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Parliamentary Assembly
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23 September 1998

Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member States of the Council of Europe

Notes for the Chair

for the meeting to be held *in camera* in Strasbourg on Thursday 24 September 1998 at 2.00 pm (Room 10)

Welcome members and transmit to them the regards of Mr de Marco who when taking leave of the Committee, earlier today, formally invited them, in his capacity as Foreign Minister,for a meeting in Malta on dates to be arranged.

1. AGENDA AS/Mon (1998) OJ 09rev. 2

Propose adoption of the agenda.

Draw attention to the synopsis of the last meeting (Monday, 21 September 1998) which is in the files.

2. TURKEY AS/Mon (1998) 41
co-rapporteurs: MM. Bársony and Schwimmer

approval of a preliminary draft information report

Give the floor to the two Rapporteurs to present briefly their preliminary draft information report. The report was distributed to all members last Monday so members had already had the chance to read it.

Then, give the floor to the Turkish delegation for a brief statement.

After a short discussion, the Committee should then approve the document for transmission to the Turkish delegation for comments. The delegation will have three months to submit them, following which the Committee will

consider them, if appropriate, adapt the draft information report and approve it for presentation to the Assembly in January 1999.

***[Not to be read** : If there are any difficulties with the present text the Committee could simply take note of it– without approving it – and decide on transmission to the delegation (as it has already been the case with the preliminary draft report for Croatia).*

It is imperative to decide on transmission today so that comments by the Turkish delegation could be received in time to allow that a debate be held at the Assembly in January 1999.]

3. ALBANIA

co-rapporteurs: MM. van der Linden and Sole Tura

Doc. 8208

Statement by the rapporteurs

Recall that, at its last meeting, the Committee had taken note of « the rapporteurs' readiness to go to Tirana whenever this would be useful ». Such a visit had indeed been planned from 15 to 16 September 1998.

At its meeting of last Monday (14 september), in the morning, the Bureau of the Assembly decided that the rapporteurs could travel to Tirana only if their security could be guaranteed. Given the deterioration of the situation in the hours that followed the Bureau's meeting, the President of the Assembly decided that the condition fixed by the Bureau was no longer met and the trip to Tirana was cancelled.

An urgent debate on the latest developments in Albania will take place later this afternoon in the Assembly. The draft recommendation adopted by the Political Affairs Committee is in the files together with five amendments.

The Committee could have an exchange of views on the situation in Albania and Mr van der Linden's report. If he is present, he will probably also wish to take the floor.

4. FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

co-rapporteurs: Mrs Gelderblom-Lankhout and....

- appointment of a co-rapporteur
- preparation of a fact-finding visit

Two members have approached the Secretariat expressing their interest : Mr Ramirez Pery (Spain, EPP/DC) and Mr Dimitrescu (Romania, SOC)

Since the former rapporteur was Mr Berceanu, Socialist from Romania,the appointment of Mr Dimitrescu would not disturb the established balance amongst Political Groups and countries (in fact Mr Berceanu was the only Romanian rapporteur of the Committee). Therefore, propose (or support the proposal of) Mr Dimitrescu.

[NB. Criteria for appointment of co-rapporteurs :
They should come from two different countries and not from a country neighbouring to the one under monitoring or a country having a specific relationship with it and they should belong to two different Political Groups.]

Ask Mrs Gelderblom-Lankhout to inform the Committeee about preparations of the visit in October on the occasion of the forthcoming elections.

5. MOLDOVA

co-rapporteurs: Mr Columberg and Mrs Durrieu

preparation of a fact-finding visit

Give the floor to the rapporteurs to inform the Committee about arrangements for a visit to the country end October. The Committee should authorise such a visit.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

*The rapporteurs on **Bulgaria** (MM Gjelleroed and Atkinson) ask the authorisation of the Committee to transmit some Bulgarian laws for expertise by the appropriate bodies of the Council of Europe.*

Mr Kelam, rapporteur for Ukraine, requests the authorisation of the Committee for a trip to Brussels next week in order to meet the rapporteur of the European Parliament on Ukraine.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place

in Strasbourg, on 4 November 1998, at 3 pm, after the Standing Committee meeting.

*The Dutch delegation has invited the Committee to hold a meeting in the Hague **on 27 November 1998** in order to meet Mr Van der Stoel, High Commissioner of the OSCE for the National Minorities. Inform the Committee that at the same date the Political Affairs Committee holds a meeting in udapest. Mrs Gelderblom-Lankhout may wish to add something.*