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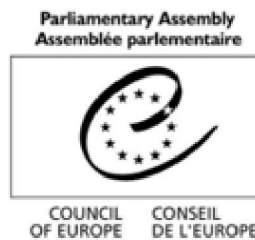
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Parliamentary Assembly
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Doc. 10592

21 June 2005

Parliamentary questions for oral answer

Discussion of the communication on the activities of the Committee of Ministers

1. Mrs Durrieu,

Considering that progress in human rights and the rule of law constitutes the very identity of the Council of Europe and has been its primary achievement for over fifty years...

Considering that paragraph 8 of this document validates the plan for a future "European Union Human Rights Agency" and describes the plan as a contribution "to greater coherency and complementarity",

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

Whereas human rights must not be hampered by any intra-European boundaries between the Union of the 25 and the Council of the 46, and whereas human rights come fundamentally under the jurisdiction of the Council of Europe...

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2. Mr Holovaty,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

Why no real follow-up action has been taken to the findings of the Secretary General's experts' - supplemented by information compiled by the Heidelberg-based Max-Planck Institute - in which the "freedom of expression and information" situation in a number of member states was classified as giving rise to serious concern?

It is certainly useful to transmit this matter to the intergovernmental steering committee (CDMM), but should not the Committee of Ministers openly provide the parliamentarians with copies of these findings, including the experts recommendations based on their on-the-spot investigations?

So far, only 3 (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), of a dozen or so such reports have been declassified. Should not all these documents be made available to the Assembly.

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3. Mr Nasufi,

Noting that both the ruling parties and the opposition have no doubts and different attitudes regarding the integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU. As an

opposition, a reason for this we see the interethnic cohesion, democratic and economic progress of the country;

Noting, however, that the general assessment of the last local elections is that they have been organized in the worst manner for a pluralistic Macedonia,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

How does the Committee of Ministers appreciate this matter and the consequences for the Republic of Macedonia.

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4. Mr McNamara,

"In view of the written reply by the then Chairman of the Committee of Ministers to the question I asked during the January 2005 part-session on the abuse of diplomatic assurances in extradition cases, and noting that the answer shared my view that it could be useful to initiate reflection by the Council of Europe about problems resulting from the practice of diplomatic assurances, with a view to identifying possible guidelines or best practices in this matter,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

What, if anything, has the Committee of Ministers done since January to initiate such reflection.

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5. Mr Jurgens,

Considering that in October 2004 the Strasbourg Court ruled that the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine, by refusing to register Mr Melnychenko to stand for elections in 2002, had violated the European Human Rights Convention;

Considering that on 4 June 2005 the Central Electoral Commission refused to annul its decision not to register Mr Melnychenko,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

In which way would the Committee of Ministers be willing and able to ensure that the principle of "restitutio in integrum" is respected, so that – retrospectively – the validity of the candidacy of Mr Melnychenko to stand for elections in 2002 is upheld.

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6. Mr Cubreacov,

Drawing the attention of the President of the Committee of Ministers to the fact that on its accession to the Council of Europe the Russian Federation has undertaken a number of commitments, among which "to denounce as wrong the concept of two different categories of foreign countries, whereby some are treated as a zone of special influence called the "near abroad";

Noting, however, that this concept has never been denounced by the Russian authorities;

Deploring quite opposite trends, most vivid examples of which are interference in the electoral process in Ukraine and Moldova, threatening with economic sanctions, as well as support of separatist regimes in the so-called "near abroad",

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

What actions has the Committee of Ministers undertaken to supervise fulfilment of this commitment by the Russian Federation.

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7. Mr Mota Amaral,

Considering that one of the Portuguese Chairmanship's main priorities is to ensure acknowledgment of the cultural dimension as one of the mainstays of democratic values,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

What action is the Committee of Ministers intending to take on this matter, where the new member States and their neighbouring countries are concerned.

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8. Mr Van den Brande,

Considering the need, in particular following the Third Summit, for the Assembly to discuss political developments and issues of common concern with the Committee of Ministers,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

Whether he agrees on the political desirability of holding a meeting of the Committee of Ministers at Ministerial level in November 2005, in particular to discuss the follow-up to the Third Summit.

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9. Mr Cox,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

What recent discussions has the Committee of Ministers had, and with whom, on issues that concern a member state of this Assembly, namely Cyprus.

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10. Mr Atkinson,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

If he will make a statement on the progress of the "Ago Grup" on Nagorno-Karabakh.

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11. Mr Pourgourides,

In view of the continuing grave human rights violations in Chechnya, notably the numerous disappearances of civilians, and the harassment, in some cases even murder, of applicants to the European Court of Human Rights and of human rights activists, which are allegedly committed by federal or Chechen Government forces (according to Memorial data, 415 Chechen civilians were abducted in 2004, and this year, by the end of March, the number of abductions had reached 52),

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

What is the Committee of Ministers' response to this situation, and how is the implementation of the co-operation programme in the Chechen Republic, mentioned in the reply to a question during the April part-session, progressing.

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12. Mr Cilevičs,

Considering that In the Action Plan adopted at the Warsaw Summit, member States pledged to ensure that adequate training in the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is fully integrated into university education and professional training, and they decided to launch a European programme for human rights education for legal professionals.

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

How and when will such a programme be implemented.

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13. Mr Lloyd,

Considering the persistent structural problem of excessive length of judicial proceedings in Italy highlighted over the past fifteen years by thousands judgments or decisions findings violations of the European Convention on Human Rights;

Deploring that the aforementioned judgments and decisions are still pending before the Committee of Ministers without being implemented by Italy;

Considering furthermore Italy's continued failure to ensure redress for the violations of the Convention through reopening of domestic proceedings, notably in the Dorigo case, where the applicant has been suffering for many years from a gross violation of his right to a fair trial,

To ask the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers:

Whether the Committee agrees that some urgent special procedures should be taken vis-à-vis this persistent non-execution of the Court's judgments by Italy, which endangers the credibility of the Convention and of the Organisation as a whole.

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14. Mr Ferro Rodrigues,

Considering that the European construction process is going through a serious crisis and that the inability to mobilise European citizens is directly proportional to political inability to formulate an ideal and above all a practical solution that outweighs strictly national interests;

Considering that after the Brussels Summit the political crisis has been compounded by a financial crisis in a context of economic weakness and serious social problems, and that the role of the European Union for the future of all of Europe is now the weaker for it,

To ask the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers,

In this context, what role can the Council of Europe play to help the EU leaders set the scene for renewed dynamism and hope as swiftly as possible, and how will the Portuguese Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and the British Presidency of the European Council work together between July and November towards that goal.

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15. Mr Melnikov,

During the discussion of [Resolution 1433](#) (2005), "Lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantanamo Bay", there was in particular adopted paragraph 11 about the continuation of studying this matter through bilateral dialogue with the US Congress;

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

What has been done by the Committee of Ministers in this regard and what is planned.

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16. Mr Bruce,

Following the publication of the role of sign languages in member states,

To ask the Chairperson of Committee of Ministers,

What steps the Committee of Ministers will now take to draw up a legal instrument to protect and promote sign languages within member states.

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17. Mr Gross,

Following the Standing Committee's discussions in Lisbon two weeks ago,

To ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers,

Whether he knew of any reports on the benefits to Portugal of the Council of Europe's commitment during the country's democratic transition and, if not, whether he had decided to commission such a report.

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