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Political Affairs Committee

Sub-Committee on External Relations

The Sub-Committee on External Relations of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) on 14 and 15 May 2009, first with Mr Aligrudic (Serbia, EPP/CD), then with Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) in the Chair:

- on 14 May, took part in a meeting co-organised jointly with:
 - . the permanent Commission on Political Issues and International Co-operation of the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), chaired by Mrs Maria Birukova (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson,
 - . the permanent Commission on Defence and Security Issues of the Inter-parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), chaired by Mr Viktor Voytenko (Russian Federation), Chairperson,
 - . and the Political Committee of the Assembly of the Western-European Union (AWEU), chaired by Mr André Schneider (France), Vice-Chairperson,
- participated in an exchange of views with members of the above-mentioned bodies on:
 - . **International co-operation on nuclear, chemical and bacteriological non-proliferation** (keynote speaker: Mr Viktor Voytenko, IPA CIS);
 - . **Towards a new security architecture in Europe** (keynote speakers: Mr Vladimir Lityushkin, IPA CIS, Mr André Schneider, AWEU, and Mr Sergey Grinevetsky, IPA CIS);
 - . **Parliamentary dimension of conflict prevention in Europe** (keynote speaker: Mr Tadeusz Iwiński, PACE);
 - . **Protection and stability maintenance in the Central-Asian region and Afghanistan** (keynote speakers: Mr Giacomo Santini, AWEU, and Mr Mohammed Saleh Sajughy, Deputy Chair of *Wolesi Jirga* (Lower House) of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan);
- endorsed the proposal by the Chair that the 2010 joint PACE-CIS IPA conference should be focused on conflict prevention, and took note that the Chairpersons of the Committees involved would jointly submit this proposal to the Presidents of their respective Assemblies;
- on 15 May, took part in the "Nevsky International Ecological Congress".
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene its next meeting.

Pavel Chevtchenko

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