



Political Affairs Committee

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

AS/Pol/CB (2010) 08

22 November 2010

The Political Affairs Committee, meeting in Paris on 18 November 2010, with Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

as regards:

- **Situation in Kosovo¹** (*Rapporteur: Mr von Sydow, Sweden, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised him to conduct a fact-finding visit to the region (28-30 November 2010) to assess the political situation on the ground prior to the early elections of the Kosovo Assembly (to be held on 12 December 2010);
- **Follow-up to the reform of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mignon, France, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views with Mr Gérard Stoudmann, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Organisational Development and Reform; asked the Chairman to transmit to the Bureau of the Assembly the request that the debate on this report in the plenary in January 2011 should be given sufficient time;
- **Hearing with members of the European Parliament on “The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the two parliamentary bodies: the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly”**: heard a statement by Ms Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), Rapporteur on the Impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the Council of Europe and held an exchange of views with Ms Heidi Hautala (Finland, Group of the Greens), Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament;
- **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 Croatia (28-29 October 2010) and on his forthcoming visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina (22-23 November 2010), held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised memorandum, decided to declassify it, and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out a visit to Brussels in order, *inter alia*, to attend a public hearing on Human Rights in the Western Balkans organised by the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament;
- **Situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Mrs Hurskainen, Finland, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on the basis of an information note on her visit to Minsk (22-25 August 2010), decided to declassify it, and held an exchange of views with the participation of: Mr Evgeny Smirnov, Chairman of the Standing Commission on Legislation and Public Management of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and Deputy Head of the National Assembly Delegation for Relations with PACE; Mr Vital Rymasheuski, Co-Chairman, Belarusian Christian Democracy party, candidate for the presidency of Belarus; Mr Andrei Babok, special correspondent, “Narodnaya Gazeta” newspaper; and Mr Andrei Aliaksandrau, Vice-Chairman, Belarusian Association of Journalists;

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.

- **Situation in the Middle East:** heard a statement by Mr de Puig, Chair of the sub-committee on the Middle East, held an exchange of views with Mr Rotem, member of the Knesset, Mr Salhi and Mr Assaf, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and agreed to hold a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East in the morning of 14 December 2010, to discuss specific issues;
- **Increasing drug traffic from Afghanistan as a threat to European security** (*Rapporteur: Mr Markov, Russian Federation, EDG*): heard an introductory statement by the Rapporteur;
- **Follow up to Assembly Resolution 1760 (2010) on “Recent rise in national security discourse in Europe: the case of Roma”:** heard a statement by the Chairman and took note of the possibility to invite representatives of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) to committee meetings whenever issues of concern to the latter are on the agenda;
- **External relations:** took note of a written statement by Mr Slutsky, Vice-Chairman of the sub-committee on external relations, on the state of preparation of the meeting to be held in New York on the occasion of the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations and the IPU Parliamentary hearing (2-3 December 2010);
- **The Council of Europe and the Eastern partnership of the European Union** (*Rapporteur: Mr Lipiński, Poland, EPP/CD*): decided, upon the request by the Rapporteur, to postpone this item until after his planned visits to Kyiv (29-30 November 2010) and Brussels (between 8 and 10 December 2010);
- **1097bis meeting of the Committee of Ministers (10 November 2010, Strasbourg):** took note of the Conclusions of the Chairmanship of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and of the Priorities of the Turkish Chairmanship;
- **Future work:**
 - a) decided to postpone appointments of new Rapporteurs until its next meeting;
 - b) Sub-Committees:

approved the new distribution of members of the Belgian delegation in the sub-committees, as follows:
 - . Sub-Committee on the Middle East: Mr Mahoux, member, and Mr van der Maelen, alternate,
 - . Sub-Committee on External Relations: Mr van der Maelen, member, and Mrs van Vaerenberg, alternate,
 - . Sub-Committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation: Mr Moriau, member, and Mr Mahoux, alternate,and approved the nomination by the British delegation of Mr Hancock as a member of the Sub-Committee on External Relations;
- **Next meetings**
 - . Sub-Committee on External Relations, New York, 2-3 December 2010
 - . Sub-Committee on the Middle East, 14 December 2010 (morning), Paris
 - . Plenary Committee, 14-15 December 2010, Paris

Despina Chatzivassiliou, João Ary, Pavel Chevtchenko, Silvia Arzilli

- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Observers to the Assembly
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisation Developments and Reform
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication/Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe