



Political Affairs Committee

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

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11 October 2010

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg from 4 to 7 October 2010, with Mr Lipiński (Poland, EPP/CD) and then Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Debate under urgent procedure on “Recent rise of national security discourse in Europe: the case of Roma”**: appointed Mrs Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) as Rapporteur, considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, and subsequently took position on the amendments tabled;
- **Promoting parliamentary diplomacy** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mota Amaral, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): took position on the amendments tabled to the draft resolution and to the draft recommendation;
- **Measures to improve the democratic character of elections in the Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of an outline for a report;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission, Mr Nikolai Samoseiko, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation and Judicial and Legal Matters of the House of Representatives of Belarus and Head of the parliamentary *ad hoc* group on capital punishment matters, and Mr Aleh Hulak, Chairman of the “Belarusian Helsinki Group”;
- **Follow-up to the reform of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mignon, France, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, decided to invite the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for an exchange of views on the process of reform at its forthcoming meeting (Paris, 18-19 November 2010), and took note of the reply by the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 1886 (2009) on *The future of the Council of Europe in the light of its sixty years of experience*;
- **Request from the Parliament of Morocco for partner for democracy status within the Parliamentary Assembly** (*Rapporteur: Mr Volontè, Italy, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur, held an exchange of views with Mrs Lyadi, Deputy to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Morocco, endorsed the request by Mr Volontè to carry out a fact-finding visit to Morocco, in the forthcoming months, and accordingly asked its Chairman to request to the authorisation of the Bureau;

- **Reconciliation and political dialogue between the countries of the former Yugoslavia** (*Rapporteur: Mr Marcenaro, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Serbia (6-8 September 2010) and held an exchange of views;

- **Follow-up by the Committee of Ministers to Assembly texts presented by the Political Affairs Committee**; took note of the reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers to:

. Recommendation 1871 (2009) *Ban of cluster munitions*;

- **Future work:**

a) approved the new distribution of members of the Czech delegation in the sub-committees, as follows:

Sub-Committee on the Middle East: Ms Lenka Andrysová, member, and Mr Ladislav Skopal, alternate;
Sub-Committee on External Relations : Ms Lenka Andrysová, member and Ms Kateřina Konečná, alternate;

Sub-Committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation: Ms Kateřina Konečná, member.

b) took note of the reference to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Follow-up to the reform of the Council of Europe”:

. *Broadening the Parliamentary Assembly activities: scrutinising of Council of Europe’s activities*

c) authorised Mr Lipiński to carry-out a fact-finding visit to Kiyv (Ukraine) in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The Council of Europe and the Eastern partnership of the European Union*.

- **Next meetings**

Plenary Committee

. 18-19 November 2010, Paris

. 14-15 December 2010, Paris

Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the Forum for the Future of Democracy
Yerevan, 19-21 October 2010

The sub-committee on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 5 October 2010, with Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC) in the Chair:

- heard a statement by its Chair;
- held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - . Mr Plesner, Member of the Knesset
 - . Mrs Kirshenbaum, Member of the Knesset
 - . Mr Abu-Shahla, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)
 - . Mr Salhi, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)
- agreed on pursuing dialogue on “practical issues” within the framework of the sub-committee and asked the delegations of the Knesset and the PLC to contact the Secretariat with concrete proposals;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** left it to the Chairman to decide on the date and place of the next meeting.

The sub-committee on External Relations of the Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Strasbourg on 7 October 2010, with Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Preparation for the participation in the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations:** heard a statement by its Chair and held an exchange of views:
 - . took note of the draft resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe approved by the Committee of Ministers;
 - . was informed that the UN General Assembly would hold a debate on co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe on 13 December 2010, while the Political Affairs Committee would meet in Paris on 14-15 December 2010;
 - . decided (subject to the authorisation by the Bureau) to hold a meeting in New York during the IPU Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations (2-3 December 2010), and to set up a separate programme of meetings with UN representatives focused on domains of interest for the Assembly;
 - . took note that its Chair would leave the Assembly in November 2010 and thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee.
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** New York (2-3 December 2010, subject to authorisation by the Bureau).

The ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy of the Bureau, meeting in Strasbourg on 7 October 2010, with Mr Harutyunyan (Armenia, EDG) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Preparation of the Assembly's contribution to the next session of the Forum (Yerevan, 19-21 October 2010):** held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Michael Remmert, Head of the Unit "Forum for the future of democracy/E-democracy", Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs, and Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Permanent Representative of Armenia;
- ***Date and place of the next meeting:*** during the Forum for the future of democracy in Yerevan (19-21 October 2010).

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