



Political Affairs Committee

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
*Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly***

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24 June 2010

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 21 to 24 June 2010, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and then Mr Lipiński (Poland, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure on “Flare-up of tension in the Middle-East”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fassino, Italy, SOC*): confirmed Mr Fassino as Rapporteur, considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, took position on the amendments tabled and held an exchange of views with Ms Kirshenbaum, Mr Plesner and Mr Sheetrit, members of the Knesset, and Mr Abu-Shahla, Mr Khader and Mr Sabellah, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- **Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Brasseur, Luxembourg, ALDE*): approved an opinion presented by the Rapporteur, including amendments to the draft resolution prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- **Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia in Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE*): approved an opinion presented by the Rapporteur, including amendments to the draft resolution and draft Recommendation prepared by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education;
- **The situation in Kosovo¹ and the role of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
- **2010 debate on the state of democracy in Europe**: took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolutions on **Extra-institutional actors in the democratic system** (*Rapporteur: Mr Daems, Belgium, ALDE*), and took note that, in the absence of the Rapporteur, the latter report would be presented by Mrs Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) during the debate in the Assembly, on **The political consequences of the economic crisis** (*Rapporteur: Mr Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*), and on **Democracy in Europe: crisis and perspectives** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC*);
- **The on-going crisis in Kyrgyzstan**: held an exchange of views;

¹ 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.

- **Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an effective international response** (*Rapporteur: Mr Iwiński, Poland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visits to Vienna (3-4 June 2010) and Moscow (16-17 June 2010), held an exchange of views, took note of the requests by the Rapporteur to visit Iran, Israel and the United States (the latter in the framework of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on External Relations at the United Nations foreseen in Autumn 2010), and asked the Chair to submit these requests to the Bureau for authorisation;
- **Re-engaging in the parliamentary dialogue with the United States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lindblad, Sweden, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his contacts with members of the United States Congress during his private visit to Washington (7-9 June 2010), and held an exchange of views;
- **The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her visit to Brussels (9-10 June 2010), held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note by Mrs Lundgren on the visit;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her forthcoming visit to Belarus (August-September 2010) and held an exchange of views;
- **Request from the Parliament of Morocco for partner for democracy status within the Parliamentary Assembly**: appointed Mr Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur and heard from him a statement on the absence of conflict of interests;
- **Sub-Committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation**: heard a statement by the Chairman of the sub-committee on the preparation of a hearing on peace-building in the Balkans, to be held on 7 September 2010 in Belgrade;
- **Future work**:
appointed:
 - a) Mrs Hajibayli (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on *Mediation by the Council of Europe in cases of hostage-taking of Council of Europe member states citizens* and heard from her a statement on the absence of conflicts of interests;
 - b) Mr Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) as Rapporteur for opinion on *Human rights and fight against terrorism* and heard from him a statement on the absence of conflict of interests;
 - c) Mr MacShane (United Kingdom, SOC) as its representative to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI);
 - d) the following members to its sub-committees:
 - Mr Meimarakis in place of Ms Bakoyannis as titular member of the Sub-committee on the Middle East;
 - Mr Meimarakis in place of Ms Bakoyannis as alternate member in the Sub-Committee on External Relations;heard a statement by its Chair on the state of preparation of the next meeting to be held in Belgrade (6-7 September 2010);
- **Next meetings**
 - . 6-7 September 2010 – Belgrade
 - . 4th part-session 2010 (4-8 October 2010)

The sub-committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 June 2010, with Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC), Vice-chairperson, in the Chair:

- heard a statement by its Chair on the preparation of a hearing on peace-building in the Balkans to be held on 7 September 2010 in Belgrade and took note of a preliminary draft programme;

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

The ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy of the Bureau, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 June 2010, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) and then Mr Harutyunyan (Armenia, EDG) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Preparation of the Assembly's contribution to the next session of the Forum (Yerevan, 19-20 October 2010):** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Jean-Louis Laurens, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs;

- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** during the 4th part-session 2010 (4-8 October 2010)

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