



## Political Affairs Committee

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

#### *Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly*

#### **AS/Pol/CB (2009) 07**

2 October 2009

**The Political Affairs Committee**, meeting in Strasbourg from 28 September to 1 October 2009, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- agreed to make a statement on the situation in Iran;

*as regards:*

- **Allegations of politically-motivated abuses of the criminal justice system in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and approved an oral opinion;
- **The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution;
- **General Policy Debate on the future of the Council of Europe in the light of its 60 years of experience**: (*Rapporteur: Mr Mignon, France, EPP-CD*): took position on the amendments which had been tabled to the draft resolution and the draft recommendation;
- **The need for international condemnation of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932 // 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mass famine in the territory of the former USSR** (*Rapporteur: Mr Çavoşoğlu, Turkey, EDG*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his future visits to the region, took note of a draft programme of the Rapporteur's forthcoming visit to Ukraine (19-21 October 2009), and held an exchange of views;
- **Situation in Kosovo<sup>1</sup>** (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): held an exchange with the participation of Mrs Zylfije Hundozi, member of the Kosovo<sup>1</sup> Assembly, Mr Bujar Bukoshi, member of the Kosovo<sup>1</sup> Assembly, Mrs Rada Trajkovic, President of the Executive Board of the Serbian National Council, Gračanica, and Mr Oliver Ivanovic, State Secretary for Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and Metohija in the government of Serbia;
- **Reconciliation and political dialogue between the countries of the former Yugoslavia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marcenaro, Italy, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an outline for a report and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to Brussels, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia;

<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.

- **Threshold levels in parliamentary elections, and their impact on the representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Daems, Belgium, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the preparation of his contribution to the Forum for the future of democracy (Kiev, 21-23 October 2009);
- **Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Keleş, Turkey, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on a draft programme of the hearing to take place in Brussels on 17 November 2009 and held an exchange of views;
- **Forum for the future of the democracy (Kiev, 21-23 October 2009)**: heard a statement by the Chair on the exchange of views held during the meeting of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum;
- **Forum on early warning in conflict prevention**: heard a statement by the Chair on the Forum held on 24-25 September in Strasbourg;
- **Future work**
  - a) Appointment of Rapporteurs: appointed:
    - . Lord Tomlinson, (United Kingdom, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Raising awareness in national parliaments and governments of the Council of Europe's vital mission and need for sufficient resources*;
    - . Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) as Rapporteur on *Situation in Belarus*;
    - . Mr Daems (Belgium, ALDE) as Rapporteur on *Democracy and the limitation of mandates*;and heard from them a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest.
  - b) Organisation of a Hearing on the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and on other events preceding the Second World War:
    - . held an exchange of views on the subject, agreed that the consequences of the Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact and other events such as the Katyn massacre should also be covered at the hearing, and took note that concrete proposals on the programme would be presented at a later stage;
  - c) Authorisations by the Committee:
    - . authorised Mr Lipiński (Poland, EPP-CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels (institutions of the European Union) in the framework of the report on *The Council of Europe and the eastern partnership of the European Union*;
    - . authorised Mr Iwiński (Poland, SOC) to carry out fact-finding visits to Vienna (IAEA Headquarters) and Moscow (Russian Federation), and endorsed his request for fact-finding visits to Iran and Israel (subject to authorisation by the Bureau) in the framework of the report on *Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an effective international response*;
    - . agreed on the request by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) to accept an invitation to participate, as former rapporteur on the reform of the UN, to the international meeting of the campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (CEUNPA) (New York, 26 October 2009), with no cost for the Assembly and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau;

- d) Invitation from the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes – Conference on the Crimes of the communist regimes, organised in the Czech Parliament on 24-26 February 2010:

- . agreed with its Chair's proposal to suggest to the Bureau to set up an ad hoc Committee to participate in this event;

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

- Sub-committee on the Middle East:

- . Mr Orzechowski (Poland) as titular member.

- . Mr Toshev (Bulgaria) as titular member.

- Sub-committee on External Relations

- . Mr Todorov (Bulgaria) as titular member and Mr Toshev (Bulgaria) as alternate.

- **Next meetings**

- . Ad hoc sub-committee on the Forum for the future of democracy -21-23 October 2009 – Kiev on the occasion of the Forum on the future of democracy

- . 17 November 2009, Brussels

- . 15 December 2009, Paris

- . 1<sup>st</sup> part-session 2010 (25-29 January 2010), Strasbourg

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**The ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy** of the Bureau, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 September 2009, with Mr Popescu (Ukraine, SOC) in the Chair,

*as regards:*

- ***Preparation of the Assembly's contribution to the next session of the Forum (Kiev, 21-23 October 2009):*** held an exchange of views with the participation of:

- . Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs;

- . Mr Childerik Schaapveld, Director of Democratic Institutions;

- . Mr Michael Remmert, Head of the Unit "Forum for the future of democracy/e-democracy"

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** Kiev, 21-23 October 2009

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**The ad hoc sub-committee on early warning systems in conflict prevention in Europe**, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 September 2009, with Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair,

*as regards:*

- **Forum on early warning in conflict prevention (Strasbourg, 24-25 September 2009):** heard a statement by its Chairman on the basis of the conclusions and proposals of this Forum;
- **Future work:** held an exchange of views on future activities;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to the Chair to convene the next meeting.

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**The sub-committee on the Middle East** of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 30 September 2009, with Mrs Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair:

*as regards:*

- **Tripartite Forum:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
  - . Mr Yohanan Plesner, Member of the Knesset
  - . Mrs Fania Kirshenbaum, Member of the Knesset
  - . Mr Shlomo Molla, Member of the Knesset
  - . Mr Qais Khader, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
  - . Mr Fuad Kokaly, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council
  - . Mr Mohammedfaisal Abushahla, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

and invited its Chair to explore the possibilities for organising the preparatory meeting for the Forum in the region and come up with a concrete proposal at the next meeting of the sub-committee;

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

Agnieszka Nachilo, Pavel Chevtchenko, Sonia Sirtori-Milner