

APROBAT

În ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputaților

din data de 11.06.2007

Nr. 743

Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților

B.P. Nr. 743 din 806.2007

INFORMARE

**privind participarea la reuniunile Biroului și Comisiei Permanente
din cadrul Adunării Parlamentare a Consiliului Europei
(Belgrad, 23 -24 mai 2007)**

În zilele de 23 și 24 mai a.c., la Belgrad s-au desfășurat reuniunile Biroului și Comisiei Permanente ale Adunării Parlamentare a Consiliului Europei, la care au participat domnul deputat Cezar Preda, vicepreședinte al A.P.C.E. și domnul deputat Ștefan Glăvan, în calitate de raportor al Comisiei pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și familie, precum și doamna Nadia Ionescu, secretara Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E.

În cadrul reuniunii, membrii Biroului:

- au avut un schimb de opinii cu doamna Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, candidata pentru postul de Secretar General adjunct al Consiliului Europei, și au convenit cu privire la transmiterea candidaturii Adunării, care urmează să fie supusă votului plenului în Sesiunea ordinară a A.P.C.E. din luna iunie;
- au adoptat programul și proiectul ordinii de zi pentru cea de a treia Sesiune ordinară a A.P.C.E. din acest an;
- au propus inițierea demersurilor vizând organizarea unei dezbateri de actualitate referitoare la bugetul A.P.C.E. pentru 2008;
- au luat notă de inițiativa președintelui A.P.C.E. referitoare la difuzarea concluziilor dezbaterii privind „Situația drepturilor omului și a democrației în Europa” și revenirea asupra acestui subiect cu ocazia celei de a patra Sesiuni Ordinare a A.P.C.E.;

- au luat act de concluziile Președintelui Comitetului de Miniștri și de Prioritățile viitoarei Președinții sârbe a Comitetului de Miniștri;
- au luat act de semnarea Memorandumului de Înțelegere între Consiliul Europei și Uniunea Europeană și au decis să solicite Comisiei politice o evaluare a Memorandumului, până la viitoare reuniune a Biroului;
- au convenit ca organizarea viitoarei „Conferințe Europene a Președinților de Parlamente” să aibă loc în perioada 22-23 mai 2008, la Strasbourg, și să fie dedicată temei „Parlamente și Societăți Civile”.

În continuare, în deschiderea lucrărilor Comisiei Permanente a avut loc un schimb de opinii cu domnul Vuk Jeremy, ministrul sârb de externe, cu privire la preluarea președinției Consiliului de Miniștri de către Republica Serbia, la avansarea procesului integrării, la cooperarea cu Tribunalul Penal Internațional pentru Fosta Iugoslavie, precum și cu privire la situația din Kosovo.

În cadrul reuniunii, **Comisia Permanentă a ratificat acreditarea noilor parlamentari membri ai Delegațiilor Parlamentelor din România, Danemarca, Estonia, Finlanda și Suedia, precum și modificările corespunzătoare survenite în componența comisiilor permanente ale A.P.C.E.**

Totodată, Comisia Permanentă a adoptat, în numele Adunării, mai multe Recomandări și Rezoluții și a avizat Bugetul Consiliului Europei și cheltuielile Adunării Parlamentare pentru anul 2008.

Domnul deputat Cezar Preda, vicepreședinte al A.P.C.E. a prezentat și susținut raportul de opinie al Comisiei pentru migrații, refugiați și demografie, privind raportul cu tema „Situația persoanelor vârstnice în Europa”, elaborat de parlamentarul francez Jean-Marie Bockel, iar domnul deputat Ștefan Glăvan a prezentat și susținut două rapoarte de

fond ale Comisiei pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și familie, respectiv raportul parlamentarului francez Claude Evin, referitor la „Monitorizarea angajamentelor privind respectarea drepturilor sociale” și cel cu tema „Situația persoanelor vârstnice în Europa”, menționat mai sus, al parlamentarului francez Jean-Marie Bockel.

Referitor la raportul cu tema „Situația persoanelor vârstnice în Europa”, parlamentarii români au reușit eliminarea din text a oricăror referiri în context negativ la unele situații din țara noastră, preluate de raportorul francez din relatările presei românești.

Au fost, de asemenea, adoptate rezoluții și recomandări în urma dezbaterii unor rapoarte precum: „Respectarea principiului egalității de gen în dreptul civil”, „Capturarea dioxidului de carbon ca modalitate de combatere a schimbării climatice”, „Persoane dispărute în Armenia, Azerbaidjan și Georgia în conflictele ce au afectat zonele Haut-Karabakh, Abkhazia și Osetia de Sud”.

Cezar PREDA, deputat P.D.



Ștefan GLĂVAN, deputat PC



Red. Nadia Ionescu, secretara Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E.

AS/Bur (2007) OJ 06 rév2
21 mai 2007

Bureau de l'Assemblée

Projet d'ordre du jour

de la réunion qui aura lieu à Belgrade (Serbie)
le mercredi 23 mai 2007 à 16h00
Assemblée nationale (Small Hall)
Kralja Milana 14 Street
Tél: (+ 38111 32 27 493), Fax: (+38111 32 27 493)

1.

Allocution d'ouverture du Président
[AS/Bur (2007) 48]

2.

Ordre du jour
[AS/Bur (2007) OJ 06 rév2]

Adoption du projet d'ordre du jour

3.

Procès-verbal
[AS/Bur (2007) PV 05]

Approbation du projet de procès-verbal de la réunion tenue à Strasbourg le 20 avril 2007

**Aux membres du Bureau de l'Assemblée
(Président et vice-présidents de l'Assemblée et
Présidents des groupes politiques et des commissions générales de l'Assemblée)**

copie pour information aux secrétaires des délégations nationales et des groupes politiques et
des chefs de secrétariat des commissions générales de l'Assemblée

Ce document tient également lieu de convocation à la réunion

4.

Election du/de la Secrétaire Général(e) adjoint(e) du Conseil de l'Europe (huis clos)
[Doc. 11284]

Entrevue avec la candidate, Mme Maud de Boer-Buquicchio

5.

Commission permanente (Belgrade, 24 mai 2007)
[AS/Per (2007) OJ 2]
[AS/Per (2007) 02]

- i. (Eventuellement) Demandes de débat selon la procédure d'urgence et/ou débat d'actualité
- ii. Mise à jour du projet d'ordre du jour

6.

3^{ème} Partie de la Session ordinaire de 2007 (Strasbourg, 25-29 juin 2007)

- i. Adoption du projet d'ordre du jour
[AS/Bur (2007) 46]
- ii. Etablissement du projet de calendrier
[AS/Bur (2007) 47]
- iii. Comité mixte
[AS/CM-Mix (2007) OJ 03]

7. Suivi du débat d'actualité sur le thème « Soudan et Darfour – la responsabilité de l'Europe »

8. Suivi du débat sur « la situation des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie en Europe »
[Recommandation 1791 (2007) et Résolution 1547 (2007)]
[Lettres envoyées par le Président]

Echange de vues

9. 117^{ème} session du Comité des Ministres (Strasbourg, 10-11 mai 2007)
[Communiqué, Conclusions du Président du Comité des Ministres, Priorités de la Présidence Serbe du Comité des Ministres]

- i. Mémoire d'accord entre le Conseil de l'Europe et l'Union européenne
[CM(2007)74]
- ii. Suites à donner au rapport « Relations entre le Conseil de l'Europe et l'Union européenne » par M. Jean-Claude Juncker ('Rapport Juncker')
[Lettre envoyée par le Président]

Echange de vues

10.

Forum sur l'avenir de la démocratie

[AS/Bur (2007) 51]

Etat de la préparation du Forum du Conseil de l'Europe pour l'avenir de la démocratie (Stockholm/Sigtuna, Suède (13-15 juin 2007))

11.

Renvois et transmissions aux commissions

[AS/Bur (2007) 45 rév]

Examen et approbation des propositions contenues dans le document

12.

Elections

- i. Elections législatives en Arménie (12 mai 2007)
[Communiqué de presse]

Echange de vues

- ii. Mise à jour des lignes directrices pour l'observation des élections par l'Assemblée
Parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe
[AS/Bur/AH (2007)1 rév]

Examen d'un amendement aux lignes directrices

13.

Communications par

- i. le Secrétaire Général et la Secrétaire Générale adjointe du Conseil de l'Europe
[Communication écrite]

- ii. le Secrétaire Général de l'Assemblée parlementaire
[AS/Bur (2007) 49]

14.

Conférence européenne des Présidents de Parlement (Strasbourg, mai-juin 2008)

[AS/Bur (2007) 50]

Echange de vues

15.

(Eventuellement) Réunions en dehors de Strasbourg et de Paris

[AS/Bur (2007) ..]

Examen et approbation des propositions contenues dans le document

16.

Représentants de l'Assemblée à des activités officielles

- i. Désignation de représentants de l'Assemblée à des activités officielles
[AS/Bur/Inf (2007) 04]

- ii. (Eventuellement) Rapports des représentants de l'Assemblée sur leur participation à des activités officielles

17. Divers

- i. Visite d'un rapporteur au Bélarus
[Lettre du Président de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme]

(D. Marty)

18. Date et lieu des prochaines réunions

- . Strasbourg, lundi 25 juin 2007 à 8h00 ;
- . Strasbourg, vendredi 29 juin 2007 à 8h30 ;
- . Rome, lundi 10 septembre 2007 à 9h00.



AS/Per (2007) OJ 2 rev2
23 May 2007
Aayoj2R2_2007

Standing Committee

Revised Draft agenda

of the meeting to be held on
Thursday, 24 May 2007 (from 9 am to 1 pm)
in Belgrade (Serbia)
(**Sava Centar, salle 1 A**, Milentija Popovića 9)
Tel: + 381 11 220 6505 / 6506 / 6507
Fax: + 381 11 220 6508)

1. Opening of the meeting by Mr René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly
2. Welcome address by Mr Oliver Dulić, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
3. Exchange of views with Mr Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers
4. Examination of new credentials Doc. 11287
5. Modifications in the composition of committees Commissions (2007) 5

**This document is the convocation to the meeting for the
members of the Standing Committee**

Copy for information to:

Secretaries of national delegations,
Secretaries of political groups,
Secretaries of observer delegations.

Members who wish to speak in one of the debates on the reports are invited to give their name to the Table Office.

Members who wish to present amendments and sub-amendments on the reports are invited to table them in writing with the Table Office as soon as possible.

6. **Request(s) for a current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure**

7. **Agenda**

AS/Per (2007) OJ 2 rev2

Adoption of the revised draft agenda

✓ 8. **Approval of the minutes of proceedings of the Parliamentary Assembly's sittings held on 19 April (morning and afternoon) and 20 April (morning) 2007**

AS (2007) PV 16, 17 and 18

9. **References, transmissions and modifications of references to committees**

Consideration of the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Assembly

AS/Bur (2007) 45 rev

10. **Observation of elections**

Observation of the parliamentary elections in Armenia (12 May 2007)

AS/Bur/AHArm(2007)...
(subject to approval by the Bureau)

Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau:
Mr Leo Platvoet (Netherlands, UEL)

Debate

11. **(Possibly) Current affairs debate or debate under urgent procedure**

12. **Economic Affairs and Development**

a. Budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial year 2008

Doc. 11278

Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development:
Mr Paul Wille (Belgium, ALDE)

b. Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the financial year 2008

Doc. 11279

Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development:
Mr Paul Wille (Belgium, ALDE)

Joint debate

Votes on two draft opinions

13. **Social, Health and Family Affairs**

a. Monitoring of commitments as regards social rights

Doc. 11234

Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs:
Mr Claude Evin (France, SOC)

Debate

Vote on a draft recommendation

b. The situation of elderly persons in Europe

Doc. 11179
Amendments

Rapporteur of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs:

Mr Jean-Marie Bockel (France, SOC)

Rapporteur of the Committee on Migrations, Refugees and Population (for opinion):

Mrs Minodora Cliveti (Romania, SOC)

Doc. 11200

Debate

Vote on a draft recommendation

14. Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

Capture of carbon dioxide as a means of fighting climate change

Doc. 11180
Amendments

Rapporteur of the Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs:

Mr Vladimir Grachev (Russia, EDG)

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution

15. Migrations, Refugees and Population

Missing persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia from the conflicts over the Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions

Doc. 11196
Amendment

Rapporteur of the Committee on Migrations, Refugees and Population:

Mr Leo Platvoet (Netherlands, UEL)

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution and a draft recommendation

16. Equal Opportunities for women and men

Respect for the principle of gender equality in civil law

Doc. 11177

Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for women and men:

Mrs Svetlana Smirnova (Russia, EDG)

Debate

Vote on a draft recommendation

17. Rules of Procedure and Immunities

Conflict of interests

Doc. 11259

Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities:

Mr John Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG)

Debate

Vote on a draft resolution

18. Legal Affairs and Human Rights

The situation of the inhabitants of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia

Doc. 11232

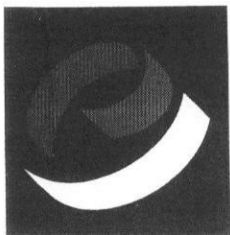
*Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC)*

Debate
Vote on a draft resolution

19. Other business

20. Next meeting

- Bratislava (Slovakia), Friday, 23 November 2007



**Serbian Chairmanship
Committee of Ministers
COUNCIL OF EUROPE**
May > November 2007



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

“One Europe – Our Europe”

Address to
the Standing Committee of
the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

by H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić
Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of
the Council of Europe
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

Belgrade, 24 May 2007

Mr. President of the Parliamentary Assembly,
Mr. President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia,
Distinguished Members of the Standing Committee,
Madame Deputy Secretary General,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

I am honoured to address you for the first time in my capacity as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Before proceeding, let me say that during the four years of our membership in the Council of Europe, the institutions and values on which the Council was founded—and from which it continues to draw strength—have significantly contributed to the democratic consolidation of the social, political and constitutional fabric of the Republic of Serbia.

That is why my country remains fully committed to making significant progress on building a Europe without divisions, without borders—on building One Europe, a Europe where not only states and politicians, but also citizens, the true stakeholders of our vision, join together to deepen the values we all share. Only in this way can we form a community for a common democratic future.

My Fellow Europeans,

The myriad responsibilities that come with chairing the Council of Ministers are both an honour and a challenge for the Republic of Serbia—and for me personally. I want to assure that you that we intend to move full speed ahead on implementing the Priorities of our chairmanship, as well as acknowledge the critical role the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly can play in moving our agenda forward. Together, we can contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the Council of Europe and the common values that frame our work.

I assume the chairmanship at a crucial moment for both the Council of Europe and the Republic of Serbia: two years after the historic Third Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw in May 2005, and two years before the 60th anniversary of the organization itself. We will build on the positive momentum and the spirit of continuity reinforced by the four countries that have chaired the Committee of Ministers since the Third Summit—Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation and San Marino—and I want to emphasise that implementing the Warsaw Declaration and the Action Plan will be two foci of our chairmanship.

Another focus of Serbia's chairmanship will be to begin the concrete implementation of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

It is of great significance that the text of the Memorandum clearly indicates that the Council of Europe remains the benchmark for human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Europe. This reaffirmation of the central role of our organisation in the European construction, which of course is of the utmost importance, is to be put to the credit of your Assembly.

Beyond the Memorandum of Understanding, the May 2007 Ministerial Session led to the adoption of the first series of decisions following up on the Juncker report, to which your Assembly has always attached particular attention.

More specifically, the Committee of Ministers has decided to revise the procedure for the election of the Secretary General in order to enhance his or her political profile and, accordingly, the visibility of the organization. We are counting on the support of your Assembly to set this new procedure in motion.

Beyond the election of the Secretary General, the Committee agreed that regular reports on the follow-up given to the Juncker recommendations should be presented at future Ministerial Sessions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Serbia is fully committed to the Council of Europe's leadership role in fostering a more inclusive and tolerant environment in which multilateral dialogue can take place at all levels. In this way, the vision of building a fully democratic Europe without divisions—of building One Europe, Our Europe—can become a reality we can all benefit from.

A crucial component in building a Europe without division is reconciliation. Democracy cannot flourish without a full and open account of the past. That is why the Republic of Serbia is strongly committed to full and immediate cooperation with the ICTY. All indictees must be located, arrested, and extradited.

This is not only our international obligation; it is our moral duty—to our neighbours and the world, of course, but foremost to ourselves.

Only by breaking with our recent past can true justice be served. It is the European way forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present, in outline form, the four priorities of our chairmanship unified under the slogan "One Europe, Our Europe."

- First, promoting the core values of the Council of Europe—human rights, minority rights, democracy and the rule of law. This will be advanced through

the enhancement of the effectiveness and implementation of the Conventions system, monitoring mechanisms, as well as those connected to democracy consolidation initiatives.

- Second, enhancing the security of individuals. We plan on pursuing this priority through the intensification of multilateral and regional efforts at combating terrorism, organized crime, the trafficking of persons and drugs, and corruption.
- Third, building a more tolerant, humane and inclusive Europe. We will work to emphasise a European identity that respects our common heritage, while at the same time encouraging diversity as a source of strength and a force for progressive cohesion.
- Our fourth priority will focus on fostering the full and explicit European Union membership perspective of the Western Balkans. Fully incorporating this region—my region—into the European Union is in the interest of the Council of Europe and can be further encouraged by supporting regional cooperation initiatives.

I will speak briefly to each of these four priority areas.

Serbia will work to enhance the long-term effectiveness of the Council of Europe's system of human rights protection. I am glad that the Ministerial Session confirmed the determination of member states to secure this objective, which is crucial.

Two of the most important pillars of the European system of human rights protection are the European Convention on Human Rights—the ECHR—and the European Court of Human Rights. Serbia will actively promote the long-term effectiveness of these two embodiments of the values of Europe—values that binds us one to another as never before in the long, long history of the Old Continent.

The entry into force of Protocol 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights is of essential importance for the enhanced effectiveness of the Conventions system. We will work to improve and strengthen national implementation mechanisms, including increasing the effectiveness of national judiciaries.

Serbia considers the full implementation of the ECHR and other conventions to be essential tools for the further consolidation of democratic stability and will put forward initiatives in that light.

A core principle of the Council of Europe is the championing of the interdependence of democracy, individual liberty, and human rights—namely the belief that what makes a country democratic is not merely the holding of elections. As such, Serbia will continue to fully support the work of the Forum for the Future of Democracy. I look forward to attending its third session in mid-June in Sweden.

I know that your Assembly will actively participate in this event. Serbia is eager to work with the Assembly in this context, as well as on many other issues, during our chairmanship.

Dear Friends,

The second priority area is enhancing the security of individuals. Serbia will work to achieve more effective trans-national cooperation to combat a whole slew of issues that could detrimentally affect Europe's security architecture. I am referring primarily to terrorism and organized crime.

Not coincidentally, the fight against terrorism and organized crime was the theme of the Regional Heads of State Summit that President Tadic hosted last October. The resulting Joint Declaration recognized that concerted action is a necessary prerequisite for the security of each country, the region, and Europe as a whole. It stated forcefully that terrorism constitutes the gravest threat to peace, stability and democratic development and pledged active and intense cooperation at all levels.

Of course, enhancing the security of individuals is not achieved through the fight against terrorism and organized crime alone. Actionable issues such as intolerance, exclusion, racism, xenophobia, domestic violence, discrimination, corruption, and the trafficking of persons and drugs are also crucial if we are to make headway in the areas of enhancing of the security of individuals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our third priority is the promotion of a more tolerant, humane and inclusive Europe. Under this heading, Serbia will work to emphasise a European identity that respects our common heritage, while at the same time encouraging diversity as a source of strength and a force for progressive cohesion.

In line with the efforts of the Russian and San Marino chairmanships—and being ourselves a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-confessional country—Serbia attaches significant importance to intercultural dialogue. We hope that a White Paper on this topic will be completed by November so that we can host an informal ministerial conference on this topic. We plan on supporting initiatives that emphasise the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue.

An inclusive Europe is a Europe that helps empower local communities and individuals by establishing a level playing field for all. The Serbian chairmanship will work to advance the equality of opportunity of all Europeans, which means building capacities for children, youth, and women, as well as individuals with physical and mental disabilities, and members of other marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as the Roma and Travellers. Programs that help educate, empower and

employ the most vulnerable members of our diverse societies will receive particular attention during our chairmanship.

My Fellow Europeans,

Our fourth priority is strengthening regional cooperation and fostering regional cohesion. The promised peace dividend of the implosion of communism almost two decades ago materialised in the Western Balkans only after a tragic decade of conflict and civil war in which so many Europeans needlessly perished.

It took the coming onto the scene of a new generation of regional leaders to further the tradition of European integration and the European practice of reconciliation—leaders untainted with the tribal hatreds unleashed by those who perverted the heritage that binds us to one another.

We cannot change grim historical facts, but we can work together to make sure conflict and war in Europe never happen again.

The Serbian chairmanship will strive to further raise the Council of Europe's profile throughout the region, so as to strengthen its core values in this part of Europe. I believe that never before in this region's history has such a concrete opportunity to overcome regional strife and conflict presented itself, as the one before us now.

The concreteness of the opportunity to once and forever grasp the common destiny that we have always shared is due in large part to the EU membership perspective that is within our reach. Without this credible and clear perspective, the external incentives to reform disappear. The region would return to division and strife—and hatred, and war, and terrible misery. Stability would not take root, and prosperity would remain illusive.

It is our solemn duty to work together to make Europe truly whole, permanently free and always at peace.

To that end, Serbia will organise a number of regional events that promote inter-regional, trans-frontier and cross-border cooperation. And we will enhance the level of contacts between the Council of Europe and, respectively, the South East European Cooperation Process, the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations.

In working on all these priorities, we will also encourage the close cooperation between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.

My Fellow Europeans,

By way of conclusion I will say a few words in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. I will speak on a matter of paramount importance not only to my country—but to the stability and the future of the Western Balkans, all of Europe, and many regions beyond.

I refer to the question of the future status of Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija, under UN administration since June 1999.

How its status is resolved will shed a light on the true strength of our common European values, for the question of Kosovo and Metohija must be solved in a European way.

Our proposal both respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Serbia while at the same time enables our ethnic-Albanian citizens in Kosovo and Metohija to satisfy their legitimate demand for substantial self-governance. Our proposal avoids a maximalist solution that produces winners and losers in a region where revenge for perceived wrongs and losses has been a constant factor of instability. Unfortunately, the Ahtisaari Plan, as submitted to the Security Council, embraces a maximalist solution—the independence of Kosovo—that is nothing other than the forced partition of Serbia.

If the Ahtisaari Plan gets endorsed, it would be the *first time* in contemporary history that territory would be taken away from a sovereign country without the consent of its democratically elected authorities, in order to satisfy the secessionist aspirations of a particular ethnic group. This would lead to the undermining of the whole architecture of international order.

A dangerous precedent would be created, despite all attempts to claim otherwise. Precedents cannot be announced or denied, they just happen.

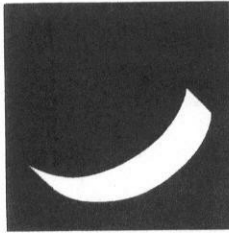
My Friends,

Despite the proverbial late hour, I still believe that a window of opportunity remains open for further talks aimed at achieving a compromise, mutually acceptable solution.

Bear in mind that Serbia has never lost sight of the strategic imperatives informing our approach: strengthening democracy and consolidating regional stability, respecting European values, and working toward achieving the promise of peace and prosperity that Europe delivers.

On the question of continuing the negotiations process, therefore, I expect your understanding and ask for your support.

I sincerely look forward to working with all of you, and thank you for your attention.



**Serbian Chairmanship
Committee of Ministers
COUNCIL OF EUROPE**
May > November 2007

**PRIORITIES OF THE SERBIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

1. The Republic of Serbia is taking over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers for the first time after four years of membership of the Council of Europe. During that period the Organization has significantly contributed to the further democratic development and consolidation of the society and institutions in Serbia.
2. Serbia is committed to making its full contribution to the strengthening of the role of the Council of Europe, as well as to multilateral dialogue among member States and peoples aimed at building a common Europe without dividing lines. On the basis of our common values and shared interests, we shall strive for political solutions in conformity with European standards and norms, and the principles of international law.
3. Serbia will do its utmost to further enhance the pan-European character of the Council of Europe. It warmly welcomes the fact that the Republic of Montenegro today became the Council's 47th member state and will strongly support its full integration within the Organization. It will also support the efforts of the Council of Europe to improve contacts and cooperation with Belarus.
4. Serbia will continue to support efforts to advance stability throughout Europe, in particular in the South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe, which have been priority regions for the Council of Europe over recent years. Building on previous efforts, Serbia will make a significant contribution to the consolidation of regional stability, prosperity and rapid democratization in South Eastern Europe by promoting human and especially minority rights, tolerance, reconciliation and long lasting peace, making the current positive trends and forms of cooperation irreversible.

5. The Republic of Serbia, having fulfilled almost all its post-accession obligations and commitments, remains firmly committed to continue to fully and effectively cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, this being not only an international, but also a national obligation and duty as well. We hope that the Council of Europe's monitoring procedure regarding our country will be concluded in the nearest future.

6. The Republic of Serbia attaches the utmost importance to the full implementation of the highest European standards in Kosovo and Metohija, especially in the area of human rights and the rule of law and urges that no one, especially the Serbs and other non-Albanians, should be left out of the protection system guaranteed across the Continent, as set out in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as well as in the other Council of Europe instruments. During our Chairmanship we will continue to support the Council of Europe's valuable contribution to the effective implementation of the principles and standards concerning democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Kosovo and Metohija, according to UN Security Council Resolution 1244. The continued and enhanced contribution of the Council of Europe in these fields will most be needed and Serbia will fully cooperate with the Organization to achieve these goals.
 We are strongly in favor of the process aimed at reaching a mutually acceptable sustainable solution that would bring stability to the region. This would also enable for all refugees and internally displaced persons within Serbia to return home in safety. Significant and concerted efforts are still needed to guarantee that the rights of everyone living in Kosovo and Metohija, and those who would like to return there, will be fully respected.

7. Like the previous Chairmanships, including the latest one of San Marino, Serbia will in the spirit of continuity also pursue with undiminished vigor the objectives that the Council of Europe member states agreed to achieve together at the highest political level, on the occasion of the Third Council of Europe Summit held in May 2005 in Warsaw. The May 2007 Ministerial Session is a juncture for the implementation of the Warsaw Declaration and the Action Plan, and defines a clear political mandate for the months to come in reasserting the role of the Council of Europe as the guardian of the fundamental values that are common for the whole Continent.

8. Convinced that further progress in building a Europe without dividing lines is both possible and needed, Serbia will pursue the following four main priorities under the slogan:

ONE EUROPE – OUR EUROPE

- I Promoting Council of Europe core values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law:
 - Further strengthening of conventional and monitoring mechanisms

- Consolidating democracy and the rule of law throughout Europe.
- II Enhancing the security of persons - especially combating terrorism, organized crime and corruption.
- III Building a more humane Europe – Towards more active participation of all citizens
 - Fostering European identity and unity based on shared fundamental values, respect for our common heritage and cultural diversity
 - Building the capacities of local communities and individuals.
- IV Strengthening cooperation and good neighborly relations through full respect of values and implementation of Council of Europe standards in South Eastern European countries thus fostering European perspective of the Region.

I Promoting Council of Europe core values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law

- Further strengthening of conventional and monitoring mechanisms

9. Serbia will, in accordance with the Warsaw Summit decisions, actively promote by all appropriate means the long-term effectiveness of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), genuine pillars of the European system for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. As part of wide process of reforms, Serbia emphasizes the importance of the Report of the Group of Wise Persons that was submitted to the Committee of Ministers on 15 November 2006 on the long-term effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights, which has been recently considered within all the relevant Council of Europe bodies. Serbia will encourage all activities related to the Follow-up to the Report particularly in the light of discussions at the San Marino Colloquy held in March 2007, and the comments made by the Secretary General, the Parliamentary Assembly, the ECHR, the Commissioner for Human Rights and NGOs. The Serbian Chairmanship will also support swift and efficient implementation of the decisions taken at the 117th Committee of Ministers' Session with regard to sustained action to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention at national and European levels.
10. The entry into force of Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights is of essential importance for the improved effectiveness of the Convention system. At the same time, it is necessary to improve and strengthen national implementation mechanisms of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. The Serbian Chairmanship will organize a Regional conference on the role of Supreme Courts in South Eastern Europe in the implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms at national level, hosted by the Supreme Court of Serbia in

September 2007. The objective of the Conference will be to highlight the importance of Supreme Courts in encouraging lower instance judges to fully apply the Convention. Serbia will also organize a seminar on the effectiveness of national courts in the light of the standards set by the European Court of Human Rights in October in Belgrade, as well as an Awareness raising Conference on the Role of the Government Agents before the ECHR, in June 2007. Serbia will, for the first time, invite the President of the European Court of Human Rights to visit the country in order to raise public awareness and to discuss future cooperation, especially implementation of the judgments.

11. In accordance with the decisions of the Third Summit, Serbia will fully support every effort to strengthen the role of the Commissioner for Human Rights, an institution that has proven its effectiveness in contributing to a greater awareness of the issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms in member states of the Organization.
12. Full support will also be given to other Council of Europe's monitoring mechanisms, especially the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), which both play a unique role in their respective fields of competence.
13. Protecting the rights of all persons belonging to national minorities remains one of the human rights priorities for Serbia. Serbia guarantees a high level of protection for the minorities, including at constitutional level. It believes that continued activities are needed to protect the national minorities that are a source of enrichment of all our societies. Therefore, Serbia attaches great importance to the full implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. These are essential tools for the maintenance and the development of democratic stability. A seminar on the different modalities of cultural autonomies for national minorities in Europe will be organized in October in Serbia.
14. Serbia is also committed to promoting freedom of expression and information and supports the activities of the Council of Europe in the media field, as well as the activities aimed at promoting the free flow of information at the pan-European level via the existence of a plurality of independent and autonomous media, while ensuring the respect for other fundamental rights.

- Consolidating democracy and the rule of law throughout Europe

15. Serbia fully supports the work of the "Forum for the Future of Democracy". It will actively participate in the third session of the Forum in Sweden on 13-15 June 2007 that will focus on the interdependence of democracy and human rights, core issues of our Organization.

16. Dedicated to the core values of the Council of Europe, Serbia is determined to support the activities aimed at promoting the respect for the rule of law and improving the efficiency of justice for citizens, particularly the 28th Conference of European Ministers of Justice "Towards the efficient justice" to be held in Lanzarote, Spain, on 25-26 October.
17. Recognizing the close connection between democracy and the rule of law, Serbia also underlines the importance of the activities of the European Commission for Democracy through Law - The Venice Commission and its valuable contribution to ensuring a stable democratic legal framework in Europe.

II Enhancing the security of persons - especially combating terrorism, organized crime and corruption

18. Terrorism, intolerance, exclusion, racism, discrimination, corruption, organized crime or trafficking in human beings, are no longer national, but cross-border and cross-regional issues, a worldwide phenomena and a major challenge to us all. In order to combat these new threats, our common priority is to achieve even more effective cooperation and the full implementation of the numerous mechanisms on international, but especially on the European and national levels.
19. Guided by the relevant conventions and protocols of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, Serbia hosted a regional Summit on the Fight against organized crime and terrorism in October 2006. The outcome of this meeting was the Joint Declaration of the presidents of South-East European countries pledging to contribute and actively cooperate at all levels in the fight against these phenomena.
20. In order to hasten entering into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, Serbia will ratify them, encouraging other member states of the Organization to sign and/or ratify these important Council of Europe instruments. Serbia is also planning to ratify Civil Law Convention on Corruption, Convention on Cybercrime, Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime and Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism in the near future.
21. As a member of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), and in order to further contribute to the valuable work of GRECO, Serbia is planning to host a Seminar devoted to the fight against corruption for the countries of South Eastern Europe during its Chairmanship.
22. Furthermore, a conference within the scope of the Project against organized economic crime (PACO) will be held in Belgrade during the Chairmanship. Subsequently, Serbia will support and actively participate

in the plenary meeting of MONEYVAL to be held in Strasbourg on 10-14 September and during which the 10th anniversary of this important body will be celebrated.

23. Serbia will host a regional seminar on action against trafficking in human beings: "Prevention, protection, prosecution" in Belgrade in October. This will be the 10th seminar in the context of the Council of Europe's campaign to combat trafficking in human beings. The campaign will be launched in Serbia in order to raise public awareness of this issue of importance not only for Europe but also for neighboring regions.

III Building a more humane Europe – Towards more active participation of all citizens

24. In continuation of the efforts over the past two years, Serbia will emphasize the importance of activities aimed at the strengthening of social cohesion. In line with the Third Chapter of the Warsaw Action Plan, Serbia will use its Chairmanship to support endeavors to build Europe for and with its citizens.
25. Building capacities for children, youth, women is a priority for all member states of the Council of Europe. Capacity building for the people with disabilities and for other marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially the Roma, is a major challenge for member states. Only through education, employment and political participation individuals belonging to those groups will be empowered and contribute to the development of European societies, security, democracy and implementation of human rights. Such development needs to be rooted in the local communities and subsequently built on at all levels of societies, starting with the educational system.
26. In building a more humane and inclusive Europe, Serbia will give high priority, continue to support and will actively participate in all the activities of the campaign "Building a Europe for and with children". During the Chairmanship it is expected that two new important conventions will be adopted and opened for signature: the Convention on sexual exploitation and abuse of children and the European Convention on adoption (revised), which Serbia strongly supports.
27. Having in mind the very difficult situation of Roma and Travelers, Serbia emphasizes the importance of the campaign "Fight prejudice towards Roma", better known as "Dosta". The efforts of the Council of Europe in combating such prejudice are in line with the regional South Eastern European "Roma Decade". The message "Dosta - Enough" must be heard so that the Roma population and its contribution to the European civilization is recognized and their rights improved. Serbia fully supports and attaches significant importance to the work of the "European Roma and Travelers Forum".

28. Serbia will strongly support all actions aimed at full recognition and respect of gender equality and dignity. Bearing in mind that violence against women, including the domestic violence, is indeed among the most serious forms of gender-based violations of human rights, that undermine the core values of the Council of Europe, the Serbian Chairmanship will continue to support and promote the Council of Europe campaign to "Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence". Our common aim must be to raise public awareness of this phenomenon in order to find common responses.
 29. The civil society and non-governmental organizations are valuable components of democracy and democratization process. Their contribution to fostering of political culture and to creating a rule of law society is important. More room should be created for further cooperation between governmental and non-governmental sectors. Therefore, Serbia will especially support the active role of civil society, national and regional non-governmental organizations, while stressing the importance of the work of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe.
 30. Fully recognizing the work and already positive results of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies, the Serbian Chairmanship will support and participate in the work of the Second Summer University on Democracy to be organized by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in July. A conference of the network of schools of political studies "Achievements and Challenges of Regional Cooperation" will be organized in Belgrade in November.
 31. Recalling the importance of joint Council of Europe and United Nations activities as well as the importance of the environmental issues, Serbia will host the 6th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe: Building bridges to the future", in Belgrade, 10-12 October. The common dedication to cooperating in achieving high standards of environmental protection must be permanently high on the agenda, bearing in mind that all citizens have right to a safe environment and that the authorities have the obligation to secure it. In this regard, Serbia is planning soon to join the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.
- **Fostering European identity and unity based on shared fundamental values, respect for our common heritage and cultural diversity**
32. In the 21st century Europe's cultural diversity offers many opportunities. Protection, promotion and maintenance of cultural diversity are factors of human development and a manifestation of human liberty. The Third Summit endorsed intercultural dialogue as a major priority and a means of ensuring that the diversity of European cultures becomes a source of mutual enrichment.

33. In line with the previous chairmanships, as a highly important objective, Serbia fully supports all activities aimed at implementing the Council of Europe strategy to develop intercultural dialogue both within European societies and between Europe and its neighboring regions, adopted in Faro (Portugal) in October 2005. In this connection, Serbia attaches particular importance to the completion and publishing of the "White paper on Intercultural Dialogue" by November 2007, a unique document, the first of its kind on this specific topic at the international level. Being a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-confessional country Serbia also attaches significant importance to the work that has been carried out in the previous months concerning the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue. These activities provide a sound basis for the future follow-up actions of the Council of Europe in this field. Special attention will therefore be attached to the religious dimension of the intercultural dialogue in order to continue the efforts of the Russian and San Marino Chairmanships, in the light of the conclusions of the conferences held in Nizhny Novgorod in September 2006 and in San Marino on 23-24 April 2007.
34. Serbia is ready to host an informal ministerial conference to present the "White Paper" to the European public and to discuss the strategic reflections on the long-term role of the Council of Europe in intercultural dialogue, in Belgrade in the first half of November.
35. Also, Serbia will host the 2007 European Heritage Days, a joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission aimed at promoting the European heritage that fosters the European identity and unity based on respect of our common heritage and cultural diversity on 21-22 September in Belgrade.
36. Special attention will be attached to intercultural learning and to history teaching. Serbia will fully support the European Symposium on "Multiple images, shared destinies – learning about history in a multicultural society", to be held in Strasbourg in the early autumn.
37. As a part of the Bologna process, Serbia will host a Western Balkans Conference on Higher Education: Qualifications Frameworks in Belgrade in September.
38. Taking into account the importance of the work undertaken in the field of promoting Council of Europe's values beyond the European continent, especially by creating educational and informational ties, Serbia will endeavor to establish the cooperation and to join the European Center for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, known as the North-South Center. Serbia intends to encourage other South East Europe countries to follow this example by organizing a regional conference in Serbia in order to discuss future activities of the North South Center in South East Europe.
39. In protecting and promoting cultural diversity, Serbia attaches great importance to education, and in this context will actively support the European Youth Campaign for diversity, human rights and participation

"All different - all equal". The launching of the campaign in Serbia will take place on May 12, on the occasion of the "European Flag Day" organised by the Parliament of Serbia and the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade. While implementing a number of activities during the Chairmanship, Serbia will also actively support the follow-up action to the campaign, which is due to start in October 2007. In the same spirit, Serbia will also support establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport and, by acceding to it, encourage others to do so.

40. Serbia will during its Chairmanship fully support the adoption of the "European Convention on the protection of old and traditional crafts", that has been, for the first time in the history of the Council of Europe, drafted and submitted to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe by a group of university students from the Belgrade Faculty of Law.

○ **Building the capacities of local communities and individuals**

41. Serbia will pay special attention to the roles of local communities and their empowerment. Bearing in mind that true democracy starts among citizens, Serbia attaches great importance to the strengthening of democracy at local and regional levels and consequently to the activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Hence, a priority for Serbia is to ratify the European Charter on Local Self-Government as well as the European Outline Convention on Trans-frontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities. It will actively participate in the European Conference of Ministers responsible for local and regional government (Valencia, 15-18 October) and support the launching of the "Local Democracy Week", hoping that such campaigns will be organized every year in order to underline the importance of local self government.
42. Cooperation between local communities of different countries and regions will additionally and substantially contribute to the further social, cultural and economic development. In order to build a Europe without dividing lines and develop understanding and trust amongst citizens, during its Chairmanship, Serbia will encourage the deepening and intensifying of transfrontier and cross-border cooperation, as a mechanism for improving good neighbourly relations and a contribution to development in border areas. In that respect, Serbia intends to:
 - Promote networking and the creation of partnerships between regions, cities and municipalities, as an efficient way of building trust and best practice exchange, with special focus on cooperation in the fields of culture and economy;

- Provide support in the transfer of know-how in the area of transfrontier and cross-border cooperation, using the services of the Centre of expertise for local government reform.

43. Serbia remains committed to enhancing multiculturalism and tolerance at the local level and, among other activities, will implement the project on "The Promotion of the Multiculturalism and tolerance in Vojvodina" in order to promote multi-ethnic tolerance. The exhibition "Live Side-by-Side" will be held as well as a presentation of various ethnic communities' cultural, folklore and historical characteristics. A media campaign will also be organized in order to raise public awareness of the importance of multiculturalism.

IV Strengthening cooperation and good neighborly relations through full respect of values and implementation of Council of Europe standards in South Eastern European countries thus fostering the European perspective of the Region

44. South East Europe is a region within the Council of Europe space that has, over the past fifteen years, passed through a profound transformation. In that process the South Eastern Europe countries joined the Council of Europe and embraced its values. Serbia will during its Chairmanship strive to further raise the Organization's profile in the region, thus contributing to the strengthening of democracy, rule of law and human rights protection in this part of Europe.
45. This is, in our opinion, a good way to strengthen cooperation and good neighborly relations within the region, thus fostering European perspectives of all South Eastern European countries. In realizing that objective, Serbia will organize a number of regional events dealing with major issues such as judiciary cooperation, the fight against corruption, organized crime and trafficking in human beings and will give priority to efforts to promote inter-regional, transfrontier and crossborder cooperation, as mentioned above.
46. Furthermore, the Serbian Chairmanship will initiate contacts between the Council of Europe and the South East European Cooperation Process, the major regional initiative aimed at improving cooperation within the Region.
47. Fully recognizing the role and importance of the civil society and NGOs, the Serbian Chairmanship is planning to host a meeting between the Conference of international Non-Governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe and Serbian non-governmental organizations and to help the creation and accession of the regional union of non-governmental organizations to the Conference of international Non-Governmental Organizations of the Council of Europe.
48. The issue of refugees and internally displaced persons deserves particular attention. During the Chairmanship, Serbia would like to address this issue

and the multidimensional approach needed to resolve it. In this context, Serbia will host an enlarged meeting of the Subcommittee on Refugees (PACE) in Belgrade on 29-30 October, that will especially focus on the difficult position of Roma, IDPs and refugees.

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49. In line with the decisions taken at the Third Summit and in order to achieve these objectives, it is necessary to actively promote dialogue and cooperation between the CoE and its main partners at European and global levels. The Serbian Chairmanship will therefore continue activities aimed at strengthening the cooperation and coordination with other international institutions and organizations.
50. Firstly, in accordance with the Guidelines adopted at the Warsaw Summit, the Serbian Chairmanship will strive to enhance the cooperation and political dialogue with the European Union. It welcomes the successful conclusion, two years after the Summit, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the EU, and will give high priority to its implementation. Serbia also attaches great importance to the Report of the High-level follow-up Group on Juncker's recommendations on the relationship between the Council of Europe and the European Union. On the basis of the Report submitted to the May Ministerial Session, Serbia will fully support during its Chairmanship the work of the High Level Group entrusted with the follow-up of these recommendations.
51. Secondly, the Republic of Serbia on the basis of the Declaration on the Cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, signed in May 2005, will continue to foster the coordination and cooperation between the two Organizations in areas of common interest, especially exploring new mechanisms of synergy concerning questions related to the fight against terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings, as well as promoting the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities tolerance and non-discrimination.
52. Thirdly, Serbia will strongly support the strengthening of the cooperation between the Council of Europe and the UN, especially in the field of human rights. We believe that the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council represents a unique opportunity to explore and improve the cooperation and synergies between the two Organizations, and we are ready to lead the Council of Europe work in that respect. In line with the decision that was recently adopted by the Committee of Ministers Serbia expresses its readiness to play an active role in the Human Rights Council and the UNGA Third Committee sessions, by articulating the values and standards of the Council of Europe and promoting human rights in general.
53. Last but not least, the Serbian Chairmanship fully supports the institutional reform process of the Council of Europe in accordance with

the provisions of Chapter V of the Third Summit Action Plan. Acknowledging the constructive approach and role of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on this issue, we believe that further progressive steps could be taken on the basis of the important achievements that have already been accomplished, particularly in cost-efficiency and reforms related to the program of activity. We are convinced that enhanced overall effectiveness of the Council of Europe strongly depends on better internal cooperation and coordination and knowledge sharing. We expect that the results of the independent studies, that are under way, will give an useful impetus and will significantly contribute to the quality of the decision making process in all aspects of the implementation of the reform process of the Council of Europe's organizational structures and working methods. Hopefully this will result in greater general efficiency, while providing, at the same time, better visibility and external communication.

54. We are also committed to strengthening dialogue and cooperation to this effect with the Committee of Ministers main institutional partners, in particular Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Serbia strongly believes that the institutional balance between the Council of Europe bodies is of the highest importance and considers that it is necessary to optimize the complementarities between the Organization's organs. In this connection, Serbia will host the Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee meeting in Belgrade, on 23-25 May. A meeting within the framework of the joint initiative of the European Agency for Reconstruction and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to support the parliamentary institutions of the Republic of Serbia will also be held in Belgrade.

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55. The Republic of Serbia is assuming its Chairmanship at a crucial moment for the Council of Europe, two years after the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005 and two years before the 60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe. We are fully committed to make sure that, during the next six months, further progress will be made towards building a Europe without dividing lines ("One Europe"), where not only the states but also the people join efforts to implement the values we all share and which create the conditions of a common democratic future ("Our Europe").

**Committee of Ministers Chairmanship
Serbia - May to November 2007**

Calendar of major events during the Chairmanship

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MAY

10 - 11 May

Strasbourg. - **117th Session of the Committee of Ministers -**

Transfer of Chairmanship from San Marino to Serbia and presentation of the Priorities of the Chairmanship of Serbia

Inauguration of the exhibition **"LANDSCAPES OF SERBIA"**
followed by the concert and cocktail / CM ante-room /

15 May

Belgrade - Media Center

Round table on the topic **"A European Year for Serbia – chairing the Council of Europe, moving closer to the EU"**

15, 22, 29 May

Belgrade - University of Belgrade

Three round tables at the Faculty of political science, Faculty of economy and Faculty of law;

Themes to be covered:

- a) European values and the integration process,
- b) The European "acquis", and
- c) Economic and social aspects of European integration

23-25 May

Belgrade - **Bureau and Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

*** MARCH**

20 March

Ceremony for the Inauguration of the New Building of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare –address by Minister Vuk Draskovic, Vice – Chairman of the CM

*** APRIL**

3-4 April

Visit of the Secretary General to Belgrade to prepare the Serbian Chairmanship

24 May

Exchange of views between the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly

30 May – 1 June

Strasbourg – 14 th Plenary Session of the Congress

The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers or his representative presents the activities of the Committee of Ministers and replies to questions tabled by members of the Congress

JUNE

13 June

Belgrade - French Cultural Centre

Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Denis Huber participation at "Mercredi de l'Europe" on theme **"Serbie: d'une Europe a l'autre"**

13-15 June

Stockholm/Sigtuna, Sweden: **Forum for the Future of Democracy**

14-15 June

Belgrade - **Awareness raising Conference on the Role of the Government Agents before the European Court for Human Rights**
for Serbian legal professionals

22 June

Belgrade – **1000th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies**

25-29 June

Strasbourg – **Third part of the 2007 Session of the Parliamentary Assembly**

The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers presents the Statutory Report of the Committee of Ministers to the Assembly and replies to parliamentary questions

Presentation of the philatelic cover and postmark prepared for the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- Exhibition / concert / CM ante-room /

JULY

2-6 July

Strasbourg - **Second Summer University of Democracy** –

With the presence of a high-level political personality from Serbia at the opening or closing session

- Exhibition
- Concerts

7 July

Belgrade - **"Chansons pour l'auvergnat – Un hommage européen à George Brassens"**
Council of Europe staff member playing the French poet songs in different European languages

AUGUST

31 August

Belgrade – **Conference of the Forum of European local authorities' representatives on "Modalities of crossborder cooperation"**

SEPTEMBER

1 September

Start of the implementation of the new Joint Program between the Council of Europe and European Agency for Reconstruction on **Strengthening of Higher Education in Serbia**, which aims to support and accelerate higher education reforms based on the Bologna Process

7-9 September

Belgrade - **Regional conference on High Education: " Qualifications Frameworks " – Bologna process**

10-14 September

Strasbourg – **Plenary meeting of MONEYVAL - 10th anniversary -**

20-21 September

Belgrade - **European Heritage Days** –

A joint action Council of Europe / European Commission organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Serbia

20 - 22 September

Belgrade - Regional conference on the role of Supreme Courts in South Eastern Europe in the implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms at the national level

The Conference organised and hosted by the Supreme Court of Serbia

September (Date to be fixed)

Belgrade - Conference within the framework of the PACO - Serbia project against economic crime

early autumn

Belgrade - Seminar/Conference on Development of parliamentary democracy and institutions in Serbia

Organised by PACE and EAR

Strasbourg - European Symposium on "multiple images, shared destinies – learning about history in a multicultural society"

Strasbourg – Ceremony for the Inauguration of the New General Office Building in Strasbourg (date to be fixed)

OCTOBER

1-5 October

Strasbourg - Fourth part of the 2007 Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe -

The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers presents **Statutory report** of the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly and replies to parliamentary questions

- Exhibition
- Concert

Early October

Belgrade - A Regional conference on "Protection of Children against Violence"

4-7 October

Sweden - Final event of the European Youth Campaign «All different - All equal»

10–12 October

Belgrade - **6th Ministerial UN Conference " Environment for Europe: Building bridges to the future "**

15-16 October

Valencia, Spain - **15th Session of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Local and Regional Government**
- Launch of the "Local Democracy Week"

18 October

Belgrade - **Regional South East Europe seminar on action against trafficking in human beings: prevention, protection, prosecution**
10th seminar in the context of the Council of Europe's campaign to combat trafficking in human beings

25-26 October

Lanzarote (Canarias), Spain - **28th Conference of European Ministers of Justice**

29 – 30 October

Belgrade – **Conference / or enlarged meeting / of the Subcommittee on Refugees (PACE) on " Difficult position of IDP's and Refugees – especially of Roma and Travellers**
Organised in collaboration with UNHCR, OSCE, Council of Europe Forum for Roma and Travellers

October (Date to be fixed)

One-month campaign "Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings"
- a TV documentary series "Modern Slavery" is being prepared
aimed at raising public awareness on this issue

Belgrade – **Meeting between the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe and Serbian non-governmental organisations**

- **Seminar on the effectiveness of national courts in the light of the standards set by the European Court for Human Rights**
- **Visit of the President of the European Court of Human Rights**
- **Seminar on the different modalities of cultural autonomy for national minorities in Europe**

- Belgrade - **Conference on access to employment for vulnerable groups** (place to be confirmed);
- Belgrade - **Conference on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Kosovo and Metohija**
- Strasbourg - **A week of Serbian cinema**

autumn

- University of Novi Sad, University of Niš, University of Kragujevac - Three round tables on themes:
 - a) European values and the integration process,
 - b) The European "acquis", and
 - c) Economic and social aspects of European integration
- Belgrade – European film festival in collaboration with foreign cultural centres in Belgrade (to be confirmed)

NOVEMBER

2-4 November

Belgrade - **Conference «Achievements and Challenges of Regional Cooperations» organized by the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence**

November (Date to be fixed)

- Belgrade - **Informal Ministerial Conference on White paper on Intercultural Dialogue**

Belgrade – SEE Regional **Seminar devoted to the fight against corruption** in cooperation with the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO)

Belgrade – **Regional / SEE / Conference "Future activities of the North South Centre of the CoE in South East Europe"**

November (Date to be fixed)

- Strasbourg - **Informal session - Transfer of Chairmanship from Serbia to Slovakia-**
 - Exhibition
 - To be fixed -

Quadripartite meeting with the European Union

High level 3 + 3 meeting between the CoE and the OSCE



Doc. 11287
23 May 2007

Examination of credentials of Representatives and Substitutes

Supplementary report
presented by the President of the Assembly

1. Following the examination of credentials of new representatives and substitutes appointed during the 2nd part of the 2007 session of the Assembly, credentials certified by the competent authorities of five member states have been transmitted to the President of the Assembly for validation by the Standing Committee acting on behalf of the Assembly.
2. *Denmark* has appointed one new substitute to replace Mr Hedeboe, who has resigned.
3. *Estonia* has appointed a new delegation, following elections.
4. *Finland* has appointed three new substitutes to replace Mr Kiljunen, Mr Satonen and Mr Tiilikainen who have resigned.
5. *Romania* has appointed one new representative to replace Mrs Cazacu, who has been appointed as a substitute to replace Mr David, who has resigned.
6. *Sweden* has appointed one new substitute to replace Mrs Hallengren, who has resigned.
8. The Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, is called upon to express its decision on the validation of the credentials of the members whose names are given below.
9. In the case of objection or justified contestation, the contested credentials shall be referred without debate to the appropriate committee which shall report back to the Assembly, in accordance with Rules 7 and 8 of the Rules of Procedure.

Denmark

Substitute

Mr Kamal QURESHI, Socialist People's Party

Estonia

Representatives

Mr Andreas HERKEL, Pro Patria Union (Chairperson)

Mrs Kristiina OJULAND, Reform Party

Mrs Mailis REPS, Centre Party

Substitutes

Mr Aleksei LOTMAN, Green Party

Mr Indrek SAAR, Social Democratic Party

Ms Ester TUIKSOO, People's Union

Finland

Substitutes

Ms Krista KIURU, Social Democrat Party
Mr Juha KORKEAOJA, Centre Party
Mrs Tuulikki UKKOLA, National Coalition

Romania

Representative

Mr Radu Mircea BERCEANU, Parti démocrate

Substitute

Mrs Cornelia CAZACU, Parti démocrate

Sweden

Substitute

Mrs Maryam YAZDANFAR, Social Democratic Party

Opinion (Doc. 11200) on

The situation of elderly persons in Europe (Doc. 11179)

Apologise for the absence of Mrs Minodora Cliveti, rapporteur for opinion, who took an active part in the preparation of the report and the opinion given that she is member of both the Social and the Migration Committee. Mrs Cliveti participated in the Conference on the situation of elderly people in Europe which the Social Affairs Committee organised in Paris last September, where she chaired session 1 on "aspirations and rights of the elderly".

We congratulate Mr Bockel and the Social Affairs Committee for highlighting the main challenges and for proposing action concerning social protection systems, employment of elderly persons, assistance and support to families, access to healthcare and particular needs of vulnerable groups including ageing immigrants, women and people with disabilities.

Concerning elderly migrants - the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population - underlines the particular risks of double or even triple discrimination and the difficulties elderly migrants may have depending whether they remain in the "host" country with low levels of integration, whether they decide to return to the country of origin, or when elderly persons decide to emigrate in search of better living conditions in retirement.

Immigrants who settled in western European countries in the 50s, 60s and early 70s often ended up in the lower social and professional ranks. They generally run a higher risk of unemployment and it can be particularly difficult for them to find a new regular job with which they can contribute to pay their social security. In some cases elderly migrants do not apply for retirement in the host country as they may lack information and are not familiar with the local social security system. Broken careers, which are a result of scattered low paid jobs and unemployment, inevitably lead to weak pension rights.

Women elderly migrants are particularly exposed to poverty and can face triple discrimination - as women, as elderly and as migrants. Many elderly women do not qualify for pension and rely exclusively on family support.

In terms of integration and self-reliance, better knowledge of the "host" language is crucial. Due to language problems, elderly migrants do not benefit fully from care and assistance - such as services for elderly, day care, district nursing, recreational activities, institutional care, etc. - and they lack information regarding their rights.

Transfer of pension and social security rights is vital. Some elderly migrants would like to return to their countries of origin, but find that they can not financially afford it because their pension rights can not be transferred. The situation is quite diverse throughout the Council of Europe member states and particularly affects non-EU citizens.

The Committee has therefore proposed 6 amendments (1-6) to the report of Mr Bockel.

In conclusion, I would like to recall the main argument which was put forward by Mrs Cliveti - that elderly, including elderly migrants, should not be perceived as a burden to the (host) society, but instead their capacity to advise, guide and teach younger generations should be recognised and cherished as a factor of stability and integration.

10701 Puclo (APE) 

INTERVENTION DE M. GLAVAN

**sur le rapport sur le suivi des engagements concernant les droits sociaux
(rapporteur : M. Claude Evin, Soc, France)**

J'aimerais tout d'abord présenter les excuses du rapporteur, M. Claude Evin, qui, malheureusement a été retenu par des obligations professionnelles et saisir cette occasion pour le remercier et le féliciter pour son rapport.

Ce rapport est d'ailleurs le premier dans son genre car il traite, d'une manière très détaillée et documentée, de la Charte sociale européenne révisée en procédant à une analyse approfondie et un constat éclairé des dispositions de la Charte sociale européenne révisée, ainsi que des systèmes de contrôle découlant des engagements souscrits par les Parties Contractantes.

Mais ce rapport a été surtout élaboré pour souligner l'importance des droits et des principes contenus dans la Charte Sociale Européenne révisée, texte trop souvent ignoré et qui doit et devrait constituer, sans nul doute, le cadre de référence de la politique sociale européenne.

Dans ce contexte, j'aimerais féliciter le rapporteur d'avoir essayé de démontrer que les Etats ne devaient pas avoir peur de signer et de ratifier la Charte Sociale révisée, en soulignant, notamment son importance en tant qu'instrument de coordination des politiques sociales.

Il est vrai et on l'a souvent constaté, on a trop souvent « diabolisé » la Charte sociale européenne, car beaucoup d'Etats estimaient et à tort, qu'une fois ce texte ratifié les Etats, qui en bénéficiaient, ne pouvaient plus maintenir certains régimes préférentiels ni certaines spécificités. En fait, l'on pourrait considérer la Charte Sociale comme une boussole qui indique la direction à suivre dans la volonté de réussir ensemble par un dialogue constructif.

En bref, la Charte Sociale européenne révisée doit avant tout être regardée comme étant le prolongement, s'agissant des droits sociaux, de la Convention Européenne de sauvegarde des libertés et des droits fondamentaux, de même que son organe de régulation, le Comité européen des droits sociaux, doit être considéré comme investi d'une fonction presque égale à celle de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme, faute d'un statut

équivalent. C'est la raison pour laquelle, le rapporteur, soutenu par notre Commission, demande instamment de modifier les méthodes de travail du Comité européen et de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que le Comité européen puisse répondre efficacement à l'augmentation croissante de sa charge de travail.

Le rapport de notre ami M. Claude Evin, tout en constituant un véritable texte de référence, vise également à rappeler au Comité des Ministres, les propositions contenues dans le Protocole de Turin demandant que les membres du Comité européen des droits sociaux soient élus par l'Assemblée Parlementaire et ce au même titre que les Juges de la Cour Européenne de Strasbourg. Cette procédure, et j'aimerais remercier le rapporteur de l'avoir rappelé, me paraît tout à fait justifiée, voire nécessaire, car notre Assemblée, et il n'est pas superflu de le rappeler, est l'expression la plus évidente des valeurs démocratiques consacrées dans le statut de notre Organisation.

Dans ce contexte, je vous rappelle que selon l'article 22 de la Convention Européenne des Droits de l'Homme, les juges de la Cour européenne sont élus par notre Assemblée parlementaire et il apparaît normal que selon le principe de l'indivisibilité des droits de l'homme que les membres du comité européen sur les droits sociaux soient aussi soumis aux mêmes règles.

Outre les propositions qui avaient déjà été faites, le rapporteur propose également des recommandations qui, nous l'espérons, seront mises en œuvre.

L'une des recommandations porte sur le renforcement du rôle du Commissaire aux droits de l'homme dans le domaine des droits sociaux.

J'aimerais rappeler que dans la résolution adoptée le 7 mai 1999, le Comité des Ministres avait décidé de créer le poste de Commissaire aux droits de l'homme afin que ce dernier se charge de la promotion, de l'éducation et de la sensibilisation aux droits de l'homme ainsi que de leur respect. Il apparaît indiscutable que le mandat du Commissaire concerne également la Charte puisque qu'il s'agit, à côté de la Convention européenne sur les droits de l'homme d'un des instruments de protection des droits de l'homme les plus importants du Conseil de l'Europe.

A la lecture des documents présentés par les Commissaires, on constate que jusqu'à présent les droits sociaux consacrés dans la Charte occupent une place nettement moins importante que celle attribuée aux droits inscrits dans d'autres instruments de protection des droits de l'homme, en particulier dans la Convention européenne sur les droits de l'homme. Nous espérons que grâce à ce rapport, les choses vont changer et j'aimerais simplement rappeler que lors du séminaire organisé dans le cadre du 10^e anniversaire de la Charte sociale européenne révisée, le Commissaire aux droits de l'homme avait souligné que tous les droits de l'homme sont étroitement liés, interdépendants et effectivement indivisibles et avait affirmé son engagement personnel dans le respect de la Charte.

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Une autre des recommandations porte sur le rôle que peut et doit jouer notre Assemblée dans le domaine des droits sociaux en demandant et j'espère, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs et chers collègues, que vous appuierez cette proposition, que notre Assemblée Parlementaire devienne l'instance politique d'incitation et de débat dans le domaine des droits sociaux, une instance européenne reconnue et qu'à ce titre nous puissions débattre, selon un rythme à définir, des problèmes sociaux qui deviennent de plus en plus sensibles en Europe.

En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires, j'espère que vous soutiendrez pleinement ce rapport.

Je vous remercie.