

**APROBAT**

În ședința Biroului permanent al  
Camerei Deputaților

din data de 9.05.2007

Nr. 584



Parlamentul României  
Camera Deputaților

B.P. Nr. 584

din 8.05.2007

**PARLAMENTUL ROMÂNIEI  
CAMERA DEPUTAȚILOR**

**DIRECȚIA DE RELAȚII CU ADUNĂRI ȘI ORGANISME PARLAMENTARE INTERNAȚIONALE**

București, 08 mai 2007

Nr. 58/2/706

**Memorandum intern**

Către: Domnul Mihai Unghianu, secretar general adjunct al Camerei Deputaților

Tema: Participarea la Forumul Consiliului Europei pentru viitorul democrației  
(Stockholm/Sigtuna, Suedia, 13 – 15 iunie 2007)

În perioada 13 – 15 iunie 2007, la Stockholm și Sigtuna, va avea loc Forumul Consiliului Europei pentru viitorul democrației, ediția 2007. Evenimentul reunește parlamentari - membri ai A.P.C.E., reprezentanți ai autorităților centrale și locale din statele membre ale Consiliului Europei, etc. Cu această ocazie sunt prevăzute mai multe sesiuni de lucru pe parcursul cărora se vor dezbate subiecte precum: „Democrația reprezentativă pentru noua eră”, „Responsabilitățile opoziției în stabilirea dialogului și inițierea procesului decizional”, „Implicarea societății civile – respectarea dreptului la liberă exprimare și la liberă asociere”, etc. Totodată, în pauzele dintre sesiunile de lucru vor fi organizate discuții libere pe teme precum: „Egalitatea de gen și distribuirea puterii”, „Încurajarea angajamentului societății civile”, „Modalități de apropiere ale cetățenilor de decidenții politici”.

Domnul deputat Cezar Preda (PD), vicepreședinte al A.P.C.E și doamna deputată Minodora Cliveti (PSD) au fost desemnați membri în Comitetul ad-hoc privind Forumul Consiliului Europei pentru viitorul democrației, la sesiunea din aprilie 2007 a A.P.C.E.

**Acțiunea are caracter parlamentar conform art.3, alin. a. al HBP nr.1/2003.**

Propunem:

- să se aprobe participarea la Forumul pentru viitorul democrației a doamnei deputate Minodora Cliveti, a domnului deputat Cezar Preda și a doamnei Nadia Ionescu, secretara Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E;

- deplasarea să se efectueze cu avionul pe ruta București – Viena – Stockholm și retur, cu plecare în data de 12.06.2007, ora 11.45 (OS 790) și întoarcere în data de 16.06.2007, ora 16.25 (OS 791), conform traseului anexat;
- din avansul cu decontare ulterioară să se suporte eventualele cheltuieli legate de transportul cu vaporul pe tronsonul Stockholm – Sigtuna și retur;
- să se acorde diurnă categoria a II-a, 100 %, pentru 4 1/2 zile și cazare plafon B pentru 4 nopți, în numerar, precum și un avans de 50% cu decontare ulterioară;
- recalcularea cheltuielilor să se facă la întoarcerea în țară, pe baza documentelor justificative.

**Director.**  
Nadia Ionescu

Control financiar preventiv,

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Camera Deputaților          |       |
| 4                           | VITAT |
| CONTROL FINANCIAR PREVENTIV |       |
| 08.05.2007                  |       |

Red. I.S.



**PARLAMENTUL ROMÂNIEI  
CAMERA DEPUTAȚILOR**

**Direcția de relații cu adunări și organisme parlamentare  
internaționale**

Prin prezenta confirm acordul pentru participarea domnului deputat  
Cezar Preda, în perioada 13 - 15 iunie 2007, la Stockholm și Sigtuna, la  
Forumul Consiliului Europei pentru Viitorul Democrației, ediția 2007.

**Cristian Rădulescu**  
  
**Lider Grup PD**

**Ad Hoc Committee to participate in the  
Forum for the future of democracy to be held  
On 13-15 June in Stockholm/Sigtuna (Sweden)**

**Draft agenda**

of the meeting to be held in Stockholm/Sigtuna  
on 13-15 June 2007

**Participation to the Forum for the future of democracy**

**Wednesday 13 June – DAY ONE**

Morning      Registration at Arlanda Airport  
*(Registration will be available all morning in terminals 2 and 5.  
Luggage will be taken care of and transported to the hotels)*

11.30 and  
12.00      Bus departures from Arlanda Airport to the Riksdag

As from Riksdag building accessible to participants

12.30      *(Refreshments will be available)*

**13.30      Opening of the Forum for the Future of Democracy 2007 in  
Stockholm/Sigtuna**

Opening speeches by

- Mr Per WESTERBERG, Speaker of the Riksdag
- Mr René van der LINDEN, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Mrs Nyamko SABUNI, Swedish Minister for Integration and Gender Equality
- Mr Terry DAVIS, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Mr Anders KNAPE, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- Mr Halvdan SKARD, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

---

***This document is the convocation to the meeting for the members  
and alternates of the Ad-Hoc Committee***

Copy for information: Secretaries of National Delegations

- Follow-up to the Forum for the Future of Democracy 2006 in Moscow
- Statement by a representative of the European Commission

Keynote speech on the theme *Power and empowerment*  
 – *the interdependence of democracy and human rights*  
 Mr Thomas HAMMARBERG, Commissioner for Human Rights,  
 Council of Europe

*Empowerment – the role and responsibility of parliamentarians: the perspective of PACE*  
 Mr Andreas GROSS, member of the Swiss Parliament, Rapporteur of the Political Affairs  
 Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly on the state of democracy in Europe

15.30

Refreshments

16.00

Parallel panel sessions on the theme *Empowerment – the role and responsibilities of parliamentarians*  
 Each session will be led by a moderator and have a panel of 4-5 persons in order to initiate the discussions in the sessions  
 (details on panel sessions cf. Appendix III)

**Panel session one**

***The role of the opposition and changing from being in government to being in opposition***

**Panel session two**

***The responsibilities of the opposition for establishing dialogue and initiating political decision-making***

18.00

End of parallel panel sessions

Short reflection on the first day's sessions by rapporteur(s)

*Concluding speech*  
 Mr Anders JOHANSSON, Mayor, Sigtuna

19.00

Departure by boat to Sigtuna  
*Dinner will be served on board*

22.00

Arrival in Sigtuna  
*A short welcome to Sigtuna and then bus transfer to the hotels*

## Appendix II

### Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy Stockholm/Sigtuna, Sweden, 13–15 June 2007

## Information on registration and practical arrangements

### Registration

Each member of national delegations for the 2007 session of the Forum is required to register **no later than 10 May**. It is imperative that all members, without exception, register individually on the online registration system found at [www.stockholmsigtunademocracyforum.se](http://www.stockholmsigtunademocracyforum.se), using the access code **136COE**. For any queries with regard to registration, please contact Ms Anna Sundqvist at Sigtuna Tourism, Tel: + 46 8 594 80 650, e-mail: [anna.sundqvist@sigtuna.se](mailto:anna.sundqvist@sigtuna.se).

In addition, the names, professional function and address details of all members of each country's delegation should be communicated to Mr Michael Remmert, Project Manager, Directorate General of Political Affairs, Council of Europe, F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex ([michael.remmert@coe.int](mailto:michael.remmert@coe.int); fax: +33 3 90 21 52 85) by the same date.

Choice of plenary sessions and sub-themes and breakout-sessions will be done through the online registration system. Please refer to the registration website for details on parallel panel sessions, sub-themes and break-out sessions. As the number of participants for each sub-theme is limited, early registration is advisable.

### Accommodation

Participants arriving before 13 June are requested to contact the hotels directly (see list of hotels below), as there is no possibility to make arrangements for early arrivals via the registration website. A special conference rate will be offered by all Hotels as from 11 June.

There is also a week-end offer for all participants who wish to stay on in Sigtuna. Please refer to the registration website for information.

Payment of room is required upon check-out from the hotel if no other arrangement has been made. Cancellation occurs cost-free up until 6 June, after which your card will be debited with 100% of the cost of the room.

Upon "no-show" your card will be debited with 100% of the room cost. If you have booked for a specific period but check out earlier you must pay the difference, just as with late cancellation.

**Background documents**

Confirmed participants will receive background documentation in the language of their choice (English or French) as well as further information concerning the programme.

**Conference registration upon arrival in Sweden**

Registration desks will be open at Arlanda Airport (terminals 2 and 5) throughout the morning of Wednesday 13 June. Luggage will be taken care of and transported to the hotels. Participants will also be able to register at their arrival at the Riksdag as from 12.30 pm on Wednesday 13 June.

**Cost of participation**

There is no registration fee for participants to attend the Forum. It should be noted, however, that all participants will be required to cover the cost of their own accommodation and travel, unless informed otherwise by the Forum organisers.

The local currency in Sweden is Svenska Kronor, SEK, and 1 EURO is approx. 9,45 SEK. There are foreign currency exchange offices and cash dispensers at the airport. Cash dispensers are also available in Sigtuna. There is no foreign currency exchange at the hotels. Payment by credit card is widely accepted in Sweden.

**Working languages**

The working languages of the Forum are French and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all plenary sessions on the first and third days of the Forum session, in the two parallel panel sessions in the Riksdag in the afternoon of the first day, and in the introductory sessions to workshop sessions on sub-themes 2, 3 and 4 in the morning of the second day. The workshop session on sub-theme 1 will be organised according to the open-space method, where participants may choose between English and French.

**Participants requiring a visa for entering Sweden**

Participants who require a visa for entering Sweden, which is a member of the Schengen area, should contact the Embassy of Sweden in their country for information and application. In countries where there is no Swedish Embassy, the Consulate of Sweden can provide information on where and how to apply for a visa. Participants are advised to submit the visa application well in advance, enclosing the confirmation of the registration for participating in the 2007 Forum for the Future of Democracy with their application.

**Special side event for participants from the local and regional level**

For participants from the local and regional level, there will be a special side event arranged by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). Information about this event can be obtained from Ms. Christina Rydberg, Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting, SALAR, 118 82 STOCKHOLM, e-mail [christina.rydberg@skl.se](mailto:christina.rydberg@skl.se), telephone: + 46 8 452 7838

**Weather**

June in Sweden is known for the light and the midnight sun. Average temperature is between 15-20 °C.

discussion on how to achieve real power and the possibilities to assert political influence. What are the ways forward and what role could the Council of Europe play? The sub-theme will be dealt with in three break-out sessions. Each break-out session will start with a general introduction.

Break-out session one: *Gender equality and shared power - Equal representation and beyond*

*(The session is arranged by the Swedish Women's Lobby.)*

The ideal of equal involvement of women and men in decision-making still remains a long way off. How to reach equal representation? Does equal representation mean equal power? What would enable the empowerment of women? How could international documents, such as "Genderware - the Council of Europe and the participation of women in political life", be used more widely, and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women (CEDAW) be further implemented?

Break-out session two: *Democratic inclusiveness – Empowering the individual by abandoning discrimination*

The term "political resources" is often used to describe what people need in order to have a real prospect of taking part in the political process and influencing decisions affecting their lives. However, irrespective of the resources, people who are directly or indirectly discriminated against are often excluded also from political processes. What discriminating practices exist in political processes, and what can be done to abolish them? What role could the Council of Europe play?

Break-out session three: *Listening to the silent voices*

In most democracies there are different means of listening to the people other than on the election day. But those who make themselves heard are often those whose ideas are well-represented. Best practices will be shared on how to reach those who do not make their voices heard. How could the political level pay attention to these voices and experiences? What are the prerequisites, structures, etc. needed? How could the Council of Europe support sustainable changes? After two short introductory addresses, there will be a division into smaller groups.

### **Sub theme 3 -**

A vital society, based on, *inter alia*, freedom of opinion, expression and association, is an important element of a democracy. The discussions will focus on the possibility of, and the obstacles preventing the involvement of civil society. How to encourage, and guarantee equal opportunities to the establishment of NGOs? How to reach equal access to decision bodies? One main challenge might be the gaps between citizens and decision makers. Another is to bridge these gaps, and whether developing a Code of Good Practice for Civic Participation, as discussed at the Warsaw Forum in 2005, could be useful. Smaller dialogue groups will focus on different aspects. Participants will be able to change groups.

Break-out session one: *How to encourage civil society engagement*

How can the establishment of NGOs be encouraged? Other questions to be discussed may include: how can equal opportunities to establishment be guaranteed? How can equal access to decision bodies be reached? What would be elements in a possible Code of Good Practice for Civic Participation?

Break-out session two: *How to bridge gaps between citizens and decision makers*

What can be done if citizens do not feel represented or listened to? What are the effects of such gaps on political legitimacy? What is required for building bridges between citizens and decision makers? What action is possible if citizens do not believe that they can hold the decision makers accountable?

**Sub theme 4 -**

Discussions will focus on ways and tools for systematic work to promote democracy and full respect for human rights, and social networks as an asset. Systematic work has positive consequences for civic participation. Broad participation is an important parameter and safeguard in a democracy. The open process to develop action plans, and other forms of systematic work, may be a goal in itself. What specific benefits flow from the trust, reciprocity, and cooperation associated with social networks? Does eDemocracy have a role to play? Can it facilitate participation, or does it open new gaps? The sub-theme will be elaborated in two break-out sessions.

Break-out session one: *Systematic work for human rights - National action plans, and other methods*

The aim is to help participants to see and share experiences on tools and methods for systematic work. National action plans are one tool. The possible use of indicators, the importance of an open process, and the role of national human rights institutions/ ombudsmen will be discussed. There is no single solution. Different perspectives will be explored to provide an input to actors at all levels regarding challenges, areas for cooperation and assistance. The session may be divided into smaller groups.

Break-out session two: *eDemocracy – key role in facilitating and strengthening democratic processes?*

The aim is to share good practices, and provide input to the Forum for the Future of Democracy in Madrid 2008. Democracy is faced with a number of challenges and opportunities, many of which eDemocracy may have the potential to address. There may be problems with new technologies, the most obvious being the digital divide. Which issues should eDemocracy initiatives focus on? Problems related to eDemocracy will also be discussed. Presentations will be made and panel discussions held. Participants will be invited to take an active part in the debates.

## Appendix III

### **Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy Stockholm/Sigtuna, Sweden 13 – 15 June 2007**

#### **Details on parallel panel sessions, sub-themes and break-out sessions**

##### **Wednesday 13 June, DAY ONE**

16.00 Parallel panel sessions on the theme *Empowerment – the role and responsibilities of parliamentarians*

The opposition is a promise that a change of government is possible. For stability, the continued functioning of administration, the transfer of knowledge, and international commitments it is necessary to have a smooth transfer of powers. How does the opposition prepare itself to carry out the responsibilities to which it aspires? Opposition parties can aim to replace the government party by criticising it and presenting alternatives. Alternatively, parties can choose to try and influence the policy-making process. How to choose between compromise and obstruction? What is the best balance between consensus and dissent?

An opposition can consist of more or less organised and co-operating groups. Opposing parties can propose a common programme as a basis for a coalition government. A strong multi-party coalition of long duration may, however, lead to a weakened opposition. Extremist parties may attract disillusioned voters. How does a party best tackle voter volatility and abstention? How does new technology force changes in political interaction?

Democracy is not only competitive, but also has to embrace a variety of interests. How can opposition be exercised in a responsible manner with the aim to solve problems of general interest? What can impair the opposition? Are personalisation of politics, complexity of governmental tasks, weakening of national states by regionalisation and internationalisation such obstacles? How can these obstacles be overcome?

The interaction between majority and opposition depends on numerous factors such as the rules of procedure of the parliament, the electoral system, the party system, the political culture, the media, values, interests, goals in general and resources. The opposition has a responsibility to make the best use of its rights and resources to enhance the efficiency of the parliament. What rights and

resources are there? The freedom of association and expression underpins the right to opposition. It is not only a constitutional process, but made up of rights of individuals to formulate an opinion. Reasonable conditions for this presuppose a number of other rights: the right to information from the government, to initiate alternative policies and participate in discussions, the right to make the government accountable, and the right to resources. How can these rights be secured?

## **Thursday 14 June – DAY TWO**

09.30 Four parallel sub-theme panels with breakout sessions  
*The four sessions will take place at different venues.*

### **Sub-theme 1 -**

(Arranged by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions)

Difficulties arise in the interface between ideals and demands. Democratic institutions face dilemmas in their effort to combine democracy and efficiency. With the focus on local and regional levels and the demand for legitimacy and efficiency, the overall aims of the sub-theme are to provide a creative field for knowledge transfer and exploration, making collective knowledge visible and to make recommendations. Items to be discussed include: voting-systems, transparency and accountability, mission and tasks, ideology and social representation, full-time and lay-politicians, how to share power and responsibilities between residents and institutions. Does the change of generations give rise to new demands? Problems and routes of action will be described. Routes of action may require changes in policies and frameworks. Statements will be addressed to policy makers at different levels.

The sub-theme will be carried out in a method-oriented way where the aim is to create a community of practice. Only the theme is set in advance - nothing else. Based on a clear structure, the participants determine the agenda. The exchange of ideas will focus on issues important to the participants. They will contribute their own knowledge and experiences. Seating will be at round tables with six to seven participants per table. To allow for synergy effects, each group will consist of different stakeholders from the broadest possible mixture of backgrounds. These groups will change during the day in order to create networks and maximize interaction. The dialogue will provide a creative and hospitable space. Examples of good practice will be combined with short speeches from key persons. The dialogue form will generate innovative possibilities. The content and topics emerging from the participants will indicate matters of interest and engagement. As a common language is a prerequisite for this workshop, participants will be able to join English or French speaking groups.

### **Sub theme 2 -**

Some people are still excluded, or are in practice prevented from participating in the political process and from influencing the decisions affecting their everyday lives. This is a problem in all democracies and the starting point for a

## **Thursday 14 June – DAY TWO**

09.30 Four parallel sub-theme panels with break-out sessions  
*The four sessions will take place at different venues  
(details on sub-themes and break-out sessions cf. Appendix III)*

### **Sub-theme 1 - Representative democracy for a new era**

Arranged by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

*This sub-theme focuses on the local and regional representative institutions and the dilemmas to combine democracy and efficiency. Only the theme is set in advance – no break-out sessions. It is the participants themselves who determine the agenda and the outcome.*

### **Sub-theme 2 - Empowerment of the individual – non-discrimination**

Break-out session one: *Gender equality and shared power - Equal representation and beyond*

Arranged by the Swedish Women's Lobby

Break-out session two: *Democratic inclusiveness – Empowering the individual by abandoning discrimination*

Break-out session three: *Listening to the silent voices*

### **Sub theme 3 - The involvement of civil society – the respect for freedom of expression and freedom of association**

Break-out session one: *How to encourage civil society engagement*

Break-out session two: *How to bridge gaps between citizens and decision makers*

### **Sub theme 4 - Fostering democracy, human rights and social networks – ways forward**

Break-out session one: **Systematic work for human rights – National action plans, and other methods**

Break-out session two: *eDemocracy – key role in facilitating and strengthening democratic processes?*

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.00 – 17.30 Continuation of break-out sessions (see above)

19.45 Departure by bus to Steninge Palace  
([www.steningeslott.se](http://www.steningeslott.se))

20.00 Dinner at Steninge Palace

### **Friday 15 June – DAY THREE**

From 07.30 Shuttle buses from hotels to Arlanda Airport

**09.00 Plenary session at Arlanda Conference and Business Centre;**  
results from day one parallel panel sessions  
and day two sub-theme discussions  
*Presentation by sub-theme rapporteurs*

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Continuation of plenary session

*speakers include*

Ms Annelise OESCHGER, President of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe

**12.00 Summary of results and conclusions  
of the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy 2007**

*Observations by the general rapporteurs*

- Mr Andreas GROSS, Member of the Swiss Parliament, Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly on the state of democracy in Europe
- Mr Keith WHITMORE, Manchester Metropolitan City Council (UK), Representative of the Chamber of Regions and Chairman of the Institutional Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Mr Daniel TARSCHYS, Chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Stockholm, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe

*Presentation of the Forum conclusions*

13.00 Closing of the meeting and welcome to the Forum 2008 in Madrid  
by Ms. Ana Isabel LEIVA DIEZ, State Secretary of Territorial Co-operation, Ministry of Public Administration, Spain