilshire, Chairman of the Ad hoc Sub-Committee on early warning systems and the prevention of conflicts in Europe, confirmed the current composition of the Ad hoc Sub-Committee, appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as Rapporteur for Opinion on the implementation of Resolution 1633 (2008) and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
- **Need for a Council of Europe neighbourhood policy** (*Rapporteur: Mr van den Brande, Belgium, EPP-CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an introductory memorandum presented by the Rapporteur, authorised him to visit Brussels (institutions of the European Union) and Vienna (OSCE), and took note that he might subsequently request fact-finding visits to Morocco, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan;

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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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Synopsis 2008/09

- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): held a hearing on “EU Policy towards Belarus: recent developments”, with the participation of:

- . Mr Jacek Protasiewicz, Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Belarus, European Parliament;
- . Mr Gunnar Wiegand, Director, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, External Relations Directorate-General, European Commission.

- **External relations**: heard a statement by Mr Iwiński, Chair of the Sub-Committee on External Relations, on the meeting at the United Nations (New York, 3-5 November 2008).

- **Future work**

. held an exchange of views on a possible hearing on Iran, agreed with the proposal by the Chair to hold such a hearing during the January 2009 part-session of the Assembly, and took note of a list of possible participants;

. took note of the conclusions of the Swedish Chairmanship and of the priorities of the Spanish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

- **Next meetings**

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

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**The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on early warning systems and the prevention of conflicts in Europe** of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 15 December 2008, with Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair,

*as regards:*

- **Conference on early warning systems**: held an exchange of views on the basis of a letter and a concept paper prepared by its Chair;

- **Future work**: held an exchange of views on general issues and potential sources of conflicts falling within its terms of reference;

- **Composition**: expressed the view that its membership should not be enlarged, for the time being;

- **Date and place of the next meeting**

- . Tuesday 27 January 2009 (2 to 3 pm), Strasbourg, to be confirmed

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