



## Political Affairs Committee

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

#### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

#### AS/Pol/CB (2009) 03

30 April 2009

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg from 27 to 30 April 2009, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Need for a Council of Europe neighbourhood policy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD*): decided to change the title of the report to **Establishment of a Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly**; considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **Ban on cluster munitions** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pflug, Germany, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **The funding of public service broadcasting** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr MacShane, United Kingdom, SOC*): approved a draft opinion presented by the Rapporteur and adopted amendments to the draft resolution prepared by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education;
- **Situation in the Middle East** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fassino, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the state of preparation of his report, held an exchange of views on the situation in the region with the participation of Mr Yohanan Plesner and Mrs Tzipi Hotovely, members of the Knesset, Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Mr Fuad Kokaly and Mr Qais Khader, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council; and agreed to postpone further discussions on the report until the visit by the Rapporteur to the region;
- **The need for international condemnation of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933 // 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of mass famine in the territory of the former USSR** (*Rapporteur: Mr Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur; and authorised his visits to the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as to Kazakhstan and Belarus (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);
- **Political situation in China**: held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Shum, representative of the Chinese petitioners, who have created an association entitled the League of Chinese Victims;

- **Situation in Kosovo**<sup>1</sup> (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to the region (2-5 February 2009) and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs of the Council of Europe;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised draft report;
- **Forum on early warning in conflict prevention**: heard a statement by the Chair of the ad hoc sub-committee on early warning systems and conflict prevention in Europe on the meeting held on 30 April, approved the draft programme of the Forum as proposed by the ad hoc sub-committee with a view to submission to the Bureau, as well as the decision to ensure interpretation in three languages (English, French, Russian);
- **Forum on the future of democracy (Kiev, 21-23 October 2009)**: heard a statement by its Chair on the meeting of the Advisory Board held on 24 April 2009;
- **Future work**
  - a) Consultation on the draft Code of good practice for civil participation in the decision-making process: heard a statement by its Chair and decided to appoint him as the representative of the Committee who will be in charge of the preparation of the comments to be drafted on this code subject to the Committee being asked to prepare comments by the Bureau;
  - b) Meeting in Kazakhstan (26-27 May 2009): heard a statement on the state of preparation of the meeting by Mrs Jobalayeva, representative of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, and approved a draft programme for the meeting;
  - c) Authorisations by the Committee
    - . authorised Mr Hörster, Rapporteur on the Situation in Cyprus to meet, for an exchange of views, with members of the European Parliament's "High Level Contact Group for Relations with the Turkish - Cypriot community in the northern part of the island", on 7 May 2009 in Strasbourg;
    - . authorised Mr Wodarg, as former Rapporteur on *Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force* to attend a Regional seminar for CIS member States on respect for international humanitarian law, organised by the Red Cross (ICRC), to be held in St Petersburg on 28 - 30 May 2009, at no cost to the Assembly;
    - . approved, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau, a request by Mr Rigoni, Rapporteur on the Situation in Belarus, to attend the opening ceremony of the InfoPoint on the Council of Europe in Minsk (8-9 June 2009), following an invitation from the Belarusian authorities;
  - d) Procedure for references of motions for resolutions/recommendations: heard a statement by its Chair and decided to ask the Bureau to review the procedure for references to committees and to give priority to motions for which timeliness is of special importance;
  - e) decided, on the basis of the proposal of its Chairman, to invite representatives of the Congress of the United States for an exchange of views at the meeting of the Committee to be held on 10 September in Paris.

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<sup>1</sup> All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- **Composition of sub-committees:** appointed:

Sub-committee on external relations:

. Mr Georgiou (Cyprus) as alternate of Mr Pourgourides

Sub-committee on the Middle East:

. Mr Georgiou (Cyprus) as alternate of Mr Pourgourides

- **Next meetings**

. 26-27 May 2009, Astana (Kazakhstan)

. Third part-session (22-26 June 2009), Strasbourg

. 10-11 September 2009, Paris

. Fourth part-session (28 September - 2 October 2009), Strasbourg

. 17 November 2009, Paris

. 15 December 2009, Paris

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**The sub-committee on external relations** of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 28 April 2009, with Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair:

- re-elected by acclamation Mr Aligrudic, as Vice-Chair

*as regards:*

- **Preparation of the meetings in St. Petersburg (14-15 May 2009):** held an exchange of views on the state of preparation of the joint meeting with the Permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Co-operation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the CIS (CIS IPA) and of the Political Committee of the Assembly of the Western-European Union (WEU PA).

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** St. Petersburg, 14-15 May 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 30 April 2009, with Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair,

*as regards:*

- **Forum on early warning in conflict prevention:** held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft programme of the Forum proposed by its Chair, decided that interpretation should be ensured in three languages (English, French and Russian) and decided to submit these proposals to the Political Affairs Committee.

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to decide.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner, Alexandra Alléon