

APROBAT

În ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputaților

din data de 5.12.2007

Nr. 48

INFORMARE

privind participarea la
reuniunile Biroului și Comisiilor pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și
familie; și pentru mediu, agricultură, probleme locale și regionale ale
Adunării Parlamentare a Consiliului Europei (A.P.C.E.), precum și la
reuniunea secretarilor delegațiilor naționale ale A.P.C.E.
(Florența și Paris, 11-15 decembrie 2006)

La 11 decembrie a.c., la Florența, a avut loc reuniunea tradițională
comună cu UNICEF a Comisiei pentru probleme sociale, sănătate și familie
a Adunării Parlamentare a Consiliului Europei (A.P.C.E.), la care au
participat, din partea Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E., doamnele
deputate Minodora Cliveti și Grațiela Iordache, membre și raportoare ale
Comisiei, precum și domnii deputați Cezar Florin Preda, Vicepreședinte al
A.P.C.E. și al Comisiei și domnul deputat Sandor Tamas, membru supleant al
Delegației.

În deschiderea lucrărilor Comisiei, doamna **Marta Santos Pais, Director
al „Innocenti Center”**, referindu-se la situația copiilor în lume, a evidențiat
legătura și interacțiunea dintre drepturile copilului și ale femeii, afirmând că
„copii ar fi mai bine și mai eficient protejați, dacă femeile, respectiv mamele ar
avea mai multe drepturi și putere în lume”. Cu această ocazie a fost distribuit și
discutat, înainte de a fi dat publicității, **Raportul UNICEF „THE STATE OF
THE WORLD’S CHILDREN 2007”**. La întoarcerea în țară, Raportul UNICEF
a fost transmis Președintelui Autorității Naționale pentru Protecția Drepturilor
Copiilor.

Un alt punct important pe agenda reuniunii Comisiei l-a constituit
dezbaterea și adoptarea raportului parlamentarului britanic **Michael Hancock**,

intitulat „**Un viitor pentru copiii și orfanii infectați cu HIV**”. Raportorul a adus în discuție cazul României, subliniind progresele înregistrate în ceea ce privește protecția copilului, de țara noastră. Parlamentarul britanic Michael Hancock s-a declarat un cunoscător profund al situației copiilor din România, situație pe care a urmărit-o de la începutul anilor 1990.

De asemenea, în cadrul lucrărilor Comisiei au fost dezbătute mai multe rapoarte elaborate de parlamentari români între care: raportul doamnei deputate **Minodora Cliveti**, privind „**Promovarea participării copiilor la procesul decizional ce le este destinat**” și cel al doamnei deputate **Grațiela Iordache**, privind „**Finanțarea consumului etic și responsabil**”. Raportul doamnei deputate **Minodora Cliveti** propune analizarea modului în care copii sunt implicați în procesul decizional, în diferite state membre, și măsurile ce pot fi recomandate pentru a se asigura o participare efectivă și timpurie a acestora în luarea deciziilor. În raportul său, doamna deputată **Grațiela Iordache**, pornind de la capacitatea unor state membre ale Consiliului Europei de a dovedi în inițiativele financiare principii de etică și solidaritate prin crearea de noi locuri de muncă și, drept consecință, creșterea coeziunii sociale, propune: introducerea și promovarea criteriilor sociale și de mediu în produsele financiare (de exemplu: fondurile de pensii), implementarea inițiativelor privind microcreditele pentru grupurile sociale vulnerabile, recunoașterea necesității implementării unor programe financiare bazate pe etică și solidaritate în țările din sud-estul Europei și încurajarea schimbului de bune practici între țări și regiuni.

În încheierea lucrărilor a fost adoptat programul de lucru al Comisiei pentru prima parte a anului 2007, în luna ianuarie, cu ocazia primei părți a Sesiunii A.P.C.E., fiind programat raportul domnului deputat **Cezar Florin Preda**, privind „**Implementarea instrumentelor juridice și a altor instrumente eficiente în combaterea violenței și a altor forme de abuz și exploatare a copilului**”.

În cadrul lucrărilor Comisiei pentru mediu, agricultură, probleme locale și regionale a A.P.C.E., din 14 decembrie a.c., de la Paris, a avut loc o dezbateră pe tema raportului preliminar și a proiectului de rezoluție elaborate de domnul deputat Cezar Florin Preda, privind „deșeurile solide municipale”. La dezbateră a participat ca **expert tehnic** domnul **Martin Steiner**, reprezentant al Environmental Engineering Consultants Ltd., Austria. Raportul și proiectul de rezoluție au fost primite cu interes și adoptate, dezbateră pe articole fiind programată într-o sesiune viitoare. Totodată, pe ordinea de zi s-au aflat audierea pe tema „**democrația locală și regională**”, la care a participat domnul **Jose Manuel Rodriguez**, **președinte al Comitetului Director privind Democrația Locală și Regională**, și dezbateră raportului parlamentarului spaniol, domnul **Lluís Maria de PUIG**, privind „**regionalizarea în Europa**”. Dezbateră celui din urmă raport a adus în atenție mai multe aspecte ale Cartei Europene a Autonomiei Locale și Regionale, astfel, **modelul Cartei a fost considerat un instrument depășit, deoarece prevede numai drepturi, nu și obligații și responsabilități, Carta nestabilind modele evolutive, nu poate constitui, în această formă și etapă, un instrument de monitorizare.**

În cadrul reuniunii **Biroului A.P.C.E.** a fost adoptat Proiectul de Agendă pentru prima parte a Sesiunii A.P.C.E., pentru anul 2007, și anunțată anularea ședinței Biroului, programată pentru începutul lui ianuarie 2007.

Cu ocazia reuniunii secretarilor delegațiilor naționale ale A.P.C.E. au fost distribuite noile legitimații pentru parlamentari și secretari, la realizarea acestora avându-se în vedere noile restricții de circulație și noile sisteme de securitate prevăzute pentru Palatul Consiliului Europei. Cu acest prilej a fost adresat un apel de consiliere a parlamentarilor, în vederea evitării semnării unor proiecte lipsite de interes, sau care reiau, într-o formă insuficient diferită, alte proiecte. Totodată, s-a subliniat că raționalizarea resurselor umane și materiale reprezintă o prioritate pentru Consiliul Europei în acest stadiu. Doamna Nadia

Ionescu, secretara Delegației Parlamentului României la A.P.C.E, adresându-se reprezentanților secretariatelor naționale, a atras atenția asupra suprapunerii temei HIV în mai multe rapoarte programate spre dezbatere și adoptare în cea de a patra zi de lucru a primei părți a Sesiunii A.P.C.E. pentru anul 2007, susținând că o mai bună corelare și o mai profundă analiză a unei probleme ar fi de natură a elimina nedoritele repetări și ar conduce la eficientizarea activității.

Minodora Cliveti, deputată



Cezar Florin Preda, deputat



Grațiera Iordache, deputată



Sandor Tamas, deputat

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

Restricted
AS/Soc (2006) OJ 9
8 December 2006

Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Draft agenda¹

of the joint meeting to be held with the Innocenti Research Centre,
at UNICEF, Salone Brunelleschi, Piazza SS. Annunziata 12, Florence (Italy)
(Tel : +39 055 20330) on Monday 11 December 2006 from 9.30 am to 17 pm

9.30 am

1. **Opening of the meeting by Mr Glesener, Chairperson of the Committee**
 - Introductory speech by Mrs Marta Santos Pais, Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
 - Speech by Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
2. **Agenda**
AS/Soc (2006) OJ 9

Adoption of the draft agenda
3. **Minutes**
AS/Soc (2006) PV 8

Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held in Budapest on 9 and 10 November 2006
4. **A future for HIV/AIDS children and AIDS orphans**
Rapporteur: Mr Michael Hancock, United Kingdom, ALDE
AS/Soc (2006) 25
 - Presentation by the Rapporteur, Mr Michael Hancock
 - Orphan children with Aids in Africa by Mr Alan Brody, former UNICEF Representative in Swaziland
 - Adoption of a draft report and a preliminary draft resolution
5. **To promote the participation of children in decisions concerning them**
Rapporteur: Mrs Minodora Cliveti, Romania, SOC
Doc. 10988
 - Presentation by the Rapporteur, Mrs M. Cliveti
 - UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre – presentation by Mr Trond Waage and Mr Ivar Frones
 - UNICEF Geneva Regional Office – presentation by Mr Hans Olsen
 - Presentation by Ms Elda Moreno, Council of Europe, programme co-ordinator, “Building a Europe for and with children (2006-2008) : objectives and activities of the programme as regards access of children to information and children participation”
 - Exchange of views

¹This draft agenda, addressed to members and alternates of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, to observers and special guests (copy to secretaries of national delegations), serves as the convocation to the meeting.

6. Work of UNICEF –Innocenti research Centre

- UNICEF 60th anniversary – presentations by Mr Jim Himes, Mr Mario Ferrari, Mr Jim Mohan
- Presentation of the report on "The State of the World's Children 2007" by Mr David Parker and Ms Jyoti Sanghera

13.00 Lunch at the invitation of the Innocenti Research Centre

14.30 Meeting reconvenes

7. The role of ethical and solidarity-based financing and responsible consumption in social cohesion

Mrs Gratiela Denisa Iordache, Romania, ALDE
AS/Soc (2006) 31 part I and II

Adoption of the draft report and a preliminary draft resolution

8. Protection of children against violence and other form of child exploitation and abuse

Rapporteur for opinion: Mrs Helena Bargholtz, Sweden, ALDE
Doc. 10660

- Presentation by the rapporteur, Mrs Helena Bargholtz
- Presentation by Mrs Marta Santos Pais, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
- Exchange of views

9. Situation of children living in post conflict zones in Europe

Rapporteur: Mr Bart van Winsen, Netherlands, EPP/CD
AS/Soc (2006) 23

- Presentation of the preliminary draft report by the Rapporteur, Mr van Winsen
- Presentation by Ms Saudamini Siegrist, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
- Exchange of views

10. The work programme of the Committee

AS/Soc (2006) 27 revised 2

10.1. Meeting reports

- Report by Mr Michael Hancock (United Kingdom, ALDE) on the Seminar on "Legal framework for adoption: putting children's interests first" (Moscow, 19-20 October 2006)
- Report by Mr Dirk Dees (Netherlands, ALDE) on the Pompidou Group Ministerial Conference (Strasbourg, 27 and 28 November 2006)

11 Other business

12. Date and place of next meetings

Strasbourg – 22-26 January 2007: 1st part-Session of the Assembly

Paris – 22 February 2007: Plenary Committee (to be confirmed)

Monaco – 15 March 2007: Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter (subject to approval by the Bureau of the Assembly)

Berlin – 22-23 March 2007: Plenary Committee (subject to approval by the Bureau of the Assembly)

17h00 End of meeting

Doc. 10988
27 June 2006

To promote the involvement of children in decisions concerning them

Motion for a recommendation
presented by Mrs Cliveti and Mrs Bargholtz and others

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

1. Human beings become citizens as soon as they are born. From birth, they enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, as set out in the European Convention. They may exercise most of these rights (with the exception of electoral rights) from the first second of their lives.
2. That is the theory. In practice, things are very different, for human beings between the ages of one day and 18 years exercise their rights through someone else, an adult who protects and represents them.
3. Children's rights are recognized in virtually all member states: there are specific laws on children's rights. We take an interest in our children, seeing them, and rightly so, as the future of humanity.
4. But we forget that children are part and parcel of humanity as it exists at present, and that the population under the age of 18 accounts for 15% of the population as a whole. Within this category, there are very different groups: tiny children, children whose capacity for discernment is not recognised, older children who may be arrested or given a criminal sentence, those who can marry, those who have children, those who are entitled to use their financial assets, and so on. In other words, "minors" have responsibilities, just like adults.
5. Yet, most of the time, children do not have direct access to the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Childhood is not a transition to life, but a key stage of life that lasts 18 years, during which the human personality is formed and consolidated.
6. It is for this reason that the signatories below propose that the Assembly analyse the way in which children are involved or otherwise in decision-making in the various member states and consider measures to be recommended to ensure their genuine, effective participation.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed ¹:

CLIVETI, Minodora, Romania, SOC BARGHOLTZ, Helena, Sweden, ALDE
ASPHJELL, Jorodd, Norway, SOC
DUPRAZ, John, Switzerland, ALDE
FAUTRIER, Catherine, Monaco, EPP/CD
FLYNN, Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
HANCOCK, Michael, United Kingdom, ALDE
HURSKAINEN, Sinikka, Finland, SOC
HUSS, Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
IBRAHIMLI, Fazail, Azerbaijan, ALDE
LALOY, Marie-José, Belgium, SOC
McCAFFERTY, Chris, United Kingdom, SOC
STANTCHEVA, Darinka, Bulgaria, ALDE

¹

SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group

Restricted
AS/Soc (2006) 31 part I
22 November 2006

Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

The role of ethical and solidarity-based financing and responsible consumption in social cohesion

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mrs Gratiela Denisa Iordache, Romania, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

A. Preliminary draft resolution

1. Europe's policies on social protection and social inclusion face major challenges. Global competition, the impact of new technologies and an ageing population shape the long-term policy context; weak growth, high unemployment and persistent inequalities need to be addressed in the short term.
2. Public authorities at national, regional and local level, especially in western Europe, have long recognised the existence and relevance of numerous forms of citizen commitment in the economy such as ethical use of financial resources (ethical finance) or responsible consumption initiatives (fair trade). In a number of European countries the social and solidarity-based economy is being seen increasingly as a necessary component in the economic and entrepreneurial "biodiversity" of our societies. While these civil society initiatives do not constitute an alternative development model in themselves, they are helping to reshape systems of regulation and governance, production and consumption.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly acknowledges the distinct importance of ethical, solidarity-based citizen involvement in the economy as an important prerequisite for social development and cohesion. At the same time, it underlines the importance of dialogue and collaboration between the public authorities and socially committed grassroots initiatives. In this regard, it welcomes the activities of the European dialogue platform on ethical and solidarity initiatives, a Council of Europe initiative (since 2004) to promote a dialogue between public authorities and civil society.
4. Ethical and solidarity-based financial mechanisms can contribute to social development in a number of ways eg by involving vulnerable social groups in economic processes at micro level and thus decreasing the unemployment rate or by encouraging financial institutions to focus on the ethical reinvestment of saving funds. Solidarity-based microfinance initiatives may respond directly to social needs and emergencies by providing funds for activities targeting areas in difficulty or persons who are excluded or in danger of becoming so, such as the unemployed, recipients of basic welfare benefits and social categories experiencing problems integrating (young people, women).
5. The Assembly welcomes in this respect the introduction of some social criteria in the rating of financial institutions (the so-called Basel 2 criteria) which may lead to a greater share of ethical and solidarity-based financial instruments – also by encouraging to set up agreements with associations in order to propose micro-credits for vulnerable social groups.

6. The Assembly also recognises the importance of the activities of European financial networks committed to ethical and solidarity principles, such as *The International Association of Investors in the Social Economy (INAISE)* or *the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers (FEBEA)* that promote the implementation of social cohesion programmes by financial initiatives.
7. Considering the proven capacity of the ethical and solidarity-based financial initiatives in some Council of Europe member States to create new work places and, as a consequence, to increase social cohesion, the Parliamentary Assembly encourages member States:
 - a. to recognise the authentic necessity to implement an ethical and solidarity-based finance programme in the South-Eastern European countries and to increase exchanges on good practices between countries and regions;
 - b. to introduce and promote social and environmental criteria in financial products (for instance, in pension funds);
 - c. to further the implementation of microcredit initiatives for vulnerable social groups;
 - d. to promote the Council of Europe's European dialogue platform on ethical and solidarity initiatives.

Restricted
AS/Soc (2006) 31 part II
22 November 2006

Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

The role of ethical and solidarity-based financing and responsible consumption in social cohesion

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mrs Gratiela Denisa Iordache, Romania, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

B. Explanatory memorandum

i. Financial mechanisms generating poverty and exclusion in Western and Eastern Europe

a. *Micro level*

1. The traditional banking system is quite reluctant to grant credit to population at risk, therefore it excludes a part of the population from economic initiatives such as consumption or entrepreneurship. As a result, it is relatively complicated for someone suffering from a kind of "financial exclusion" to improve his or her own self either by becoming self employed or by accessing some goods that allow him or her to enter the labor market, and thus he/she is reliant on public social benefits.

b. *Macro level*

2. On the other hand, the financial system as a whole is generating unexpected side effects. For instance, saving money in pension funds with only financial criteria and no ethical criteria may contribute to finance weapon production, polluting companies or enterprises which do not respect ILO norms. But the worst exclusion mechanism related to the conventional financial system is the impact of short-term profit maximization by financial institutions and the consequences of unemployment. The claim for 15% of benefits growth each year by the shareholders is putting unacceptable pressure on enterprises, which are in many cases obliged to close less profitable factories or departments to save profitability.

ii. The specific role of ethical and solidarity-based finance to combat poverty

3. By choosing to save their money in the ethical and solidarity-based finance system, the citizens will choose a system not only focused on profit maximization. Such a system contributes to the development of projects run by excluded people which allows them to enter in the productive economy and avoid financing activities that are not socially or environmentally sustainable.

iii. Where are we with Basel criteria?

4. Furthermore, the recent developments in the international banking regulation standards, the so-called Basel 2 criteria, are leading to the introduction of some social criteria in the rating of financial institutions. This led credit companies to set up agreements with associations to propose microcredit to vulnerable people.

II. The concept

i. Definitions

a. *Solidarity-based finance:*

5. The solidarity-based finance system is acting more at micro level, directly in relation with individuals. The main activity of the solidarity-based finance is to grant loans to vulnerable people who are carrying out projects in different fields such as developing economic activities for self-employment, either by granting micro-credit directly, or by guaranteeing the loans granted by traditional banks or finance institutions, or to associations running community or development projects, for instance.

6. Why is it called solidarity-based? The basic principle of the solidarity-based finance is the allocation of a certain percentage of the customers' savings profitability with the implicit agreement of the customer to grant micro-credit loans or other forms of economic support. There is a solidarity-based relationship between the customer and the beneficiaries via the action of the bank. Furthermore, the bank is giving support and assistance to the beneficiaries for them to run their project properly and to maximize the chance of success.

b. *Ethical finance:*

7. The ethical finance system is intended more specifically to work at a macro level. It is based on an ethical approach of classic finance, avoiding investments in some specified areas of economies or countries such as weapon industry, tobacco, polluting chemicals, or in non democratic countries or in companies convinced not to respect the human, labor and social rights. The aim of the ethical finance system is still to maximize profitability but giving the choice to customer to decide where their money will be invested.

8. However, the frontier between solidarity-based finance and ethical finance is not always very clear and depends on cultural and linguistical contexts. In Italy, for instance, solidarity-based is a concept which is also used by the mafia so that it is able to create confusion and the used name is ethical finance for all levels of intervention.

ii. Advantages

9. Governments could find advantages in supporting solidarity-based finance at two levels:

- First, it is a complement to social inclusion schemes, as it allows people living on benefits to run their own economic activity and to shift from "richness consumers" to "richness producers".
- Second, ethical finance is a more democratic option for the investment of one's money because it allows the choice between a system where the destination of the money is not known and a system where one knows that his money will not contribute to undesirable financial activities. (and more democracy should always be considered as a gift for governments.)

a. *Community level and local development*

10. Solidarity-based finance focuses mainly on proximity relations between savers and beneficiaries in the way that they are financing local projects with local money. It contributes to create social links and social cohesion.

b. *Financial system*

11. Ethical and solidarity-based finance can be seen as an advantage for the financial system itself because it is a reasonable approach of finance, not only based on profits and profitability for shareholders but rather on the use of the money, taking into account economic, social and environmental criteria. Furthermore, it allows access to credit to a broader scope of people, which enlarges the opportunity of banks to sell credits.

12. Finally, it gives better conditions in debt repayment as, if it does not grant loans directly, it guarantees the loans contracted, which gives a smoother position the debtors. Considering the hardest case of being over

indebted, solidarity-based finance can also be seen as an opportunity to support over indebted households while lending personal micro-credit with assistance and support.

iii. Level of development (see tables in appendices)

III. Examples of good practices and results

i. INAISE (The International Association of Investors in the Social Economy)

13. INAISE is a global network of socially and environmentally oriented financial institutions.

14. Created in 1989, INAISE has grown rapidly as the movement of social investors and gained importance, volume and visibility in a number of European and non-European countries. Through INAISE, social investors from Norway to South Africa and from Costa Rica to Japan have been joining forces to exchange experience, disseminate information and demonstrate to the world that money can actually be a means to achieve positive social and environmental change.

15. INAISE members, through their investment policy, foster and promote the development of organizations and enterprises:

- Environment and sustainable development: renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydro-energy; energy efficiency; organic agriculture, food processing and retailing; nature conservation; eco-building; clean technology;
- Social economy: co-operatives; community enterprises; employee participation; employee buy-outs; micro and small enterprise creation and development, especially among unemployed, migrants, women;
- Health-care: health centers; community care; clinics and hospitals; programs for the disabled; preventive therapies;
- Social development: social housing; community housing; employment generation; social services, community transport; charities; community groups and the voluntary sector;
- Education and Training: school buildings; training courses; organizational development; alternative schools;
- North-South: fair trade; small-enterprise start-ups through micro credit programs; small business training and counseling; crafts, farming, small scaled-industries;
- Culture and arts: artists; exhibitions, theatre; film; dance; local radios

ii. FEBEA (European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers)

a. *Federating to concretely develop a solidarity-based European finance*

16. Created in 2001, the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA – Fédération Européenne des banques éthiques et alternatives) is an association based in Brussels governed by Belgian law. Open to member countries of the European Union as well as applicant countries, it gathers financial bank and banking institutions whose aim is to finance social and solidarity-based economies.

17. The entrepreneurs of a solidarity-based economy – whether they are the long-term unemployed creating their own businesses, farmers starting up in organic produce, or directors of insertion enterprises – all have a point in common: they often have difficulty in obtaining financing from the traditional banking system. This is where the FEBEA can help: its members can offer these business managers their expertise and financing.

b. *Creating financial tools for solidarity, together*

18. The FEBEA is a place for exchange, sharing experiences and creating common tools to encourage the development of financial solidarity in Europe. Available to all FEBEA members who wish to participate, these tools are very diversified: guarantee funds ("Solidarity Guarantee"), investment fund ("Solidarity Choice") and also financing companies (European Ethical and Alternative Financing Company), etc.

19. All of these means have one common objective: ultimately, to create a refinancing bank for ethical and alternative financial institutions on a European scale.

c. *The platform and the internetwork*

20. Since 2004, the DGIII is running a European dialogue platform on ethical and solidarity initiatives in line with the Council of Europe Strategy for Social Cohesion which states that a society is cohesive and human rights are better protected when the stakeholders have a feeling of shared responsibility. Drawing on this idea of shared responsibility, the Council of Europe is currently promoting a dialogue between public authorities and civil society.

21. Therefore, the objective of this platform is to promote a dialogue between public authorities, represented within the Council of Europe by the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, as well as other intergovernmental bodies and the representatives of citizens' initiatives, in particular finance based on solidarity, responsible consumption and other forms of citizen commitment in the economy which contribute to social cohesion. The Liaison Committee of the INGOs enjoying participatory..

22. The activities of the platform are mainly based on:

- observatory work, gathering all the relevant information, practices and legislations to provide good awareness of the situation,
- promoting exchanges of information and good practices between countries
- analyzing certain specific themes and developing proposals and recommendations on these themes

23. The platform is run by a steering committee composed of a representative of all the Council of Europe institutions as well as representative from solidarity-based economy networks.

24. Those networks have expressed the need to set up a cross sectorial body in order to work together on the main objective of the platform, which is fighting poverty and social exclusion.

25. At the end of every year, a seminar is held in partnership with the autonomous province of Trento (Italy) to present the outcomes of the work and to share the knowledge and different relevant topics, like household over-indebtedness, information and awareness raising, partnership methodologies, and so on.

IV. The impact of this new concept

26. The impact of this concept has multiple aspects.

27. First, we can try to assess the social impact of this concept: using the economy through citizen initiatives as a tool of social policy. This is interesting in itself. By changing the finality of a pure economic scheme, you can turn it into a social policy scheme aimed at local, community and personal development as well as in a mainstream policy on social and environmental rights.

28. Secondly, the financial impact is also to be considered as the profitability performance of ethical finance is comparable to "usual" finance at macro level, and at micro level it broadens the accessibility of financial tools. Economically, the contribution of ethical and solidarity-based finance in year 2000 (invested amounts) was 400 million euros in Great-Britain, 130 million euros for Banca Etica in Italy and almost 7,5 billion euros in USA. Within the 400 million invested euros in Great-Britain, 200 million were devoted to support community development and 131 million to deprived community. The economic and social impact of solidarity-based finance on community support and development seems to be more than obvious.

29. Another important outcome of ethical and solidarity-based finance is the link to be made with the development of responsible consumption and sustainable development. Some financial boundaries still exist between responsible consumption projects and solidarity-based financial institutions, especially in Italy. Furthermore, ethical finance can itself be considered as responsible consumption as it takes into account social and environmental criteria.

V. How to approach an action plan

30. The situations in eastern and western Europe are quite different. In one case, you have established companies, institution and networks and in the other, an almost "virgin" land. It seems obvious that the needs are not the same in each case. In western Europe, there is a need for recognition of the impact of solidarity-based finance in terms of social/societal and economical outcomes and in the eastern Europe, there is a need for an alternative banking system allowing vulnerable people to access the financial market. However, both are related; if there is a recognition of the importance of those activities and support from public authorities, it will also allow the spreading of those good practices in eastern Europe and at the same time open an alternative financial market there.

31. It is also important to raise the awareness of European citizens that they can act in a democratic way in their everyday life, by making a choice between traditional finance system and this alternative, and therefore support the local and community development as well as the respect of international social, labor and environmental standards.

32. The role of all international institutions is important in that perspective, and a cooperation between them would give legitimacy to this alternative finance system as a complement to the traditional system and recognize a citizen-based complement to public inclusion policies.

33. The support of local authorities is also very important because, as solidarity-based finance is basically aimed at local level, the action undertaken should be done in partnership with local authorities as guarantors of the project to maximize the opportunities of success.

VI. Why the Council of Europe should be implicated

34. The role of the Council of Europe could be:

- recognizing the interest of ethical finance
- facilitating its recognition and favorable policies
- recommending concrete steps that should be taken by the governments
- promoting dialogue and proposal through the European dialogue platform on ethical and solidarity initiatives

VII. Recommendations

Recognition of the role of solidarity-based finance

Maximum credit rate (example of France)

Introduction of social and environmental criteria in financial products (for instance in pension funds)

Social cohesion European funds with citizens as contribution

Appendices

a. Solidarity-based financial tools classification

	Investment per project	Created jobs per projects	Investment per created jobs
Microcrédit	from 2 000 to 6 100 € +/- 4 000 € (average)	from 1 to 4,3 +/- 1,8 jobs (average)	from 1 300 to 6 100 € +/- 2 900 € (average)
Small credit	from 15 000 to 100 000 € +/- 34 000 € (average)	from 2 to 17 +/- 7,1 (average for the total) +/- 14 (average for social enterprises)	from 1 200 to 8 000 € +/- 4 100 € (average)
Average credit	from 30 000 to 160 000€ +/- 75 000 € (average)	from 1 to 7,8 +/- 3,7 (average)	from 19 000 to 25 000 € +/- 25 000 € (average)

b. Evolution of the activity of solidarity-based finance in France (number of projects)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	Variation 1997/2000
Guarantees accorded by France Active	195	276	270	301	54%
Contribution in fixed-capital (SIFA, FCP IE, paid-in contracts)	30	7	35	66	120%
Honor loans (territorial funds)	140	122	254	242	72%
ADIE loans	1279	1491	1636	2844	122%

c. Evolution of the total Socially Responsible Investment funds assets in Europe

Date	Capitalization (millions Euros)
1992	426
1996	1439
1998	2284
2001	3851

Source : IMA Unitrack Database

FIG 2 : Number of Socially Responsible Investment funds by country in 2000

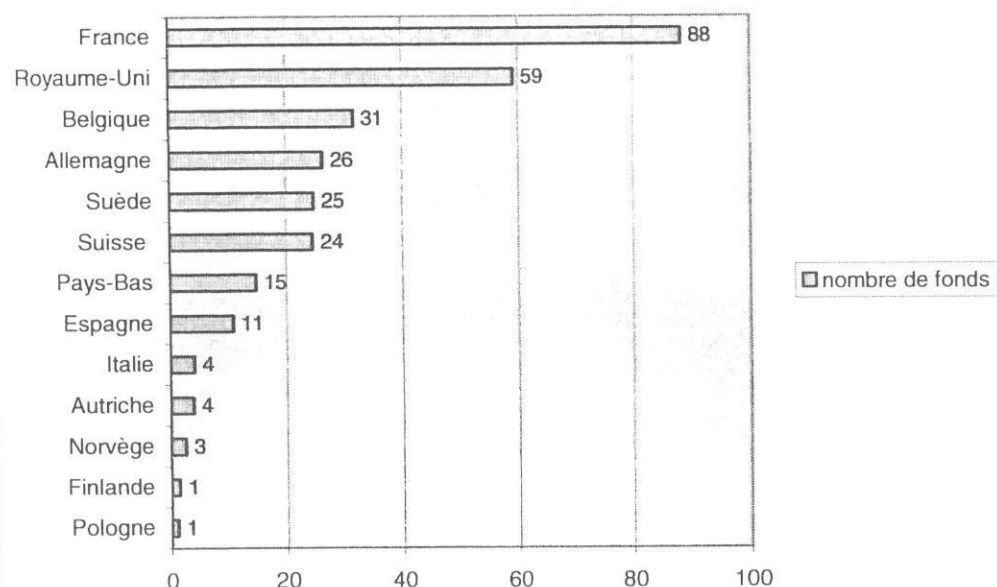


FIG 3 : Socially Responsible Investment funds assets in 2000 in Millions of euros

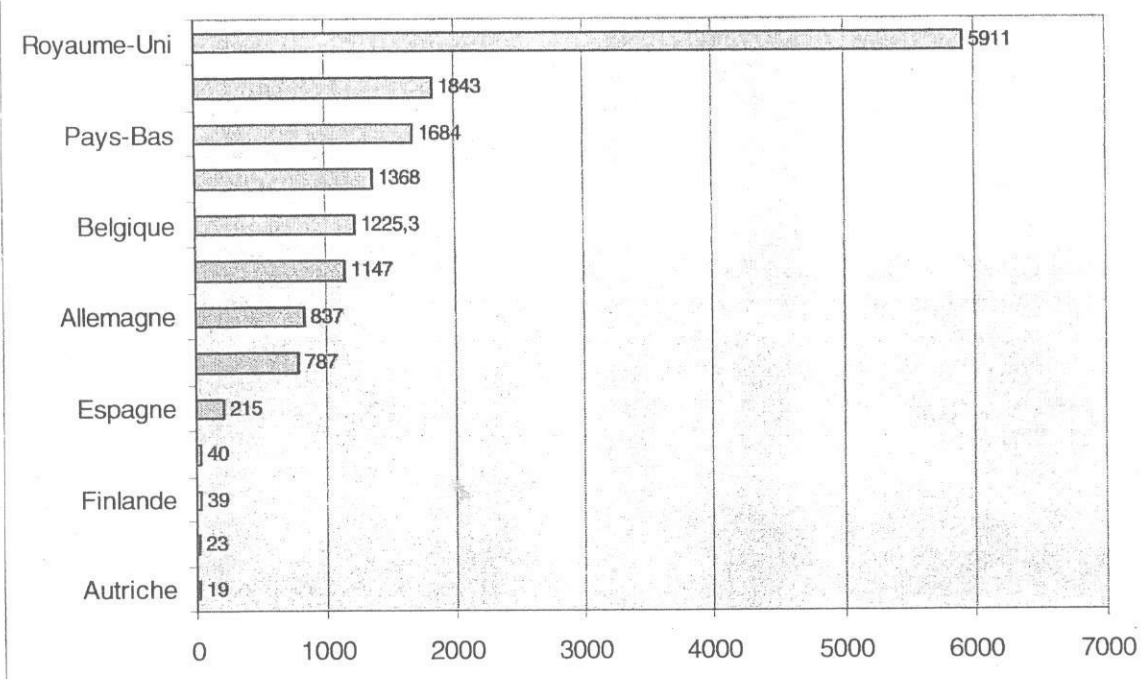
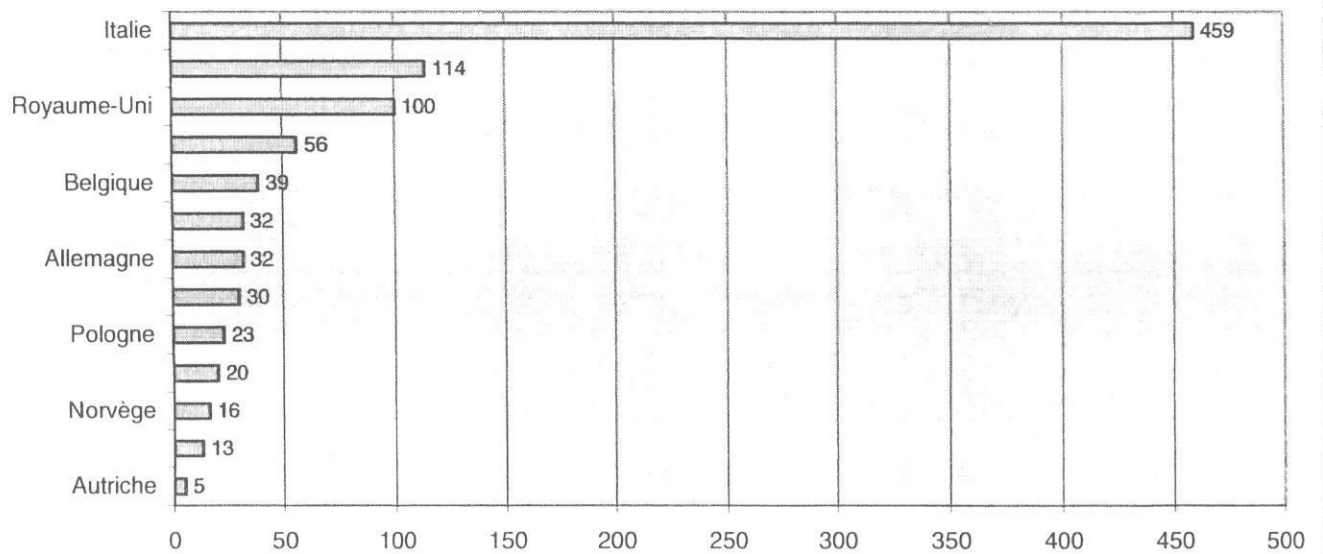


FIG 4 : Average Socially Responsible Investment funds assets by country in million of euros



d. Solidarity-based Finance activity indicators in some countries

Country/initiative	Amount in million €
France	
Raised savings	
NEF	44
Dépôt caisse solidaire NPC	4,5
Coopérateur caisse solidaire NPC	0,2
Actionneurs d'autonomie et solidarité	10,6
Total	50,3
Loans granted	
ADIE	10,7
NEF	12,4
Caisse solidaire	2,1
Total	25,2
Participation	
Autonomie et solidarité	1
France active paid-in contracts	0,2
Investement from "FCP Insertion emploi"	3,6
Contribution of the France active investment company	1,6
Total	6,4
United Kingdom	
Social or community development bank	200
Microcredit and deprived community aimed lendings	131,1
Venture capital	73,8
United States	
Social or community development bank	3278,7
Microcredit and deprived community aimed lendings	3762,3
Venture capital	339,3
Italy	
Banca Etica : lendings	56,8
Banca Etica : raised savings	88,8

source: ADIE



AS/ENA (2006) OJ 12 rev.
11 December 2006
AENAOJ_06_12rev

Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

REVISED DRAFT AGENDA

for the meeting to be held in PARIS
at the Council of Europe Office
(55 avenue Kléber, Paris 16^{ème} – *métro station Boissière*)
(tel: +33 (0) 1 44 05 33 60, fax: +33 (0) 1 47 27 36 47)

on Thursday 14 December 2006 (from 9.30 am to approx 5.30 pm)

1. Agenda
[AS/ENA (2006) OJ 12 rev.]

Adoption of the draft agenda

2. Minutes
[AS/ENA (2006) PV 11]

Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held in Paris on 21 November 2006

3. Statement by the Chair

This draft agenda, addressed to members of the Committee and their alternates, is the convocation to the meeting

Copy to Secretaries of national delegations

4. Agriculture and illegal employment in Europe

Rapporteur: Mr Dupraz, Switzerland, ALDE

[AS/ENA (2006) 59 rev., AS/ENA (2006) 57 rev, AS/ENA (2006) 64]

Exchange of views with the Rapporteurs for opinion of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population (Mrs **Mimount Bousakla**, Belgium, SOC) and the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee (Mr **Alain Cousin**, France, EPP/CD)

Adoption of a draft recommendation

5. Management of municipal solid waste in Europe

Rapporteur: Mr Preda, Romania, EPP/CD

[AS/ENA (2006) 61, AS/ENA (2006) 41]

Exchange of views with the participation of **Mr Martin Steiner**, Consultant (TBU Environmental Engineering Consultants Ltd., Austria)

Consideration of a preliminary draft resolution

At 11 am:

6. Steering Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR)

[CDLR (2006) 66 + 35 + 61]

Address by Mr **José Manuel Rodríguez Álvarez**, Chairman of the CDLR

Exchange of views

7. Regionalisation in Europe

Rapporteur: Mr de Puig, Spain, SOC

[AS/ENA (2006) 53 rev; CPR/SEM/REG (2006) OJ 01, CPR(13)4]

Exchange of views with the participation of Mr **Jean-Claude Van Cauwenberghe**, Chairman of the Ad hoc working group "Regions with legislative power" of the Congress

8. The fight against climate change and capture of carbon dioxide

Rapporteur: Mr Grachev, Russia, EDG

[AS/ENA (2006) 60, AS/ENA (2006) 23 rev 2, AS/ENA (2006) 62]

Consideration of a preliminary draft resolution

Exchange of views

9. Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure

Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Ivanov, Bulgaria, EPP/CD

Exchange of views

10. The state of human rights and democracy in Europe

[AS/Bur 68 + 86]

Appointment of a Rapporteur for opinion

Exchange of views

11. **Replies by the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee**
[AS/ENA (2006) 63]

Exchange of views

12. **Work programme of the Committee**
[AS/ENA (2006) 02 rev 11]

A. **Past events**
[AP/CAT (2006) 47 rev]

- 11th Ministerial session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Marrakech, 31 October 2006
- Joint meeting on "Enhanced energy security in Greater Europe": Committee on Economic Affairs and Development and European Parliament Industry Committee, Brussels, 28 November: *Mr Ivanov*
- 6th meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of member states of the CIHEAM, Cairo, 2-3 December: *Mr Schmied*
- Seminar of the European Dialogue Platform on Ethical and Solidarity-based Initiatives of citizens to fight against poverty and social exclusion, Trento (Italy), 4-5 December: *Mr Schmied*

B. **Forthcoming activities**

13. **Other business**
[Doc. 11059]

14. **Future meetings**

Strasbourg, 22-26 January 2007 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris (CoE Office), 23 February or 2 March 2007: *Full committee (to be decided)*

Strasbourg, 12-13 April 2007: *Full committee (on the occasion of the parliamentary Conference organised with the CALRE) (to be confirmed)*

Strasbourg, 16-20 April 2007 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris (CoE Office), 25 May or 1 June 2007 *Full committee (to be decided)*

Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2007 (during the Assembly part-session)

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

AS/Bur (2006) 90
2 November 2006

Bureau of the Assembly

Modifications relating to the first day of Assembly Part-Sessions as from 2007

1. On 6 October 2006, the Bureau agreed to modify the timing of meetings and of sittings during the first day of future Part-Sessions as follows:

- 8-9.30 am: meeting of the Bureau;
- 9.30-11.30 am: meetings of political groups;
- 11.30 am-1 pm: Opening plenary sitting of the Part-Session, credentials, adoption of the order of business, progress report;
- 2-3 pm: meetings of committees;
- 3-5 pm: Second plenary sitting of the Assembly, debates on reports
- 5-7 pm: meetings of political groups.

2. The only consequence as regards the Rules of Procedure is that the deadline for the speakers list of the Progress Report (debated during the first sitting on Monday morning) needs to be adjusted by the Bureau. It is proposed that it be fixed for **Monday at 10 am instead of 9.30 am** as provided by the Rules (see p. 92) so as to take account of the earlier meeting of the Bureau on Monday morning and the debate of the Progress Report later that same morning. In the same context, it should be noted that the content of the Progress Report will be simplified in order to adjust to the short deadline for publication.

3. Concerning the deadline for amendments to reports to be debated on Monday afternoon, the deadline will continue to be 12 noon of the same day, in accordance with the current rules (see p. 88 of the Rules of Procedure).

4. As regards the notification of substitution for the first sitting of the Part-Session is concerned, the deadline would be fixed as 10 am on Monday morning, by analogy with the current deadline of 8.30 am for a morning sitting opening at 10 am.

5. Furthermore, it is proposed that the traditional meeting of secretaries of national delegations be held on Monday at 10 am (instead of 11 am currently).

6. The Bureau is invited to approve the above-mentioned adjustments of the Rules of Procedure and practices to take account of the modifications relating to the first day of Assembly Part-Sessions as from 2007.

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



AS/Bur (2006) 68

1 September 2006

BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

Report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe: Roadmap for the preparation of the report

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of the President

I. INTRODUCTION

Further to the meeting of the Presidential Committee of 17-18 July 2006 in Maastricht, this memorandum contains a roadmap for the preparation of a report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe, based on the deliberations of the Committee to the effect that:

- the report would combine a thematic and a country-by-country approach,
- in addition to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (which is already seized) and the Monitoring Committee (through its annual progress report), other Committees would contribute to the debate, notably the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population.

II. ROADMAP

1. The debate – an annual parliamentary Summit on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe

The presentation of the report to PACE would be the occasion for a “Summit” on the state of Human Rights and Democracy bringing together the President of the Court of Human Rights and Council of Europe Human Rights mechanisms, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Venice Commission and other prominent figures from outside the Council of Europe (e.g. select number of key political figures, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Commissioner Frattini, heads of major NGOs and “think tanks”, etc) in a one-day debate in PACE.

Such a Summit could become an annual feature of PACE’s agenda, attracting large media coverage and generating high visibility for PACE’s and the Council of Europe’s leading role in promoting and consolidating Human Rights and Democracy Europe-wide.

2. The report – a blend of thematic and country-by-country approaches

The report would represent a blend of approaches: thematic and country-by-country.

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (to which the motion for a Resolution on a Council of Europe annual report on the state of Human Rights in Europe (doc. 10859 rev) has been referred) would take the lead responsibility for the thematic dimension, whereas the Monitoring Committee would take responsibility for the country-by-country elements.

The **thematic report** would draw from short contributions (3-4 pages) from the Court, the Commissioner for Human Rights and the other Human Rights mechanisms of the Council of Europe, outlining the key trends and concerns for the past year and what they see as key issues/challenges for the foreseeable future to be addressed. Some country situations might be mentioned merely to exemplify a given trend or concern. The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights could then prepare a political analysis based on these contributions and distil elements for inclusion in a draft Resolution/Recommendation for adoption on the occasion of the debate. Other Committees, in particular the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, would be asked to feed into this process, contributing key elements from their specific perspective. The main focus of the report and draft Resolution/Recommendation would be prospective and forward-looking, in line with PACE's pioneering role in stimulating public debate on key challenges to human rights and democracy and in promoting policy development and standard-setting in hitherto uncharted fields.

The **country-by-country report** would be an expanded version of the recent report attached to the annual progress report of the Monitoring Committee (doc. 10960) covering all member States (with the exception of the eleven states covered by this year's report), including States currently involved in a monitoring procedure or a post-monitoring dialogue. The relevant assessments of other Council of Europe bodies and institutions (the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Group of States against Corruption, the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the European Committee of Social Rights) would be compiled, country-by-country, up to the end of 2006. The Monitoring Committee would proceed with a political analysis of this comprehensive overview and distil elements for targeted country-specific recommendations for inclusion in a draft Resolution. Other Committees, in particular the Political Affairs Committee and Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, would also be given the possibility of injecting elements into this process. While the main thrust of the report would be descriptive, the targeted country-specific recommendations would be action-oriented, focusing on remedial and other action to be taken in the States concerned.

3. Preparation, timing and next steps

Several factors would militate in favour of placing the "Summit" during the April 2007 part-session of PACE, in particular the fact that the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights would be dependent on input from the Human Rights bodies of the Council of Europe which, in turn, would need to prepare and agree on their contributions at meetings towards the end of 2006/beginning of 2007. For its part, the Monitoring Committee would need to have a comprehensive overview compiled of the output of the various Council of Europe bodies and

institutions up to the end of 2006 as a basis for its work. In practical terms, both Committees would not be able to initiate their political analyses before early 2007; the other Committees would also need to be given an opportunity to feed into the process. January to April 2007 would therefore represent the bulk of activity in the Committees concerned, leading to adoption of draft texts by the Committees by the beginning of April 2007.

The April part-session would moreover allow a full day to be devoted to the "Summit", offering a highly visible platform to keynote speakers and PACE itself (whereas the list of invited guests for the January part-session is already significant and would leave little scope for a one-day event as envisaged).

As to the next steps, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, as requested by the Presidential Committee, has convened a meeting of the Secretariats of other Council of Europe bodies concerned with a view to discussing their contribution to this initiative. He will report orally to the Bureau on this meeting.

Following the decisions of the Bureau on this initiative, the Monitoring Committee and Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights could formally set the process in motion at their forthcoming meetings respectively on 14 and 15 September 2006.

AS/Bur (2006) 86
29 September 2006

Bureau of the Assembly

Report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

At its meeting on 6 September 2006 in Paris, the Bureau considered a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of the President, containing a roadmap for the preparation of the report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe (AS/BU(2006)68).

Following an extensive discussion, the Bureau:

- i. *approved the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of the President of the Assembly ;*
- ii. *decided to hold a debate on this issue at the April part-session 2007 following an assessment in January 2007 of the state of progress in the preparation of the report;*
- iii. *asked the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to implement the proposals contained in the above-mentioned memorandum with a view to preparing their respective contributions;*
- iv. *asked other Assembly committees to consider what contribution they might possibly make to the preparation of this report;*

II. Meetings of the Political Affairs Committee, Monitoring Committee and Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

At its meeting on 11 and 12 September 2006, in Gaziantep, the **Political Affairs Committee** took note of the Bureau's decisions. While acknowledging that, for the human rights dimension of the report, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human rights should assume the primary role, the Committee considered that it should be given the lead role as far as the state of democracy is concerned. The Committee accordingly asked its Chairman to request that it be given the lead role in preparing the report with regard to issues relating to democracy (see appended letter of 25 September 2006 of the Chairman).

For its part, the **Monitoring Committee** held an exchange of views on the decisions of the Bureau at its meeting on 14 September 2006 in Nafplion. It decided to contribute to this report through its annual progress report (see appended synopsis).

The **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, which met on 15 September 2006 in Nafplion, took note of the Bureau's decisions, held an extensive debate and asked its Chairman to inform the Bureau of the observations and positions expressed during the debate (see appended letter of 25 September 2006 of the Chairman). The main concern expressed during the debate was the possibility of producing a high quality contribution within a very tight time frame. The Committee considered that a serious assessment of the various contributions received for the thematic part of the report should be made in January 2007 and that, only then, a decision should be taken whether or not to hold the debate at the April 2007 part-session. There was also a consensus in the Committee that issues relating to the state of democracy in Europe are within the field of competence of the Political Affairs Committee.

III. Proposal for a revised scenario

In the light of the foregoing, the Bureau might wish to agree that:

- the report should comprise three main contributions:

- a **thematic report on the state of Human Rights** to be prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, drawing from contributions in particular from the various Human Rights bodies and mechanisms of the Council of Europe (Court of Human Rights, Commissioner for Human Rights, etc);
- a **thematic report on the state of Democracy** to be prepared by the Political Affairs Committee, drawing from contributions from various Council of Europe sectors (Venice Commission, etc);
- the **annual Progress Report** of the Monitoring Committee covering the second set of eleven countries not covered by a monitoring procedure or a post monitoring dialogue together with a brief summary concerning the 13 countries covered by a monitoring procedure or a post monitoring dialogue;

- all Assembly committees be invited to contribute to the report, through a reference to all Assembly committees for report on the parts of the text coming within their terms of reference ;

- the decision to hold the debate during the April 2007 part-session be confirmed or otherwise at the end of January 2007 in the light of the respective committees' assessment of the state of preparation of the report ;

- the question whether the contributions of the three committees principally concerned should result in one or several draft texts (Resolution/ Recommendation) be determined at the end of January 2007 in the light of the state of preparation of the report.

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Political Affairs Committee
Commission des questions politiques

The Chairperson

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



Ankara, 25 September 2006

Dear President,

At its meeting in Gaziantep on 11-12 September, the Political Affairs Committee took note of the decision by the Bureau to hold a debate on a report on *the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe* at the April 2007 part-session. The Committee was informed that the Bureau had asked the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to prepare contributions for this report, it being understood that other Assembly committees would be asked to contribute to the work of the two committees.

It is clear that, as regards the human rights dimension of the report, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights must assume the primary role. That said, the Committee considered that it should be given the lead role as far as the state of democracy is concerned.

As you are aware, the Committee has been dealing with topical issues of, and new challenges to, democracy through a number of reports. The Committee members thus believe that, when discussing the state of democracy, political aspects must be given proper consideration, and that the Political Affairs Committee constitutes the most appropriate framework for it.

Moreover, this would be fully in line with the terms of reference of the Committee which foresee that it shall consider, *inter alia*, questions relating to the functioning and development of democratic institutions in Europe and major political challenges to modern society.

I might also add that the Committee was at the origin of the Forum for the Future of Democracy. Through its Ad Hoc Sub-Committee, it played the leading role in preparing and conducting the first meeting of the Forum held in Warsaw in November 2005, and has been instrumental in preparing the second meeting to be held in Moscow on 18-19 October 2006.

In the light of the foregoing, the Committee asked me to request that it be given the lead role in preparing the report on *the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe* with regard to issues relating to democracy.

I would be grateful if you could bring this request to the attention of the Bureau, and I trust that you will support it.

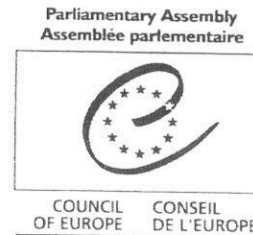
Yours sincerely,

Abdulkadir Ates

Mr René van der Linden
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
STRASBOURG

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States
of the Council of Europe (**Monitoring Committee**)
Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des Etats membres
du Conseil de l'Europe (**Commission de suivi**)



**FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HONOURING OF
OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(MONITORING COMMITTEE)**

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No. 2006/075

20 September 2006

**The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member
States of the Council of Europe**, meeting in Nafplion (Greece) on 14 September
2006 with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Follow-up to Resolution 1515 (2006) on the Progress of the assembly's monitoring procedure*: held exchanges of views with Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and with Mr Keith Whitmore, Chairman of the Institutional Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- *Report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in the Council of Europe member states*: held an exchange of views on the proposals of the Bureau and decided to contribute to this report through its annual Progress Report;
- *Post-Monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria* (Rapporteur: Mrs Severinsen, Denmark, ALDE): postponed the consideration of an information note upon the request of the Bulgarian delegation;
- *Bureau's call on the Slovak Government to intensify the fight against hate speech*: postponed the consideration of this item to its next meeting during the October 2006 part-session;
- *Next meetings*: decided to hold its next meetings:
 - in Strasbourg during the 4th part of the 2006 session (2-6 October 2006),
 - in Yerevan (Armenia), on 16 October 2006.

Caroline Ravaud, Despina Chatzivassiliou, Ivi-Triin Odrats

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme



The President

Strasbourg, 25 September 2006

Re: Assembly Bureau initiative aimed at the preparation of a report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe

Dear Mr van der Linden,

On 15 September 2006, following the discussion on the subject at the Assembly Bureau meeting on 6 September, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights also held an exchange of views on the Bureau's initiative aimed at the preparation of a report on the situation of human rights and democracy in Europe.

The committee took note of the "road map" proposed by the Bureau (document AS/Bur(2006) 68), presented by Ms Jane Dinsdale, and instructed me to inform you of the consensus on the subject among its members.

At the outset, I consider it important to draw your attention to the serious concerns voiced by the members as to the timetable proposed by the Bureau, which they regard as precipitate in view of the scale of the project.

The committee agrees with the Bureau that a large-scale event during an Assembly session ("Human Rights Summit") could indeed serve to raise the Council of Europe's profile in the area of human rights. The idea in itself is therefore excellent and a similar proposal has in fact already been made by Mr Rudolf Bindig. However – and the members are absolutely unanimous on this point – the quality of the discussions will depend on the quality of the documents (and therefore on their preparation). Mr Bindig's proposal has in fact already highlighted the practical difficulties of such an undertaking.

Mr René van der LINDEN
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

Cc: Mr Abdülkadir ATEŞ, Chair of the Political Affairs Committee
Mr Eduard LINTNER, Chair of the Monitoring Committee
Mr Christos POURGOURIDES, Rapporteur

Having been requested to consider a "*Council of Europe annual report on the state of human rights in Europe*" (Doc 10859 rev, Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides), the committee and its Sub-Committee on Human Rights have already had several opportunities to discuss the feasibility of such a project.

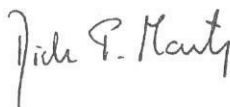
Our committee is of the opinion that the Monitoring Committee is indeed in a good position to present the outcome of its country-by-country work, although the planned timetable raises a few questions; it seems doubtful that four-yearly country reports would contain sufficiently up-to-date information.

As regards the thematic report expected of the Committee on Legal Affairs, a task of this kind obviously calls for substantial contributions from the different mechanisms working on the protection of human rights at the Council of Europe. The extremely limited resources of the committee's secretariat, already dealing with about 30 forthcoming reports whose importance I am bound to underscore, make it impossible to consider the preparation of an annual report satisfying the requisite standards of quality. The committee is convinced that as things stand, it would be impossible for the rapporteur to collect the extensive information required on the human rights situation in Europe. He might possibly undertake to analyse the contributions of the various sectors of the Council of Europe with a view to inferring the main trends and, with the committee's help, drawing political conclusions, without ruling out the possibility of referring to the situation in particular countries.

As regards the situation of "democracy in Europe", there was a consensus among our committee members that, although this topic was related to the concepts of human rights and rule of law, it was rather a matter for the Political Affairs Committee. Many speakers doubted whether it would be useful to discuss the situation of democracy together with that of human rights, as this would be likely to impair or dilute the quality of the debate and its media impact.

Lastly, in the lights of these considerations, we all agree that it will be necessary to make a critical, realistic assessment of the contributions received from the different sectors of the Council of Europe in January 2007 and only then to decide whether or not to hold a "Human Rights Summit" in April 2007.

Yours sincerely,
(signed)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick P. Marty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'M'.

Dick Marty



Provisional edition

Open and transparent voting in the Parliamentary Assembly

Resolution 1529 (2006)¹

1. In a democracy, which is fundamentally based on public debate and discussion, the accountability of parliamentarians is an essential requirement and a basic feature of the democratic system. It means that parliamentarians must answer for their actions to the institution they serve and to which they are accountable, although they are above all answerable to their electorates. Consequently, information on their activities and actions must be effectively available to the public.
2. The general public, and more particularly the electorate, the media and the various lobbies, are expressing a definite and growing interest in ascertaining the opinions voiced by representatives on specific crucial issues and how they have voted on them. This holds not only for the national level but also for the international parliamentary institutions. The publication of votes and the individual parliamentarian's explanation of his/her vote correspond to this need for transparency, which the development of electronic facilities and Internet are helping to meet.
3. The Parliamentary Assembly considers that it is important to respond to the public demand for greater transparency in the decisions taken by the Assembly. The publication of votes means making known not only the actual results but also the manner in which individual members have voted, and this is a vital part of such transparency.
4. It takes note of the Bureau's decision at its meeting on 6 September 2006, which was a first step in the right direction, to allow the names of members voting in the Assembly to be made public via the Assembly website from the October 2006 part-session onwards.
5. The Assembly considers that it is important to have a clear, precise rule, understood by all, applying to all members in a standard manner. Therefore, the Assembly feels that it is necessary to:
 - 5.1. publish numerical results of votes on texts for adoption in the minutes of proceedings of the sitting;
 - 5.2. publish in electronic form on the Assembly website the results of all voting, whether on texts for adoption, amendments, procedural motions, etc, stating the names of voters and the manner in which they voted.
6. Consequently, the Assembly decides to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly as follows:

¹ *Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 17 November 2006 (see Doc.11076, report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, rapporteur: Mr Cebeci).*

6.1. replace Article 39.4 with the following text:

"Only affirmative and negative votes shall count in calculating the number of votes cast. The President shall declare the voting closed and announce the result, which may not subsequently be modified. In case of an electronic vote, the numerical result shall be displayed publicly in the Chamber; the numerical results of votes on draft resolutions, recommendations and opinions to the Committee of Ministers shall also be recorded in the minutes of proceedings of the sitting."

6.2. insert the following new paragraph after Article 39.4:

"Where the vote takes place by means of the electronic voting system, members' individual votes shall be made public."

6.3. replace Article 39.5 with the following text:

"Voting by roll-call can only be requested if the electronic system cannot be used for technical reasons. It will be taken if at least one sixth of the Representatives of the Assembly authorised to vote, belonging to at least five national delegations, so request.¹"

[¹ The number of Representatives of the Assembly authorised to vote shall correspond to the number of seats allocated to each of the member states under Article 26 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, and to which appointments were made in accordance with Article 25 of the Statute and Rules 6 to 11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, excluding Representatives who have been deprived of their voting rights in the Assembly or whose voting rights have been suspended under Rule 7.3., 8.5. or 9.4. If the number of Representatives authorised to vote is not divisible by six, the number obtained as a result of the division is rounded down.]

6.4. replace Article 39.7 with the following text:

"Voting by roll-call shall proceed in the alphabetical order of the Representatives' names. Voting shall be by word of mouth and shall be expressed by "Yes", "No" or "abstention" only. The President shall ask whether all members have been called before declaring voting closed and announcing the result. The votes are recorded in the minutes of proceedings of the sitting in the alphabetical order of the Representatives' names."

7. The Assembly decides that the new provisions will come into force at the opening of the January 2007 part-session.

SESSIONS FIXEES POUR 2009
DATES OF SESSIONS IN 2009

ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Première partie de la session
Lundi 26 au vendredi 30 janvier
First part of the Session
Monday 26 to Friday 30 January Strasbourg*
- Deuxième partie de la session
Lundi 20 au vendredi 24 avril
Second part of the Session
Monday 20 to Friday 24 April Strasbourg*
- Troisième partie de la session
Lundi 22 au vendredi 26 juin
Third part of the Session
Monday 22 to Friday 26 June Strasbourg*
- Quatrième partie de la session
Lundi 28 septembre au vendredi 2 octobre
Fourth part of the Session
Monday 28 September to Friday 2 October Strasbourg*

SESSIONS FIXEES POUR 2010
DATES OF SESSIONS IN 2010

ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Première partie de la session
Lundi 25 au vendredi 29 janvier
First part of the Session
Monday 25 to Friday 29 January Strasbourg*
- Deuxième partie de la session
Lundi 26 au vendredi 30 avril
Second part of the Session
Monday 26 to Friday 30 April Strasbourg*
- Troisième partie de la session
Lundi 21 au vendredi 25 juin
Third part of the Session
Monday 21 to Friday 25 June Strasbourg*
- Quatrième partie de la session
Lundi 4 au vendredi 8 octobre
Fourth part of the Session
Monday 4 to Friday 8 October Strasbourg*

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

NOTE D'INFORMATION sur le projet "Extranet"

30 septembre 2006

L'Assemblée Parlementaire s'est doté d'une nouvelle application de type Internet : un espace de travail collaboratif informatisé à accès restreint (ou Extranet). Cet espace de travail (répertoires et sous-répertoires) permettra aux Membres de l'Assemblée parlementaire et aux secrétaires des Délégations nationales d'accéder aux documents de travail des Commissions et du Bureau pour les réunions en cours et à venir (ordre du jour, documents de commission, programmes, notes, formulaires, carnets de bord, etc.). Le site public de l'APCE continuera, quant à lui, de diffuser les mêmes types de documents et d'informations qu'aujourd'hui.

L'exploitation de l'Extranet permettra de limiter la distribution de documents de réunion par email, par fax ou par courrier postal. Les Parlementaires et les secrétaires des Délégations nationales n'accéderont à cette zone qu'avec un compte informatique et un mot de passe spécifiques. Ces informations utiles à la connexion et à l'exploitation du nouveau service seront distribuées au cours du mois de novembre. La phase de test débutera le 23 octobre et la mise en production est prévue pour début décembre 2006.

Pour toute information complémentaire sur ce sujet, vous pouvez contacter l'Unité des Technologies de l'Information au Secrétariat de l'Assemblée (it.unit@coe.int).

INFORMATION NOTE on the "Extranet" project

30 September 2006

The Parliamentary Assembly has implemented a new Web-based application, also called Extranet, which is a shared workspace for authenticated users. This shared workspace (with folders and sub-folders) will allow the Members of the Assembly and the secretaries of the national Delegations to access Assembly Committees' and Bureau's working documents and other business information for current and scheduled meetings (agendas, working documents, programmes, notes, forms, synopsis, etc). Public information will continue to be released over the public PACE Web-site as it is today.

The use of PACE Extranet will make it possible to gradually reduce emailing, faxing and postage of meeting materials. The Members of the Assembly and the secretaries of the national Delegations will be able to access this area using a specific user account and password. All necessary information on how to connect and to make use of the new service will be given in November. On our side, the test phase will start on October 23 and the official launching of Extranet is planned for the beginning of December 2006.

For any additional information on this matter, please contact the PACE IT Unit (it.unit@coe.int).

AS/Bur (2006) 86
29 September 2006

Bureau of the Assembly

Report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

At its meeting on 6 September 2006 in Paris, the Bureau considered a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of the President, containing a roadmap for the preparation of the report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe (AS/BU(2006)68).

Following an extensive discussion, the Bureau:

- i. *approved the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of the President of the Assembly ;*
- ii. *decided to hold a debate on this issue at the April part-session 2007 following an assessment in January 2007 of the state of progress in the preparation of the report;*
- iii. *asked the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to implement the proposals contained in the above-mentioned memorandum with a view to preparing their respective contributions;*
- iv. *asked other Assembly committees to consider what contribution they might possibly make to the preparation of this report;*

II. Meetings of the Political Affairs Committee, Monitoring Committee and Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

At its meeting on 11 and 12 September 2006, in Gaziantep, the **Political Affairs Committee** took note of the Bureau's decisions. While acknowledging that, for the human rights dimension of the report, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human rights should assume the primary role, the Committee considered that it should be given the lead role as far as the state of democracy is concerned. The Committee accordingly asked its Chairman to request that it be given the lead role in preparing the report with regard to issues relating to democracy (see appended letter of 25 September 2006 of the Chairman).

For its part, the **Monitoring Committee** held an exchange of views on the decisions of the Bureau at its meeting on 14 September 2006 in Nafplion. It decided to contribute to this report through its annual progress report (see appended synopsis).

The **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, which met on 15 September 2006 in Nafplion, took note of the Bureau's decisions, held an extensive debate and asked its Chairman to inform the Bureau of the observations and positions expressed during the debate (see appended letter of 25 September 2006 of the Chairman). The main concern expressed during the debate was the possibility of producing a high quality contribution within a very tight time frame. The Committee considered that a serious assessment of the various contributions received for the thematic part of the report should be made in January 2007 and that, only then, a decision should be taken whether or not to hold the debate at the April 2007 part-session. There was also a consensus in the Committee that issues relating to the state of democracy in Europe are within the field of competence of the Political Affairs Committee.

III. Proposal for a revised scenario

In the light of the foregoing, the Bureau might wish to agree that:

- the report should comprise three main contributions:
 - a **thematic report on the state of Human Rights** to be prepared by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, drawing from contributions in particular from the various Human Rights bodies and mechanisms of the Council of Europe (Court of Human Rights, Commissioner for Human Rights, etc);
 - a **thematic report on the state of Democracy** to be prepared by the Political Affairs Committee, drawing from contributions from various Council of Europe sectors (Venice Commission, etc);
 - the **annual Progress Report** of the Monitoring Committee covering the second set of eleven countries not covered by a monitoring procedure or a post monitoring dialogue together with a brief summary concerning the 13 countries covered by a monitoring procedure or a post monitoring dialogue;
- all Assembly committees be invited to contribute to the report, through a reference to all Assembly committees for report on the parts of the text coming within their terms of reference ;
- the decision to hold the debate during the April 2007 part-session be confirmed or otherwise at the end of January 2007 in the light of the respective committees' assessment of the state of preparation of the report ;
- the question whether the contributions of the three committees principally concerned should result in one or several draft texts (Resolution/ Recommendation) be determined at the end of January 2007 in the light of the state of preparation of the report.

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Political Affairs Committee
Commission des questions politiques

The Chairperson



Ankara, 25 September 2006

Dear President,

At its meeting in Gaziantep on 11-12 September, the Political Affairs Committee took note of the decision by the Bureau to hold a debate on a report on *the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe* at the April 2007 part-session. The Committee was informed that the Bureau had asked the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to prepare contributions for this report, it being understood that other Assembly committees would be asked to contribute to the work of the two committees.

It is clear that, as regards the human rights dimension of the report, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights must assume the primary role. That said, the Committee considered that it should be given the lead role as far as the state of democracy is concerned.

As you are aware, the Committee has been dealing with topical issues of, and new challenges to, democracy through a number of reports. The Committee members thus believe that, when discussing the state of democracy, political aspects must be given proper consideration, and that the Political Affairs Committee constitutes the most appropriate framework for it.

Moreover, this would be fully in line with the terms of reference of the Committee which foresee that it shall consider, *inter alia*, questions relating to the functioning and development of democratic institutions in Europe and major political challenges to modern society.

I might also add that the Committee was at the origin of the Forum for the Future of Democracy. Through its Ad Hoc Sub-Committee, it played the leading role in preparing and conducting the first meeting of the Forum held in Warsaw in November 2005, and has been instrumental in preparing the second meeting to be held in Moscow on 18-19 October 2006.

In the light of the foregoing, the Committee asked me to request that it be given the lead role in preparing the report on *the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe* with regard to issues relating to democracy.

I would be grateful if you could bring this request to the attention of the Bureau, and I trust that you will support it.

Yours sincerely,

Abdulkadir Ates

Mr René van der Linden
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
STRASBOURG

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States
of the Council of Europe (**Monitoring Committee**)
Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des Etats membres
du Conseil de l'Europe (**Commission de suivi**)



FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HONOURING OF OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (MONITORING COMMITTEE)

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No. 2006/075

20 September 2006

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, meeting in Nafplion (Greece) on 14 September 2006 with Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Follow-up to Resolution 1515 (2006) on the Progress of the assembly's monitoring procedure*: held exchanges of views with Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and with Mr Keith Whitmore, Chairman of the Institutional Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- *Report on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in the Council of Europe member states*: held an exchange of views on the proposals of the Bureau and decided to contribute to this report through its annual Progress Report;
- *Post-Monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria* (Rapporteur: Mrs Severinsen, Denmark, ALDE): postponed the consideration of an information note upon the request of the Bulgarian delegation;
- *Bureau's call on the Slovak Government to intensify the fight against hate speech*: postponed the consideration of this item to its next meeting during the October 2006 part-session;
- *Next meetings*: decided to hold its next meetings:
 - in Strasbourg during the 4th part of the 2006 session (2-6 October 2006),
 - in Yerevan (Armenia), on 16 October 2006.

Caroline Ravaud, Despina Chatzivassiliou, Ivi-Triin Odrats

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme



The President

Strasbourg, 25 September 2006

Re: Assembly Bureau initiative aimed at the preparation of a report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe

Dear Mr van der Linden,

On 15 September 2006, following the discussion on the subject at the Assembly Bureau meeting on 6 September, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights also held an exchange of views on the Bureau's initiative aimed at the preparation of a report on the situation of human rights and democracy in Europe.

The committee took note of the "road map" proposed by the Bureau (document AS/Bur(2006) 68), presented by Ms Jane Dinsdale, and instructed me to inform you of the consensus on the subject among its members.

At the outset, I consider it important to draw your attention to the serious concerns voiced by the members as to the timetable proposed by the Bureau, which they regard as precipitate in view of the scale of the project.

The committee agrees with the Bureau that a large-scale event during an Assembly session ("Human Rights Summit") could indeed serve to raise the Council of Europe's profile in the area of human rights. The idea in itself is therefore excellent and a similar proposal has in fact already been made by Mr Rudolf Bindig. However – and the members are absolutely unanimous on this point – the quality of the discussions will depend on the quality of the documents (and therefore on their preparation). Mr Bindig's proposal has in fact already highlighted the practical difficulties of such an undertaking.

Mr René van der LINDEN
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

Cc: Mr Abdülkadir ATEŞ, Chair of the Political Affairs Committee
Mr Eduard LINTNER, Chair of the Monitoring Committee
Mr Christos POURGOURIDES, Rapporteur

Having been requested to consider a "*Council of Europe annual report on the state of human rights in Europe*" (Doc 10859 rev, Rapporteur: Mr Pourgourides), the committee and its Sub-Committee on Human Rights have already had several opportunities to discuss the feasibility of such a project.

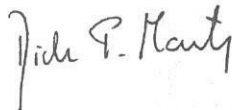
Our committee is of the opinion that the Monitoring Committee is indeed in a good position to present the outcome of its country-by-country work, although the planned timetable raises a few questions; it seems doubtful that four-yearly country reports would contain sufficiently up-to-date information.

As regards the thematic report expected of the Committee on Legal Affairs, a task of this kind obviously calls for substantial contributions from the different mechanisms working on the protection of human rights at the Council of Europe. The extremely limited resources of the committee's secretariat, already dealing with about 30 forthcoming reports whose importance I am bound to underscore, make it impossible to consider the preparation of an annual report satisfying the requisite standards of quality. The committee is convinced that as things stand, it would be impossible for the rapporteur to collect the extensive information required on the human rights situation in Europe. He might possibly undertake to analyse the contributions of the various sectors of the Council of Europe with a view to inferring the main trends and, with the committee's help, drawing political conclusions, without ruling out the possibility of referring to the situation in particular countries.

As regards the situation of "democracy in Europe", there was a consensus among our committee members that, although this topic was related to the concepts of human rights and rule of law, it was rather a matter for the Political Affairs Committee. Many speakers doubted whether it would be useful to discuss the situation of democracy together with that of human rights, as this would be likely to impair or dilute the quality of the debate and its media impact.

Lastly, in the lights of these considerations, we all agree that it will be necessary to make a critical, realistic assessment of the contributions received from the different sectors of the Council of Europe in January 2007 and only then to decide whether or not to hold a "Human Rights Summit" in April 2007.

Yours sincerely,
(signed)



Dick Marty



AS/SecDel (2006) OJ 5
23 November 2006

Meeting of Secretaries of National Delegations

Draft agenda

of the meeting to be held on
Friday 15 December 2006 from 2.30 pm to 6 pm

Council of Europe Office (55 avenue Kléber, Paris 16e)

12.30 pm **Lunch** hosted by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
(*Restaurant of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, 21 bis rue La Pérouse - 75016 Paris*
Tel : +333 143 176 699)

2.30 pm

- 1. The Parliamentary Assembly seen from the perspective of national parliaments**
 - a. Introduction by Ms Sonja Langenhaeck, Secretary of the National delegation of Belgium to the CE
 - b. Exchange of views
- 2. First part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly, 22 – 26 January 2007**
 - a. Draft order of business
 - b. New organisation of part-sessions
 - c. Recent modifications of the Rules of Procedure [Resolution 1529 (2006)]
 - d. Stepping-up of security measures in the Palais
- 3. "Extranet" project (access to Committees' documents)**
- 4. Future activities of the Parliamentary Assembly**
 - a. Parliamentary Assembly report on the State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe
 - b. Forthcoming conferences:
 - Conference on the Parliamentary Dimension of Election observation: Applying Common standards (Strasbourg, 15-16 February 2007)
 - Joint conference with the CIS Parliamentary Assembly on "Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue" (St Petersburg, 31 May-1 June 2007)
- 5. Other business**
- 6. Date and place of the next meeting**

To Secretaries of National Delegations.
This document is also the convocation to the meeting.

AS/SecDel (2006) OJ 5

23 November 2006

Meeting of Secretaries of National Delegations

Draft agenda

of the meeting to be held on
Friday 15 December 2006 from 2.30 pm to 6 pm

Council of Europe Office (55 avenue Kléber, Paris 16e)

12.30 pm **Lunch** hosted by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
(*Restaurant of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, 21 bis rue La Pérouse - 75016 Paris*
Tel : +333 143 176 699)

2.30 pm

- 1. The Parliamentary Assembly seen from the perspective of national parliaments**
 - a. Introduction by Ms Sonja Langenhaeck, Secretary of the national delegation of Belgium to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
 - b. Exchange of views
- 2. First part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly, 22 – 26 January 2007**
 - a. Draft order of business
 - b. New organisation of part-sessions
 - c. Recent modifications of the Rules of Procedure [Resolution 1529 (2006)]
 - d. Stepping-up of security measures in the Palais
- 3. "Extranet" project (access to Committees' documents)**
- 4. Future activities of the Parliamentary Assembly**
 - a. Parliamentary Assembly report on the State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe
 - b. Forthcoming conferences:
 - Conference on the Parliamentary Dimension of Election observation: Applying Common standards (Strasbourg, 15-16 February 2007)
 - Joint conference with the CIS Parliamentary Assembly on "Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue" (St Petersburg, 31 May-1 June 2007)
- 5. Other business**
- 6. Date and place of the next meeting**

To Secretaries of National Delegations.
This document is also the convocation to the meeting.