

Nyt fra E u r o p a r å d e t

Opdatering oktober og kalender november
Pressemeddelelse DK 13/04, 1. november 2004

Monaco optaget som Europarådets 46. medlemsstat

Strasbourg, 05.10.2004 – The ceremony for the accession of the Principality of Monaco to the Council of Europe took place this afternoon in Strasbourg, and was welcomed by the leaders of the Organisation.

The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen, said: “With the accession of Monaco, the Council of Europe is closer than ever to the goal set up by its first Summit, in Vienna in 1993: to bring together, on an equal footing and in permanent structures, all European democratic countries. The Third Summit, in Warsaw next year, will give us the opportunity to celebrate Europe’s unity”.

Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis said: “The accession we celebrate today puts an end to a regrettable absence. The geographical position, history, culture and traditions of Monaco make it an integral part of European civilisation. It shares Europe’s fundamental values, and it is natural, therefore, that Monaco should enter the Council of Europe. “In joining us, Monaco is becoming part of – and contributing to – a shared European future. Not the future of an ‘old’ or ‘new’ Europe, but the future of one Europe,” added Mr Davis.

Council of Europe leaders welcome the signing of EU Constitution

Strasbourg, 29.10.2004 – Foreign Minister of Norway, Jan Petersen, in his capacity as Chairman of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly President Peter Schieder and Secretary General of the 46-nation Organisation Terry Davis welcomed the signing of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe in Rome today as a significant step in the European integration process.

“Implementation of the Treaty will be a decisive step towards a stronger and more effective Europe and will have important consequences for our continent as a whole,” they said. “We particularly welcome the Treaty’s provision clearing the way for EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. This will not only link the 25-member European Union and the 46-nation Council of Europe, but it will make a crucial contribution to creating a coherent system of human rights protection in Europe, based on common standards and safeguards,” stressed Council of Europe leaders.

The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe expresses serious concern about the parliamentary elections in Belarus

Strasbourg, 19.10.2004 - Reacting to the parliamentary elections in Belarus, Jan Petersen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, expressed serious concern. “The electoral process failed to meet European standards. Another opportunity has been missed to bring Belarus closer to the European family”, said Mr Petersen.

The importance of free and fair elections as a means of bringing Belarus closer to the Council of Europe, for which Belarus is a candidate state, has repeatedly been stressed by member states of the organisation. Foreign Minister Petersen also recalled the deep concern expressed by the Committee of Ministers on the issues of disappeared persons and lack of freedom of the press in Belarus.

“Eight years have passed since the previous referendum and developments in Belarus have only increased the country’s isolation. The Belarusian people deserves a better future”, concluded Mr Petersen.

First legal recommendation on e-voting adopted by Council of Europe Committee of Ministers

Strasbourg, 30.09.2004 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers today agreed the first international legal text on e-voting in elections and referendums.

The recommendation sets out a blueprint for governments planning to use new technologies for future elections and referendums. It is based on experience gathered by the Council of Europe through pilot projects in several member states and know-how collected from legal and technical experts from nearly all 45 member states.

The legal and technical guidelines of the Council of Europe indicate how to build, run and supervise e-voting systems to ensure that results are as reliable as those delivered by traditional paper-based methods. The Council's recommendation emphasises the need for new voting methods to meet the principles of universal and equal suffrage, free and secret ballots and for the systems to be secure, transparent and accountable. It covers issues such as electoral lists, information to voters and vote counting.

Den Parlamentariske Forsamlings vedtagelser på efterårs-sessionen (Strasbourg, 4.-8. oktober)

- RES 1396 The Doha Development Agenda: world trade at a crossroads (doc. 10278)
- RES 1397 Functioning of democratic institutions in Serbia and Montenegro (doc. 10281)
- RES 1398 Implementation of Resolution 1358 (2004) on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan (doc. 10285)
- REC 1675+ European strategy for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights
RES 1399 (doc. 10266)
- REC 1676 Women's participation in elections (doc. 10202)
- REC 1677+ Challenge of terrorism in Council of Europe member states (doc. 10312)
RES 1400
- RES 1401 OECD and the world economy (doc. 10254)
- REC 1678+ The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in
RES 1402 accordance with Council of Europe standards (doc. 10283)
- REC 1679+ The human rights situation in the Chechen Republic (doc. 10283)
RES 1403
- RES 1404 The humanitarian situation of the Chechen displaced population (doc. 10282)
- RES 1405 Implementation of Resolution 1361 (2004) and 1374 (2004) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia (doc. 10286)
- RES 1406 Global warming: beyond Kyoto (doc. 10277)
- REC 1680+ New concepts to evaluate the state of democratic development (doc. 10279)
RES 1407

- REC 1681 Campaign to combat domestic violence against women in Europe (doc. 10273)
- REC 1682 Education for Europe (doc. 10203)
- REC 1683 Population trends in Europe and their sensitivity to policy measures (doc. 10182)

PACE to establish a Round Table to follow human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Chechen Republic

Strasbourg, 07.10.2004 - The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) today agreed to proceed with the establishment of a Round Table to organise an exchange of views with political parties and politicians from the Chechen Republic and the federal authorities of Russia in order to follow developments regarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the Republic, but decided that those "who refuse to recognise the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, and who declare terrorism a method to achieve goals" cannot be participants.

Following a joint debate on three separate reports on the political, human rights and humanitarian situations in the Republic, with the participation of Chechen President Alu Alkhanov, PACE said that the priority for the political leadership in Chechnya should be "to ensure that the law is enforced and applied throughout the Chechen Republic equally to everybody".

Approving a report on the political situation in Chechnya (Rapporteur: Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC), it also proposed the collection of weapons, greater efforts to fight organised crime, increased support for civil society in the region and transparency for the media.

In a separate report on the human rights situation (Rapporteur: Rudolf Bindig, Germany, SOC), PACE condemned all criminal acts constituting serious human rights violations committed by all sides, in particular the "horrific bloodbath" of the Beslan hostage-taking. "There can be no excuse whatsoever for any such attacks on innocent civilians," the parliamentarians said.

However, they added that the continuing massive violations of human rights in the Republic were "by far the most serious human rights issue in any of the Council of Europe's member states", and declared that the credibility of the whole organisation depended on its ability to convince the Russian Federation to meet its commitments.

Russia should end the "climate of impunity" which still prevailed in Chechnya, PACE said, urging that there be "a clear signal" from the highest political level that all security and law enforcement officials must respect human rights. It also expressed outrage that serious crimes had been committed against people applying to the European Court of Human Rights.

Turning to the humanitarian situation of the Chechen displaced population (Rapporteur: Tadeusz Iwinski, Poland, SOC), PACE said this remained "very precarious" but pointed out that all unsatisfactory refugee camps in Ingushetia had closed and that cottages were being constructed, and noted development in the process of paying compensation to families who lost property. The parliamentarians called for the convening of a consultative conference on how resources for rebuilding in Chechnya could be used most effectively.

Tre islandske ratifikationer

Island ratificerede den 12. oktober konventionen om menneskerettigheder og biomedicin (ETS 164) og dens to tillægsprotokoller om henholdsvis forbud mod kloning af mennesker (ETS 168) og transplantation af organer og væv af menneskelig oprindelse (ETS 186). De to første konventioner træder i kraft for Island den 1. februar 2005. Sidstnævnte konvention mangler endnu en ratifikation for at kunne træde i kraft.

Sports Ministers stress importance of democracy and transparency in sport

Budapest 15.10.2004 - European sports ministers today called for democracy, accountability, fairness, solidarity and transparency to be the bedrock of sports governance.

Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, for the tenth Council of Europe Sports Ministers Conference, ministers said that the principles of good sports governance were the key to widening the popularity of sport, strengthening its place in society and putting a stop to corruption.

Democratic structures with clear elections, professional organisation and management, accountability and transparency were key principles of good governance, said the ministers. They also stressed the need for sports organisations to develop codes of ethics and procedures for dealing with conflicts of interest.

The ministers welcomed the progress in the drafting of the UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention and stressed the importance of co-operation between UNESCO and the Council of Europe, which has the only current Anti-Doping Convention.

The ministers backed Danish Minister Brian Mikkelsen as the governmental candidate for the Vice-Chair of the Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and agreed to nominate French Minister Jean-François Lamour as the European representative to its executive committee.

Afgørelse i nordiske menneskerettighedssager

- 12. oktober Kjartan Ásmundsson v. Iceland (no. 60669/00): Violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property).
- 14. oktober Pedersen and Pedersen v. Denmark (no.68693/01): No violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a trial within a reasonable time).
- 14. oktober Andersson and Others v. Sweden (no. 49297/99): Friendly settlement, Article 6 § 1 (length of a set of civil proceedings).
- 26. oktober AB Kurt Kellermann v. Sweden (no. 41579/98): No violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing).

Kalender november 2004

- 3. Ministerkomitéen
- 4.-5. Efterårs-session: Kongressen af Lokale og Regionale Myndigheder
- 4.-5. Forum 2004: Socially responsible consumption and finance systems: public authorities' and citizen's commitment for social cohesion
- 7.-9. Ministerkonference: Ministre med ansvar for forebyggelse af vold (Oslo). Tema: "Preventing everyday violence in Europe: responses in a democratic society"
- 8.-9. Seminar: Human rights and disability
- 10. Ministerkomitéen
- 10. Norge afslutter sit formandskab for Ministerkomitéen. Polen overtager formandskabet
- 17. Ministerkomitéen
- 22.-24. Ministerkomitéen
- 23. Møde: Den Parlamentariske Forsamlings stående komité (Warszawa)
- 28. Valgobservation: Præsident- og parlamentsvalg i Rumænien

"Nyt fra Europarådet" udgives 11 gange om året af

Europarådets pressekorrespondent i de nordiske lande

Bremerholm 6, DK-1069 København K, Tlf. +45 33 14 15 84, Fax +45 33 15 54 84,

E-mail: arm@sm.dk, Internet: www.coe.int

