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Preface of the Secretary General

The publication of the report on the Council of Europe activities for 2005 is a good opportunity to look to the future. This preface summarises my statement to the members of the Parliamentary Assembly on the occasion of the State of the Council of Europe speech delivered on 23 January, in which I set the agenda for the coming year. Our next annual activity report will give you the opportunity to assess how successful we have been in attaining these objectives.

The overall aim of my next year in office is to improve the way we organise our work and co-ordinate our projects and programmes. The underlying idea is the distinction between activity and productivity. Hard work without impact is a waste of time.

This statement is not meant to disparage the competence and commitment of staff members. On the contrary, it is their hard work and excellence which oblige us to create conditions in which their contribution will produce results. The ultimate responsibility for the effective organisation of the work of the Council of Europe lies with its highest executive, and I shall continue to exploit all the possibilities which exist within the mandate of the Organisation and the priorities set by the 3rd Summit in spite of the restrictions imposed by our limited resources.

In my own activities for 2006, I intend to draw particular attention to our work on three themes which have risen from the Summit Declaration and Action Plan.

The first theme will be our work aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination, from racism to gender inequality and discrimination on the basis of religious belief, sexual orientation or political opinion. In some member countries, there is talk about zero tolerance for criminal behaviour. I support that approach, but we must also work progressively towards "zero intolerance" in all 46 member states.

The second theme will focus on all forms of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment, starting from those in the strict sense of our convention, but also including all other acts violating human dignity, from violence against women, including domestic violence, to trafficking in human beings, the treatment of patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and the care of children in institutions and at home.

My third theme will be democracy, and here I want to emphasise two important considerations. First, that democracy is much more than a set of appropriate laws and procedures. Real democracy is rooted in a real democratic culture. Second, that the need to cultivate this culture is relevant not only in so-called new democracies, but also in those countries which claim to be based on centuries of democratic traditions.

A former member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Tony Banks, once said in the Assembly debate, that silence was the most common form of discrimination. The same thing can be said about torture and the lack of respect for democracy. In 2006, I will therefore give special attention to Council of Europe campaigns, which are an important tool in achieving progress if they are properly and logically related to standard-setting and monitoring activities. We should observe, act, and speak out in a coherent, consistent and effective way.

Improved communication is an essential part of this new approach. The Directorate of Communication is no longer meant to serve as a sales department, but as an organically integrated part of the Organisation, providing advice and assistance from the very start of every activity we undertake.

The criteria in choosing these themes were the demand for and the added value of the Council of Europe contribution. What is relevant is not only the importance of the issue, but what the Council of Europe can achieve.

Of course, the Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation and the effectiveness of its work therefore does not only depend upon the performance of its staff but also the degree and the speed with which the governments of our member states comply with their financial, political and legal obligations and

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commitments to the Organisation. Decisions taken by the heads of state or government, or the Committee of Ministers on their behalf, not only have financial implications; they also very often require legislative and administrative follow-up at the national level.

The overwhelming support of the member states for the reform of the European Court of Human Rights, to cite just one example, is praiseworthy, but will not have much effect if member states do not speed up their ratification of Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights. In January 2006, more than a year and a half since it was opened for signature, the protocol has only been ratified by 21 countries.

The same point applies to the three conventions opened for signature at the 3rd Summit in May last year. In January 2006, the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings has been signed by 25 countries – but ratified by none. The two conventions related to the fight against terrorism have been signed by 31 and 20 countries respectively – but again ratified by none.

We shall continue to work closely with our international partners whenever and wherever they can contribute to the more effective fulfilment of our mandate, but I emphasise as a partner – not simply a sub-contractor.

I attach special attention to the United Nations, and I believe that the contribution of the Council of Europe as a regional organisation has not yet been fully exploited. My intervention in the Security Council in October 2005 at the invitation of its Romanian chairmanship was the first time a Secretary General was given an opportunity to speak directly to this important organ of the United Nations, and I believe that this bodes well for the future.

I shall continue to develop partnership relations with the OSCE and the European Union. One of the topics which I have already raised with the European Commission is the new Fundamental Rights Agency and how it can make a useful contribution to the work done by the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe has always stood for excellence, experience and expertise in the protection of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My intention is to add confidence to its competence and make it an organisation which sets its own course and acts, not only reacts to outside events.

Terry Davis

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Committee of Ministers

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Committee of Ministers

The adopted texts of the Committee of Ministers can be found in Appendix A or on the Internet site: www.coe.int/T/CM/adoptedTexts_en.asp

The Committee of Ministers was chaired by Poland from November 2004 until May 2005, when Portugal took over the chairmanship after the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005. On 17 November, Portugal handed over to Romania for the following six-month period. The year 2005 was especially important for the Committee of Ministers and, of course, for the Organisation as a whole, as the decisions taken at the 3rd Summit are destined to give new priorities and orientations to its activities over the years to come, which have also necessitated adaptations to its internal structure.

The Committee of Ministers held its annual ministerial session on 16 and 17 November in Strasbourg, chaired by Portugal. It was an opportunity for the ministers for foreign affairs of the member states and their representatives, as well as representatives of the observer countries and of the European Commission and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to take stock of progress with the implementation of the Summit Action Plan. Discussions focused on five main political priorities: strengthening the Council of Europe's system of human rights protection; stepping up Council of Europe action to promote democracy; building a more humane Europe; strengthening co-operation between the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE the United Nations; and the implementation of Chapter V of the Summit Action Plan – enhancing transparency and efficiency (entailing a reform of the Council's organisational structures and working methods).

A traditional "fireside chat" informal meeting was hosted by the Secretary General for ministers, with Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker as special guest. The confidential discussions centred around the report on co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe entrusted on a personal basis to Mr Juncker at the Summit. A treaty event to prompt signatures and/or ratifications of recent conventions was also organised during the session: these included Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights amending the control system of the Convention and the three conventions on terrorism, money laundering and trafficking opened for signature at the Summit in May. An encouraging total of 19 signatures or ratifications was obtained.

1. 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe

Poland's invitation to host the Summit in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005 had great significance, as this country symbolised both the massive destructions of the last world war, sixty years ago, and the reunification process which put an end to the arbitrary and artificial division our continent had to suffer. The Warsaw Summit was an opportunity to bring together all European nations on the basis of their shared commitment to democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and to salute the significant progress made in the strategic objective to "build Europe without dividing lines" set up by the Strasbourg Summit in 1997 and the Budapest Declaration adopted on the Council of Europe's 50th anniversary in 1999.

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The Summit was a success: 38 heads of state and government took part, representing 36 of the Council of Europe's member states. Its impact on public opinion was of course substantial in the host country, but news of the Summit also reached many citizens all over Europe and beyond, with its public formal session broadcast live on the Internet, a first in the history of international diplomacy. Other events helped to give the Summit a high profile, including the bilateral meetings (such as those between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict) or the opening for signature of three new Council of Europe conventions mentioned above in relation to the 115th Session, signed by 18, 12 and 14 member states respectively. A parallel Youth Summit held in Warsaw illustrated the Organisation's commitment to supporting future generations of young people and assisting the work carried out by international youth organisations.

In order to maintain the long-term effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights, the heads of state and government decided to set up a group of wise persons to draw up a global strategy for the lasting effectiveness of the system. The group was rapidly set up after the Summit and will submit an interim report to the 116th Session of the Committee of Ministers on 18 and 19 May 2006. In addition, it has been decided to establish a Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy, which held its first meeting on 4 November on the theme of civic participation. The heads of state and government also decided to further develop the Council of Europe's contribution to international action against terrorism, corruption and organised crime, trafficking in human beings, cybercrime and bioethics, and launched campaigns on violence against women and to enhance children's rights. They recognised the need to promote democratic culture and foster intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, both among European people and between Europe and its neighbouring regions.

The Summit drew up a clear road map for strengthened partnership between the Council of Europe

and the European Union, which will lead to the conclusion of a memorandum of agreement between the two organisations during 2006. The heads of state and government entrusted Jean-Claude Juncker, as Prime Minister of a founding member state of both the Council of Europe and the European Union and one of the most experienced political leaders in Europe, with the task of drawing up – in his personal capacity – a report on the relationship between the two organisations. Mr Juncker's analysis will be based on the Summit decisions and aim primarily at strengthening the human dimension of European construction.

At the close of the Summit, the heads of state and government adopted the Warsaw Declaration and an action plan, paving the way for reinforced pan-European co-operation and solidarity (both texts in Appendix B). After the Summit a follow-up committee presided by the Chairman of the Deputies and comprising the Permanent Representatives of all member states, with the participation of representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, was set up and began its work in June. The Summit decisions were incorporated into the institutional apparatus of the Council of Europe, and integrated into the programme of activities and budget from 2006. Other major developments have included the setting up of the group of wise persons to reflect on the long-term future of the European Court of Human Rights (September), the task force to combat violence against women (November) and the high-level task force on social cohesion in the 21st century (December).

2. Human rights

The conclusions of the 3rd Summit highlighted once again the need to improve the functioning of the European Court of Human Rights, and the importance of ratifying Protocol No. 14 to the Convention. During the year, a number of conferences and seminars on themes such as the excessive length of judicial proceedings helped to further awareness in

member states of the problems related to the implementation of the Convention. The Committee's work on execution has provided examples of positive progress, and the adoption of a large number of interim resolutions has given as many opportunities to take stock of measures taken or under way in the countries concerned to address the underlying causes of violations of the Convention. Progress was monitored, for example, with the modernisation of the Italian legal system to shorten the length of judicial proceedings. With respect to Romania, examination of the Dalban case revealed efforts to ensure fair criminal proceedings in the context of freedom of expression, and the adoption of the new Criminal Code, to be incorporated in the overall criminal law reform, was seen as a significant step forward.

Greece adopted, or is presently adopting comprehensive legislative measures to improve the conditions of detention in police facilities and prisons (cases *Dougoz and Peers*), and in relation to several cases against Turkey, efforts to reinforce the regulatory framework for the action of the security forces, to improve the professional training of its members and to ensure the existence of effective domestic remedies in cases of abuse were registered. The Committee of Ministers has conducted an initial examination of the European Court's judgment in the case of *Öcalan v. Turkey*. Following the adoption of interim Resolution ResDH(2005)42 in the case of *Ilaşcu and Others v. Moldova and Russia* (arbitrary detention), the Committee of Ministers has examined this case at every meeting of the Ministers' Deputies. As the release of the prisoners was not obtained, a second interim Resolution, ResDH(2005)84, was adopted in July.

The so-called "pilot-case procedure" designed to cut back significantly on the number of applications transmitted to the Court, was implemented for the first time in the case of *Broniowski v. Poland* (ResDH(2005)58). The Committee of Ministers took note of the measures taken by Poland to remedy the structural problem of compensating all claimants in cases concerning the abandonment of property in the territories beyond the Bug River after the

Second World War. The Committee has, moreover, continued its policy of re-examining and improving its working methods in the execution area, most recently through the increasing use of grouped final resolutions putting a formal end to its examination of several similar cases at once, an approach which is not only more efficient administratively but which also provides a clearer illustration of the way in which the court's judgments can influence public policy at a thematic level.

During the year, the Committee of Ministers heard presentations by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the reports on his visits to Croatia, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Spain, Switzerland, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. In September 2005, the Committee of Ministers nominated three candidates for the post of Commissioner for Human Rights, to take over from the first Commissioner Alvaro Gil-Robles at the end of his term of office. Mr Thomas Hammarberg, of Sweden, was elected Commissioner for Human Rights by the Parliamentary Assembly at its session in October.

3. South-Eastern Europe

The question of democratic stability in South-Eastern Europe and the contribution the Council of Europe can make to the shared objective of the progressive integration of the countries of this region into European structures remained a focal point for the Committee of Ministers during the year. The implementation of the post-accession strategy for Serbia and Montenegro focused on the functioning of democratic institutions, the protection of human rights and minorities, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the rule of law. A Secretariat mission to the region took place from 13 to 17 June. Important exchanges of views were held in Strasbourg between the Deputies and Rasim Ljajic, Minister for Human Rights and Minorities and Chair of the National Council for Co-operation with the ICTY (March), Petr Ivantsov, Political Director at the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the

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United Nations in Kosovo (July) and Marek Nowicki, Human Rights Ombudsman in Kosovo (December).

The 8th and 9th Secretariat monitoring reports highlighted positive developments in co-operation with the ICTY, implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and freedom of the media. At the same time, the Committee of Ministers urged the authorities, in the light of these reports, to honour the obligations and commitments scheduled for the end of their second year of Council of Europe membership, in particular by the signature and ratification of the relevant Council of Europe conventions, and to co-operate fully with the ICTY.

The Council of Europe also continued its involvement in the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 on the situation relating to Kosovo. Following a request made in February by Mr Soren Jessen-Petersen, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Kosovo concerning the reform of local self-government, the Committee of Ministers authorised the Secretary General to fund a Council of Europe expert appraisal and the provision of a project manager for the reform. The arrangements with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to make use of the supervisory machinery of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment also proved successful.

The Committee of Ministers continued implementation of the post-accession strategy drawn up for Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on democratic institutions, human rights (including the question of the return of refugees and displaced persons and co-operation with the ICTY), the rule of law and education. In the light of the 9th, 10th and 11th monitoring reports, the Committee of Ministers welcomed recent positive steps, including reforms concerning the police, defence and broadcasting, improved co-operation with the ICTY, and the ratification of five Council of Europe conventions in the criminal justice field. In view of Bosnia and

Herzegovina's progress in complying with its obligations and commitments, the Committee decided to review the situation in that country at half-yearly, rather than quarterly, intervals. At the end of the year, the Committee welcomed the opening of discussions on a comprehensive revision of the constitution in the light of an opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

At the same time, the Committee of Ministers called on the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to speed up implementation of reforms and to take all necessary measures to continue co-operation with the transfer of suspects to the ICTY in The Hague. The Committee noted that the laws adopted and the European Charter of Local Self-Government were still impartially implemented, and requested a review of electoral law and the development of a national framework law on higher education. They also asked that the practice of having "two schools beneath one roof" be eliminated.

On 7 December, the Committee of Ministers adopted a reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1705 (2005) on recent political developments in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", drawing special attention to the remarkable achievements constituted by the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement and the launching of a far-reaching process of decentralisation, with the accent on the valuable contribution which "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's" successful democratic transition made to lasting peace and stability in the region of the Western Balkans.

4. The Caucasus

The Committee of Ministers continued to pay particular attention to the situation in the three countries of the Southern Caucasus, maintaining assistance activities and urging these member states to progress with democratic reforms.

Checking of the compliance of Armenia and Azerbaijan with their commitments was continued by a monitoring group, of which a delegation

travelled to Yerevan and Baku in the week of 27 June to 1 July 2005. Attention was focused during the year on the preparation of the important parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan and constitutional referendum in Armenia. The Deputies also repeatedly called on both countries to respect the undertaking which they gave on joining the Organisation to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully. Towards the end of 2005, they were able to welcome the new impetus given by the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to the negotiation process.

Regarding Armenia, the Ministers' Deputies approved on 28 September an action plan defining the Council of Europe's contribution to the information effort needed in order to make the Armenian population aware of the importance of participating in the 27 November referendum, which led to the adoption of several amendments to the constitution, thus paving the way for honouring a number of commitments accepted by this country upon its accession to the Council of Europe.

The Committee of Ministers adopted an action plan for Azerbaijan in May, with a view to helping the country's authorities to organise the November parliamentary elections. Two reports on its implementation were presented in September and October. At the 115th Session, the Ministers noted with concern that according to the preliminary conclusions of the international observation mission, the parliamentary elections on 6 November did not meet a number of OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards. The Ministers noted the Azerbaijani authorities' declaration that they would take all necessary measures to remedy the violations observed. The issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan has, for some considerable time, been a subject of particular concern to the Committee of Ministers. President Aliyev's decisions in March and June to pardon a number of prisoners was a great source of satisfaction, as stated after the March decision by the Committee in a declaration.

During the year the Committee of Ministers invited the Georgian authorities to act upon the specific recommendations made by the Venice Commission,

in particular concerning the constitutional amendments relating to the functioning of the judiciary. A review of the situation was effected in November at a meeting of the Rapporteur Group of the Ministers' Deputies for Democratic Stability, in the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the OSCE Mission in Georgia. Pursuant to this review, on 23 November the Committee of Ministers approved an action plan for strengthening co-operation between the Council of Europe and Georgia in order to help this country meet the outstanding commitments.

5. Democratic stability

The Committee of Ministers has continued to follow the situation in Moldova, taking into account the fact that closer European integration is one of this country's foreign policy priority objectives. Following the parliamentary elections held in Moldova at the beginning of March, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers visited Chişinău on 31 March, where discussions centred on issues relating to the implementation of Moldova's domestic law and practice with Council of Europe standards, in particular as regards media independence and pluralism, independence of the judiciary, anti-corruption efforts and local democracy. The question of the future status of Transnistria was also raised as well as the situation of the Moldovan schools in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, and the full execution of the judgment in the Ilaşcu case. The Chair of the Committee of Ministers also met the Tiraspol authorities during the visit. An exchange of views was held on 13 June between the Deputies and the new Special Representative of the European Union in Moldova, Mr Jacobovits de Szeged.

With respect to Ukraine the Committee of Ministers, through its Rapporteur Group for Democratic Stability, continued to pay close attention to the measures announced by the new Ukrainian authorities with a view to promoting the operation of democratic institutions in the country. The rapporteur group held an exchange of views in

April with Ukraine's new Prosecutor General, Mr Piskun. Following President Yushchenko's request for assistance during the Parliamentary Assembly session in January, on 15 June the Committee of Ministers approved an action plan to assist the new Ukrainian authorities, covering, in particular, constitutional reform, reinforcement of the independence of the judiciary, improved protection of human rights, the promotion of freedom of expression and of the media, the fight against corruption and support for the preparation for parliamentary elections planned for March 2006.

Following requests for assistance submitted by the President of the Chechen Republic, Mr Alkhanov, the programme of co-operation activities between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation in the Chechen Republic was adjusted and further developed. In April, the Committee of Ministers held an exchange of views with Ms Ella Pamfilova, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission under the auspices of the President of the Russian Federation, and on 26 October with Mr Alu Alkhanov and Vladimir Lukin, Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation. On 7 December, the Committee of Ministers adopted a reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1710 (2005) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation, which mentions constructive efforts to comply with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, but also expresses serious concern at the fact that the judgment in the Ilaşcu case has not yet been implemented.

The situation in Belarus remains the subject of concern on the part of the Committee of Ministers. The measures taken by the country's authorities against political opponents or human rights organisations led the chairmanship to make a declaration in May expressing concern about this deterioration. The same anxieties were expressed at the 3rd Summit, which brought all the countries of Europe together on the basis of the Organisation's values, with the notable exception of Belarus. Deep concern was also expressed by several ministers during the 115th Session in November over the deterioration in the

situation, and on 14 December the chairmanship issued a statement expressing its anxiety over the adoption of amendments to the penal code still more severely restricting freedom of assembly, association and expression in this country.

Finally, the Committee of Ministers continued to follow developments concerning the situation in Cyprus, in particular in the context of the regular item on the subject placed on the Deputies' agenda.

6. Reinforcement of activities

The three conventions opened for signature at the 3rd Summit represent a significant strengthening of Europe's conventional framework. In addition to the conventions relating to terrorism adopted before the Summit, the adoption of further specialised texts, notably on the protection of witnesses and victims broadened the range of international tools to combat this threat, and will facilitate political monitoring and technical co-operation. The Committee of Ministers also regularly monitors the state of signature and ratification of existing instruments, notably the Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. International action against terrorism was one of the main topics of the third high-level multilateral meeting of the Ministries of the Interior organised in Warsaw on 17 and 18 March. The Committee of Ministers condemned the London terrorist attacks on 7 July through the adoption of a declaration.

The Deputies held exchanges of views with the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) during the year, as well as with other bodies working in the international legal field, including the Council of Europe's own Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

The Polish chairmanship organised a conference in Warsaw on 21 and 22 April on the role of transfrontier and interterritorial co-operation in the process of integration and unification of the continent, and the Portuguese chairmanship hosted a conference on the 20th anniversary of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in July 2005. The Summit

saw the launch of a new centre of expertise on local government reform, and reflection began at the end of the year on the possibility of setting up a centre for inter-regional and cross-border co-operation, which would be located in the Russian Federation.

7. Social cohesion and cultural diversity

The most important recent development for social cohesion in the framework of the follow-up to the 3rd Summit was the establishment of the high-level task force on social cohesion in the 21st century. On the basis of proposals submitted by the chair, the Deputies agreed on 14 December on the membership of the task force, which should submit its first report by the end of November 2007.

The 3rd Summit and the 115th Session gave new priority to the Organisation's work concerning children, in particular by the launching of a three-year programme to promote "a Europe with and for children". Other advances in the field included the adoption on 2 February of a resolution on safeguarding adults and children with disabilities against abuse, on 16 March of Recommendation Rec(2005)5 on the rights of children living in residential institutions, and several high-level meetings.

Work continued to ensure access to social and other rights of Roma and Travellers. From 13 to 15 December, the Council of Europe hosted the first ever session of the European Roma and Travellers Forum, bringing together Roma representatives from 42 member states.

Health questions remained high on the agenda of the Committee of Ministers, beginning in January with the opening for signature of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research. The Committee of Ministers also approved a document on the implementation of the proposals made for a strategic approach to the Organisation's activities in the health field. This implementation will be monitored regularly.

The celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention were closed by the Faro Conference on 27 and 28 October, where the main theme was the dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring regions, starting with the south coast of the Mediterranean. The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society was opened for signature at Faro, and the Strategy for Developing Intercultural Dialogue was adopted. A multi-institutional platform between the Council of Europe and Unesco was also created, open to other international and regional partners, broadening considerably the horizons of intercultural dialogue. At the 115th Session of the Committee of Ministers, participants called for the rapid and efficient implementation of this strategy in line with the Warsaw Summit's decisions.

8. Interinstitutional co-operation

The interinstitutional co-operation is all the more crucial in relation to the honouring of obligations and commitments entered into by member states, which remains a fundamental factor of the Organisation's credibility. On 4 July, the Committee of Ministers considered the first thematic monitoring report submitted under the new procedure it adopted in July 2004. The theme chosen for 2005 was the issue of freedom of association and which, in the light of both an analysis of the work conducted by the Council of Europe and some actual examples of legislation and practice in the member states, highlighted a number of areas in which the competent Council of Europe bodies could launch practical follow-up action to promote freedom of association.

9. Co-operation with other international organisations

Work with the OSCE continued and intensified during the year, beginning with a high-level "2+2" meeting in Strasbourg on 23 February. The participants

Activity report

welcomed the decision by both organisations to establish a co-ordination group to enhance co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. A joint meeting was held in Strasbourg on 18 April between the Committee of Ministers and the Permanent Council of the OSCE. The two bodies agreed on the content of a political declaration, signed in Warsaw on 17 May during the 3rd Summit by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. Four priority areas were identified in the declaration, as a basis for future work in this field, namely the fight against terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings, the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding. These were entrusted to "focal points", persons appointed by both organisations in parallel to lead the work in close co-operation. The annual co-ordination meeting of senior officials of the two organisations held in Strasbourg on 8 July was followed on 30 September, by a meeting of the co-ordination group set up in December 2004 by the Council of Europe's and OSCE's executive bodies, where the progress made by the focal points was assessed.

Co-operation with the European Union was given new and concrete impetus by the 3rd Summit and especially the decision to commission a report on

future co-operation (see 2 above). A high level "quadripartite" meeting was held in Brussels on 16 March, where participants welcomed the recent appointment of a Commission representative to the Council of Europe: the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the Council of Europe encouraged the creation of a permanent post of Commission representative to the Council. In the same spirit, the participants stressed the importance of complementarity and co-operation in connection with the prospective EU Human Rights Agency and welcomed the fact that this was a likely prospect. They also urged that similar provision be made for complementarity and co-operation in connection with the plans for a linguistic diversity agency and an institute for gender equality.

In order to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights, the Council of Europe is to co-operate more closely with the United Nations on matters of interest to both organisations. As the Council of Europe is a pan-European organisation, it is in an ideal position to help achieve the objectives and ensure the application of the fundamental principles of the United Nations. The annual high-level co-ordination meeting with the United Nations was held in Strasbourg on 18 February 2005, involving the OSCE and the European Union. The meeting focused on the rule of law and freedom of expression.

11. Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member states of the Council of Europe

Albania	Mr Kastriot Islami, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Besnik Mustafaj, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from September 2005)
Andorra	Mrs Juli Minoves Triquell, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Armenia	Mr Vardan Oskanian, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Austria	Dr Ursula Plassnik, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Azerbaijan	Mr Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Belgium	Mr Karel De Gucht, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr Mladen Ivanič, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Bulgaria	Mr Solomon Passy, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Ivailo Kalfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from August 2005)
Croatia	Mr Miomir Žužul, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration (from February 2005)
Cyprus	Mr George Iacovou, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Czech Republic	Mr Cyril Svoboda, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Denmark	Mr Per Stig Møller, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Mrs Kristiina Ojuland, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Urmas Paet, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from April 2005)
Finland	Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs
France	Mr Michel Barnier, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Philippe Douste-Blazy, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from June 2005)
Georgia	Mrs Salome Zourabichvili, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Gela Bezhuashvili, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from October 2005)
Germany	Mr Joschka Fischer, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeyer, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from November 2005)
Greece	Mr Petros G. Molyviatis, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Hungary	Dr Ferenc Somogyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Iceland	Mr Davið Oddsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Geir H. Haarde, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from September 2005)
Ireland	Mr Dermot Ahern, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Italy	Mr Gianfranco Fini, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Latvia	Mr Artis Pabriks, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Liechtenstein	Mr Ernst Walch, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Ms Rita Kieber-Beck, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cultural Affairs and for the Family and Equal Opportunity (from April 2005)
Lithuania	Mr Antanas Valionis, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Luxembourg	Mr Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Malta	Mr Michael Frendo, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Moldova	Mr Andrei Stratan, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Monaco	Mr Patrick Leclercq, Minister of State, Directorate of External Relations/ Mr Rainier Imperti, Government Counsellor for External Relations
Netherlands	Dr Bernard Bot, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Norway	Mr Jan Petersen, Minister for Foreign Affairs / Mr Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Poland	Mr Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Stefan Meller, Minister for Foreign Affairs (from November 2005)
Portugal	Mr António Monteiro, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Mr Diogo Freitas do Amaral, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Romania	Mr Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation	Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Activity report

San Marino	Mr Fabio Berardi, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs
Serbia and Montenegro	Mr Vuk Drašković, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Slovak Republic	Mr Eduard Kukan, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Slovenia	Mr Dimitrij Rupel, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Spain	Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Mrs Laila Freivalds, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Switzerland	Mrs Micheline Calmy-Rey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Federal Councillor
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Mrs Ilinka Mitreva, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Turkey	Mr Abdullah Gül, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ukraine	Mr Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs/ Borys Ivanovych Tarasyuk (from September 2005)
United Kingdom	Mr Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

12. Permanent Representatives

Albania	Mr Shpëtim Çausi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Andorra	Ms Carme Sala Sansa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Armenia	Mr Christian Ter Stepanian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Austria	Mr Aurel Saupe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Mr Wendlin Ettmayer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Azerbaijan	Mr Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Belgium	Mr Charles Ghislain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr Igor Gaon, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Mr Borislav Marić, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Bulgaria	Mr Yuri Sterk, Ambassador / Mr Ivan Patkov, Ambassador
Croatia	Mr Daniel Bučan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Cyprus	Mr Marios Lyssiotis, Ambassador
Czech Republic	Ms Vlasta Štěpová, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Denmark	Mr Niels-Jørgen Nehring, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Estonia	Mr Alar Streimann, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Finland	Ms Ann-Marie Nyroos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
France	Mr Gilles Chouraqui, Ambassador
Georgia	Ms Lana Gogoberidze, Ambassador/ Mr Zurab Tchiaberashvili, Permanent Representative
Germany	Mr Roland Wegener, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Greece	Mr Constantin Yerocostopoulos, Ambassador
Hungary	Mr Zoltán Taubner, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Iceland	Mr Hörður H. Bjarnason, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Ireland	Mr James A. Sharkey, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Italy	Mr Pietro Lonardo, Ambassador
Latvia	Mr Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Liechtenstein	Mr Daniel Ospelt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Lithuania	Mr Neris Germanas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Luxembourg	Mr Roland Mayer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Malta	Mr Joseph Licari, Ambassador
Moldova	Mr Alexei Tulbure, Permanent Representative
Monaco	Mr Jacques Boisson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Netherlands	Mr Johannes C. Landman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Mr Jacobus van der Velden, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Norway	Mr Torbjørn Frøysnes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Poland	Mr Krzysztof Kocel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Mr Piotr Świtalski, Ambassador
Portugal	Mr Paulo Castilho, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Mr Joaquim Duarte, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Romania	Mr Gheorghe Magheru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Russian Federation	Mr Alexandre Orlov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
San Marino	Mr Guido Bellatti Ceccoli, Ambassador
Serbia and Montenegro	Ms Sladjana Prica, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Slovak Republic	Ms Anna Lamperová, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Slovenia	Mr Aleš Biber, Chargé d'Affaires <i>ad interim</i> / Ms Meta Bole, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Spain	Mr Estanislao de Grandes Pascual, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Sweden	Mr Per Sjögren, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Switzerland	Mr Jean-Claude Joseph, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Mr Zvonimir Jankuloski, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Ms Eleonora Petrova-Mitevaska, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Turkey	Mr Daryal Batibay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Ukraine	Mr Anatolii Shevchuk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/ Mr Sergii Reva, Chargé d'Affaires <i>ad interim</i>
United Kingdom	Mr Stephen Howarth, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Parliamentary Assembly

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Parliamentary Assembly

The adopted texts of the Parliamentary Assembly can be found in Appendix B or on the Internet site: www.coe.int/T/CM/adoptedTexts_en.asp

On 24 January, the Assembly elected a new President, Mr van der Linden (Netherlands), who outlined his priorities in his inaugural speech.

All Assembly committees have contributed to the preparation of the 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe. Their proposals were integrated into Recommendation 1693 which was adopted in January. At its June session, The Assembly took several steps to strengthen its relations with the European Parliament in the context of the co-operation between the EU and the Council of Europe.

1. Political Affairs Committee

Relations with the European Union

The Assembly adopted Recommendation 1724 (2005) on the Council of Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union.

3rd Summit

The Assembly contributed to the preparation of the 3rd Summit by the adoption of Recommendation 1693 (2005). In the framework of the follow-up to the Summit, the Assembly adopted Recommendation 1712 (2005). It also set up an ad hoc sub-committee of the Political Affairs Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy, which was created by the Summit. It participated in the launch meeting of the forum on 3 and 4 November 2005 in Warsaw.

Political situation in member states

On 21 March, the competent ad hoc sub-committee organised the first round table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic. Chechen political forces, representatives of the Russian authorities and NGOs participated in the round table.

In January, the Assembly adopted Recommendation 1690 (2005) and Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference. To implement paragraph 5 of Resolution 1416, the Assembly's Bureau set up an ad hoc committee.

The Assembly adopted Recommendation 1708 (2005) and Resolution 1453 (2005) on the situation in Kosovo.

Political situation in non-member states

In October 2005 the Sub-Committee on Belarus held an exchange of views with Mrs Uta Zapf, Chair of the ad hoc working group on Belarus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In January, the Assembly adopted Resolution 1420 (2005) on prospects for peace in the Middle East. Five months later, in June, the Assembly adopted Resolution 1452 (2005) and Recommendation 1707 (2005) on the situation in the Middle East.

During its April part-session the Assembly adopted Resolution 1436 (2005) on Iran's nuclear programme and the need for international response. The Political Affairs Committee remains seized for this matter.

External relations

The Sub-Committee on External Relations took part in a joint meeting in St Petersburg on 14 April with different bodies of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEI).

During its meeting in Ottawa (Canada) on 24 and 25 October, the Political Affairs Committee held exchanges of views with representatives of the

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Senate and the House of Commons of Canada on, inter alia, transatlantic relations, reform of the United Nations, good governance and the responsibility to protect human security.

2. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

In a report on the protection of human rights in Kosovo, the committee considered that serious concerns remained regarding the protection of human rights and it proposed a Human Rights Court for Kosovo which would base its procedure and case law on those of the Strasbourg Court.

In a follow-up report on detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay, the committee concluded, on the basis of an extensive review of reliable legal and factual material, that the circumstances surrounding detentions by the USA at Guantánamo Bay showed unlawfulness on grounds including torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees. The committee called on the United States to ensure respect for the rule of law and human rights.

The committee also returned to the issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, welcoming the five pardon decrees issued by the President of Azerbaijan since its previous report in January 2004, and subsequent release of political prisoners and presumed political prisoners, which it said was "a decisive step towards a solution to the problem". However, it regretted that, in spite of repeated requests, the Azerbaijani authorities had continued to arrest and convict hundreds of people for clearly political reasons.

The committee's rapporteur visited Tripoli in August to prepare a report on "Serious human rights violations in Libya – Inhuman treatment of Bulgarian medical staff". On the basis of an independent medical investigation and other evidence the committee believed the five Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor, charged with deliberately contaminating some 426 children with the HIV/Aids virus and sentenced to death, to be completely innocent. The committee called for their

release or for a fair trial. The Libyan Supreme Court has since ordered a retrial.

In December, the committee, deeply concerned that the ongoing serious human rights violations in the Chechen Republic were not being addressed, adopted a report on "Human rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns", in which it urged the Committee of Ministers to confront its responsibilities in the face of one of the most serious human rights issues in any of the Council of Europe's member states.

Following a hearing on enforced disappearances in Cyprus in June, the committee presented a report in which it considered such situations, still to be found in Europe, to be a very serious human rights violation on par with torture and murder. The committee called on the UN to come up with the strongest possible legal framework for the treaty currently being negotiated: neither prescription nor amnesties should be permitted for this crime, and it should be subject to universal jurisdiction.

The committee's rapporteur had meetings in Brussels with European Union officials and NGO representatives. His report drew attention to the need, when drawing up the mandate for the Agency, to avoid any duplication with the Council of Europe and its human rights mechanisms and to make adequate provision for the full participation of the Council of Europe in the management structures of the future Agency.

Other activities

The committee held hearings on human rights of members of the armed forces and on the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states, in preparation for forthcoming reports on these issues.

The committee also prepared opinions on the draft Council of Europe convention on laundering, the financing of terrorism, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime, and on the draft convention on the prevention of terrorism.

3. Committee on Economic Affairs and Development

Following a hearing on the subject, the committee adopted Resolution 1442 (in May) on strike actions in essential services – public or private sector – which are having an increasingly profound effect not only on the countries where they occur but internationally and within a rapidly integrating Europe. The report underlined that while strikes continue to form an essential tool for employees to improve their conditions, greater attention needs to be paid to the rights of ordinary citizens to pursue their daily lives. Greater harmonisation in the 46-member Council of Europe area should be sought, with parallel efforts in the European Union area.

The committee adopted Resolution 1441 (in May) on development challenges in Europe's islands. Islands face multiple development challenges, accentuated by global competition, especially the smaller inhabited islands. Socio-economic development constraints, not least transport links with the mainland, make islands worthy of distinctive treatment. The European Union has recognised the need to link insular areas with the mainland and foster island development.

The committee gave an opinion (in October) on a report by the Political Affairs Committee on European neighbourhood policy on the possible impact and consequences of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) from an economic and developmental point of view.

Prior to the adoption by the enlarged Parliamentary Assembly, of Resolution 1467 (in October) on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the world economy, the committee adopted Resolution 1450 on the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals. Another report highlighted development co-operation needs in Europe (Resolution 1451).

The committee adopted Resolution 1473 (in November) on European waterways: focusing on the Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal project. Waterways offer a comparatively cheap, clean, safe and reliable

mode of transport, while roads and skies become increasingly congested. The report underlined the importance of waterways in making the most of the EU's internal market.

4. Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

In January following the disaster caused in Asia by the tsunami, the Bureau of the Assembly decided to hold a debate under urgent procedure on the basis of a report presented by the committee (rapporteur: Ms Paoletti Tangheroni, Italy, EPP/CD). The committee subsequently took up this subject again in Florence on 11 March 2005 in the specific context of children's rights, with the participation of Ms Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF.

At its meeting in Florence on 11 March, the committee endorsed the integrated project on children and violence, initiated and presented by Ms Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; UNICEF leaders addressed the meeting on this subject. Ms Marta Santos Pais, Director of the Innocenti Research Centre, also told the committee about UNICEF's European strategy for children and Mr Andres Guerrero, from UNICEF's regional office for Europe in Geneva, informed it of the publication of a handbook for parliamentarians on the protection of children.

The committee held an initial hearing on Aids in Budapest on 20 May with the participation of representatives of youth organisations, and a second hearing in Moscow on 23 September, which was attended by a working group comprising members of the Duma and numerous experts on preventing and combating Aids in Europe (rapporteur: Ms Christine McCafferty, United Kingdom, SOC).

In view of these potential health pandemics, and following a debate under urgent procedure, the Assembly adopted a report by Mr Denis Jacquat (France, EPP/CD), on Europe and bird flu on 6 October. The situation in Turkey, in particular the measures taken in this country to counter the risk of a pandemic, was discussed in depth at the meeting held in Istanbul on 14 and 15 November.

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Finally, the committee held a hearing in Paris on 4 April on the social reintegration of prisoners (rapporteur: Mr Ali Rıza Gülçiçek, Turkey, SOC) with the participation of prominent figures from the prison world. It continued the discussion in Istanbul on 14 and 15 November with representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Justice.

5. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Due to persistent low fertility rates and increasing longevity in most European countries additional immigration will be required. In this context, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population co-organised the European Conference on Population in 2005.

Due to the importance of integration policies, the committee decided to focus its action on the integration of migrants and their families in member states. It will particularly look at the positive participation of migrants and refugees to democratic functioning of states through promoting orderly migration management.

In this context, several forums with parliaments of non-European countries of emigration to Europe were organised, in particular the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum on Migration (Rome, 23-24 May 2005), and the 1st Euro-Asian Parliamentary Forum on Migration (Almaty, 15-17 September 2005).

Refugees, asylum seekers and their families are also permanent concerns to the committee which organised several meetings in co-operation with international and non-governmental organisations.

6. Committee on Culture, Science and Education

The committee pursued its co-operation with the European Union with exchanges of views with Commissioner Figel' and the Chairman of the Cultural Committee of the European Parliament. It held exchanges of views on cultural policy in Mexico and to mark the European Day of Languages 2005.

The committee presented a report on the private management of cultural property (Recommendation 1730) and supported the preparation of the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society. The Sub-Committee on Cultural Heritage followed the activities of Europa Nostra and of the European Museum Forum (including the Council of Europe Museum Prize which was awarded to the Museum of Byzantine Culture in Thessaloniki). The sub-committee held an exchange of views in Rostock on Hanseatic culture.

The committee was represented at the ministerial seminar on teaching remembrance through the cultural heritage (Auschwitz) and organised a parliamentary workshop on education for democratic citizenship (Belgrade). It presented reports on education for leisure activities (Recommendation 1717) and on education and religion (Recommendation 1720).

The Sub-Committee on Science and Ethics followed the activities of EPTA (European Parliamentary Technology Assessment) and organised together a colloquy on parliamentary technology assessment with a view to its extension in central and eastern Europe.

The committee presented a report on freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones (Recommendation 1702 and Resolution 1438). Following a hearing on media and terrorism (French Senate) the committee presented a report on this subject (Recommendation 1706). The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Media participated in the European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media and in the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis). The sub-committee held exchanges of views on the media in Belarus, on support to European films and on access to satellite broadcasting platforms. It issued a declaration on the situation of the media in Belarus.

The Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport was represented at the European Youth Summit (Warsaw) and at the Conference of European Ministers

responsible for Youth (Budapest). Its chairman had an interview with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

7. Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

During the Solidarity Europe Water Week (Strasbourg, 17-21 October 2005), and as part of the preparations for the contribution to the 4th World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006), the committee organised, in co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, an international conference "Water management: a shared responsibility". The committee also adopted a report on management of water resources in Europe, for debate by the Assembly in January 2006.

Following the devastating forest fires that swept through many parts of southern Europe in the summer of 2005, the committee renewed its work on this subject, the rapporteur made a fact-finding visit to Portugal, one of the most badly affected countries, and an expert hearing was organised in view of an Assembly debate in June 2006.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Europe Prize in 2005, several events were organised by the committee: a solemn sitting in Strasbourg in the Assembly Chamber during the Assembly's June part-session, and a commemorative ceremony in Santiago de Compostela, winner of the Europe Prize in 1985, in the presence of representatives of many winning towns. In addition, an art book presenting all the winning towns since 1955 was published by the Parliamentary Assembly on that occasion. The committee awarded the 2005 Europe Prize to Kaliningrad.

The growing problem of the management of solid urban waste was the subject of a colloquy organised by the committee in Bucharest in September, with the participation of leading experts in the

field. The rapporteur expects to present a report to the Assembly during the second half of 2006.

8. Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

In Resolution 1464 (2005) the Parliamentary Assembly expressed its concern about the fact that women's rights are often curtailed or violated in the name of religion. The Assembly thus called on member states of the Council of Europe to protect women living in their country against violations of their rights in the name of religion, promote and fully implement gender equality, and take a stand against violations of women's human rights justified by religious or cultural relativism everywhere.

On the basis of other reports presented by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, which was enlarged to 83 members, the Assembly adopted various resolutions and recommendations. The committee also presented opinions on three subjects with a gender dimension. Following the adoption of Resolution 1693 (2005) on the 3rd Summit, the Assembly decided to organise the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe pan-European campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, in 2006/2007.

Moreover, the committee held three hearings in 2005, organised a regional parliamentary seminar on the role of South Caucasian parliaments to promote gender equality and the second meeting of women members of the Assembly in the presence of Mrs Asma Jahangir, United Nations special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

9. Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities

Following a report of the committee, the Assembly adopted Resolution 1425 in January. This text

Activity report

indicates the general terms of reference applicable to all Assembly committees. It also lists the specific terms of the various Assembly committees.

In June the Assembly adopted Resolution 1443 on credentials of individual members of a national delegation to the Assembly on substantive grounds. The Assembly agreed to insert a provision in the Rules of Procedure stating that the credentials of members of a national delegation have to be accompanied by the signing of a solemn statement by those members that they subscribe to the aims and basic principles of the Council of Europe.

10. Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

In 2005 the committee presented seven reports to the Parliamentary Assembly: a report on Georgia (Doc. 10383), a report on the Russian Federation (Doc. 10568), a report on Azerbaijan (Doc. 10569), a report on Armenia (Doc. 10601), a report on Moldova (Doc. 10671), a report on Ukraine (Doc. 10676) and a progress report on the Assembly's monitoring procedure (Doc. 10541). These reports resulted in the adoption of six resolutions and three recommendations. The committee also tabled two opinions: an opinion on the initiation of a monitoring procedure and post-monitoring dialogue (Doc. 10475) and an opinion on the Council of Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union (Doc. 10708).

Currently 10 countries are subject to monitoring procedure (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine), and five countries subject to post-monitoring dialogue (Slovakia, Bulgaria, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Latvia, and Turkey).

The rapporteurs carried out 15 fact-finding visits in monitored countries and two fact-finding visits to countries subject to post-monitoring dialogue. They also participated in four missions to observe elections, three pre-electoral missions and one mission to observe a referendum. The rapporteur representing the committee on the Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission) went to Venice for four meetings. Also a member represented the committee at the 2nd European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies organised by the Venice Commission with the support of the European Commission.

The progress report of the committee covering the period from May 2004 to May 2005 (Doc. 10541) takes stock of the changes made to the procedure as regards requests to open or reopen a monitoring procedure and the post-monitoring dialogue.

11. Other Assembly activities

Interparliamentary Co-operation and Election Observation Unit

This unit worked to prepare election observation by the Parliamentary Assembly in:

Parliamentary elections in Albania (3 July);

- Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (6 November);
- Presidential elections in Kazakhstan (4 December).

Parliamentary Assistance Unit

The unit organised visits to the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) for 45 members of parliaments and staff of the three South Caucasians parliaments in early March.

Programmes were prepared for members of the pan-African Parliament and the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) attended the third part of the 2005 Ordinary Session (June).

The Nordic Council sent a delegation for briefings in Strasbourg during the June session.

Training was offered in June to the staff of the Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Two high-ranking officials of the Palestinian Legislative Council were received in September.

In November, a seminar was organised in Strasbourg for senior legal advisers of the Ukrainian Parliament.

Finally, the contract between the Assembly and the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) of the European Union on support to Parliamentary Institutions in Serbia and Montenegro was signed on 16 November. It will be implemented over twenty-four months and financed 90% by EAR and 10% by the Council of Europe. In December, the Secretaries General of the three Assemblies were invited to Strasbourg to discuss priorities.

12. Organs of the Parliamentary Assembly

Presidence of the Assembly

President

Mr René van der Linden.....Netherlands

Vice-Presidents

Mr Marcel Glesener.....Luxembourg

Mr Bernard Schreiner.....France

Mr Claudio Azzolini.....Italy

Mr Rudolf Bindig.....Germany

Ms Elsa Papadimitriou.....Greece

Mr Mikko Elo.....Finland

Ms Hanne Severinsen.....Denmark

Mr Tadeusz Iwiński.....Poland

Mr Tito Masi.....San Marino

Ms Maria Rosario Fátima Aburto.....Spain

Mr Tony Lloyd.....United Kingdom

Mr Zoltán Szabo.....Hungary

Mr Miroslav Beneš.....Czech Republic

Mr Murat Mercan.....Turkey

Mr Franco Matušić.....Croatia

Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto.....Monaco

Mr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando.....Malta

Mr Giorgi Arveladzé.....Georgia

Mr Konstantin Kosachev.....Russian Federation (since April 2005)

Mr Mikhail Margelov.....Russian Federation (since March 2005)

Ms Maria Postoico.....Moldova (since October 2005)

Committees

Joint Committee

Standing Committee

Political Affairs Committee

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Committee on Economic Affairs and Development

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Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Committee on Culture, Science and Education

Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities

Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe
(Monitoring Committee)

Political groups

Socialist Group (SOC)

Chairman: Mr Lluís Maria de Puig

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)

Chairman: Mr Luc Van den Brande

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Chairman: Mr Mátyás Eörsi

European Democrat Group (EDG)

Chairman: Mr Mikhail Margelov

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

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Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The adopted texts of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe can be found in Appendix C or on the Internet site: www.coe.int/T/Congress/4-Texts/adoptedTexts_en.asp

1. Sessions

Plenary session (31 May–2 June 2005)

The 12th Session took place in Strasbourg from 31 May to 2 June 2005, under the presidency of Giovanni Di Stasi, alternating between plenary and the chamber sessions.

On Thursday 2 June, a sitting was dedicated to the implications of the Warsaw Summit for local and regional democracy in Europe. On this occasion Eduardo Cabrita, Secretary of State of Local Administration (Portugal), spoke on behalf of the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General addressed the Congress and replied to members' questions, and the Parliamentary Assembly President spoke on behalf of the Assembly.

Mr Cabrita also contributed to a round table, on Wednesday 1 June, to mark the 20th anniversary of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. Other participants included Michael Häupl, Mayor of Vienna, Sir Albert Bore, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, Birgitta Halvarsson, Vice-Chair of the Local Chambers' Institutional Committee, and Francesco Merloni, Chair of the Group of independent experts on the European Charter.

Vladimir Yakolev, Minister for Regional Development (Russian Federation), speaking during a debate on the follow-up to the monitoring report on the Russian Federation, outlined the progress that his country had made in respect to local democracy. Giorgi Baramidze, State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

(Georgia), gave an account of the development of local and regional democracy in Georgia.

A debate on local democracy in South-Eastern Europe included contributions by Miodrag Vlahovic, Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro), Lutfi Haziri, Minister for Local Government Administration of the Provisional Institutions of Self Government (Kosovo), and Milos Aligrudic (Serbia and Montenegro), member of the Standing Committee of the Congress.

Several recommendations (see Appendix C) were adopted during the session, notably on the fight against trafficking in human beings and their sexual exploitation.

Chamber of Local Authorities

Rizvan Sulejmani, Minister for Local Self-Government ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), addressed the Chamber and presented the action taken by his government on Recommendation 82 (2000) on local democracy in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

The Chamber debated and adopted recommendations on several reports, notably:

- consultation of local authorities;
- local democracy in Luxembourg;
- natural and industrial disasters;
- major oil spills;
- intercultural and interfaith dialogue;
- regional media and transfrontier co-operation.

Activity report

Chamber of Regions

Mr Higiní Clotas I Cierco, Vice-President of the Parliament of Catalonia, Spain, addressed the Chamber and presented the work of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE).

The Chamber debated and adopted a recommendation on several reports, notably on regional media and transfrontier co-operation and on youth education.

Spring session (16–18 March 2005)

Under the Presidency of Halvdan Skard, the spring session of the Chamber of Local Authorities brought together the members of both the Standing Committee and the Sustainable Development Committee of the Chamber. This included a debate on water management, during which Sulfina Barbu, Minister of the Environment and Water Management (Romania), presented the sustainable integrated water management policy in Romania, and Elisabeth Catton informed the committee about the World Water Council.

The Chamber of Regions session was chaired by President Yavuz Mildon and attended by members of the Standing Committee and the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Chamber of Regions. Progress on the draft European charter of regional self-government and environmental accounting were discussed. There was also a presentation and debate on the northern dimension in European regional co-operation.

Autumn institutional session (7–9 November 2005)

The highlights of the autumn session, held from 7 to 9 November, were a debate on local democracy in Cyprus, Moldova, and local and regional democracy in Turkey. The report on Cyprus, which was critical of the development of local self-government since 2001, included a chapter on local democracy in the part of the island which is not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic

of Cyprus. The report on Turkey highlighted the Turkish Government's determination to make substantial institutional changes in terms of modernising its local authorities. Other reports and debates covered local democracy in Moldova, local finances in the Netherlands, the European Urban Charter, cultural identity issues in peripheral urban areas and public participation in local affairs and elections.

2. Presidency

President Giovanni Di Stasi made a number of official visits during 2005, notably to Albania (23 March), Ukraine (26–27 June) and Armenia (4–6 October). As well as addressing the heads of state at the Warsaw Summit, he made keynote speeches at a number of conferences, such as the European Summit of Regions and Cities (19–20 May, Wrocław, Poland), the 9th Petersburg International Economic Forum (14–16 June, St Petersburg, Russian Federation), and the Forum on the Future of Democracy in Europe (3–4 November, Warsaw, Poland).

On 13 April, in Brussels, the President signed a co-operation agreement between the Congress and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.

3. Monitoring activities and elections observation

Monitoring of local and regional democracy in member states, including the holding of elections, continues to be a key activity of the Congress. During 2005, reports and recommendations on the state of local democracy were adopted for the following states: Cyprus, Denmark, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey.

Congress delegations observed the following elections:

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	13/03/2005	Municipal elections
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	27/03/2005	Municipal elections
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	10/04/2005	Municipal elections
Palestinian territories	5/05/2005	Municipal elections
Moldova	10/07/2005	Municipal elections
Moldova	24/07/2005	Municipal elections
Armenia	20/09/2005	Local elections
Armenia	27/11/2005	Constitutional referendum
Chechnya	27/11/2005	Parliamentary elections
Moldova	27/11/2005	Municipal elections
Moldova	11/12/2005	Municipal elections
Palestinian territories	15/12/2005	Municipal elections

4. Conferences, seminars, general meetings

The Congress played a key role in the organisation of a large number of international regional conferences, seminars and general meetings. A short summary of a selection of these is given here, in chronological order.

Adriatic euroregion preparation meeting

22 April, Pula, Croatia

Participants in the meeting examined the statutes and the final composition of the Adriatic Council. The launch of the Adriatic euroregion has been fixed for 2006.

International seminar on the theme "Transcaucasian co-operation: training for local elected representatives"

7 and 8 June, Alanya, Turkey

The seminar was organised by the European Network of Training Organisations for Local and Regional Authorities (ENTO), in co-operation with the Congress to promote co-operation between training centres and local authorities in the Caucasus region. Special emphasis was placed on innovative working methods, marketing and networking.

Conference on the role of regional and local authorities in the process of democratic consolidation in the Western Balkan Regions

22 June, Pristina, Kosovo

This conference, organised in co-operation with the European Union Committee of the Regions, in partnership with the European Commission and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, highlighted the need for dialogue between the different communities in the region.

International Conference on the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life

24 and 25 June, Komsomolsk, Poltava region, Ukraine

The conference looked at national examples and best practices in respect to the implementation of the charter.

Colloquy on "innovative approaches for enhancing local development and self-government of the regions in Europe"

30 June and 1 July, Sofia, Bulgaria

The round table examined good practices and decentralisation policies in Europe and prospects for their application for local and regional development in Bulgaria.

European Conference on the 20th anniversary of the European Charter of Local Self-Government

8 July, Lisbon, Portugal

The conference evaluated the impact of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and examined what areas could be developed in the form of additional protocols to the Charter. The topics discussed included local authorities' responsibilities and autonomy as regards standard-setting, the institutional organisation of local authorities, local finances and relations with central and regional authorities.

Meetings of the contact group "Committee of the Regions/Congress"

13 July, Paris, and 3 December, Brussels

Following the signing of the co-operation agreement between the Congress and the Committee (see above, item 2), the group continued its co-operation activities in the fields of waste management, natural disasters, local and regional democracy in Turkey, Cyprus and the Western Balkans, the fight against terrorism, social rights for migrants and prevention of urban crime.

1st General Assembly of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-Eastern Europe (NALAS)

6 and 7 September, Skopje, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

The General Assembly elected a president and two vice-presidents, formed the network's executive bodies and identified priorities for future activities.

Launch of the project towards the creation of a national association of local authorities in Azerbaijan

15 and 16 September, Baku, Azerbaijan

The seminar was organised in the framework of the project supported by Norway to favour the creation of a national association of local authorities in Azerbaijan. It focused on the European Charter

of Local Self-Government, the functioning and role of national associations of local and regional authorities and local democracy in Azerbaijan.

8th European Conference of Border Regions, in the Bug euroregion

15 and 16 September, Lutsk, Ukraine

The conference, organised on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities, reviewed the development of transfrontier co-operation in Europe since the 7th Conference in 1999.

Hearing on the development of cultural routes in South-Eastern Europe – Ad Hoc Working Group of Local and Regional Representatives of South-Eastern Europe (GT-SEE)

23 September, Florina, Greece

The hearing sought to develop co-operation between towns and regions in South-Eastern Europe in promoting cultural and architectural heritage, focusing on the conclusions of the conference of regional heads of state held in Varna (Bulgaria), on 21 May 2005.

18th Annual Seminar and General Assembly of the European Network of Training Organisations (ENTO)

5 to 7 October, Yerevan, Armenia

The participants discussed and exchanged best practices on "training and transborder co-operation in Europe", with the sub-themes "Transcaucasian co-operation" and "training for emergency planning".

Conference on Enterprises and Sustainable Development

11 to 13 October, Geneva, Switzerland

The conference, organised within the framework of the International Platform on Sustainable Urban Development, focused on the role that enterprises and entrepreneurs play to protect the environment and how local and regional political representatives can contribute to it.

Meeting of the group of independent experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government

12 October, St Gallen, Switzerland

Participants discussed proposals for future guarantees for local self-government in Europe, which would be complementary to the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Committee on Social Cohesion

13 and 14 October, Mulhouse, France

On the occasion of its October meeting, the committee held a hearing on "the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation of human beings: the role of local and regional authorities".

Conference on "Local action for a global challenge / European preparation for the World Water Forum"

17 to 21 October, Strasbourg

The conference, organised to prepare a European contribution to the 4th World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006), concluded that governance is a critical problem to achieve sustainable integrated water resource and water service management. It called for a forum for exchanges and discussion between elected representatives to strengthen awareness at the decision-making levels, discuss the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity and identify partnerships between elected representatives in different countries.

Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) mission to Albania

27 to 29 October, Tirana-Shkodra, Albania

The ALDA sent a fact-finding mission to Albania to look into the possibility of opening a Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Shkodra.

Local democracy seminar – Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)

28 November, Florence, Italy

The seminar, organised in co-operation with the

Congress, focused on local democracy and the role of regional parliaments in the decision-making process at national and European level.

Conference of the European network of local and regional authorities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (RECEP)

2 and 3 December, Naples, Italy

The purpose of the conference was to prepare the constituent general assembly of the RECEP, which will convene in spring 2006 at the Council of Europe's headquarters in Strasbourg.

6th Forum of Cities and Regions of South-Eastern Europe

8 and 9 December, Sinaia, Romania

The forum reviewed recent co-operation initiatives between local authorities and debated citizen participation in local/regional life and ways of improving the services provided by South-Eastern Europe's cities and regions.

Meeting of local and regional elected representatives from the South Caucasus

15 December, Strasbourg

The meeting adopted an eight-point action plan, supporting, *inter alia*, the creation of:

- a Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Georgia;
- a network of associations of local authorities of the South Caucasus;
- a group of the ministers responsible for local authorities and the representatives of national associations in the South Caucasus;
- the Black Sea euroregion;
- the Centre for Inter-Territorial Co-operation in Russia.

Activity report

Bureau of the Congress

President

Mr Giovanni Di Stasi.....(SOC, Chamber of Regions).....(Italy)

Vice-Presidents

Mr Halvdan Skard.....(SOC, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Norway)

Mr Yavuz Mildon.....(EPP/CD, Chamber of Regions).....(Turkey)

Mrs Dubravka Suica.....(EPP/CD, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Croatia)

Ms Helena Pihlajasaari.....(SOC, Chamber of Regions).....(Finland)

Mr Jean-Claude Frécon.....(SOC, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(France)

Ms Ludmila Sfirloaga.....(SOC, Chamber of Regions).....(Romania)

Mr Alan Lloyd.....(SOC, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(United Kingdom)

Mr Günther Krug.....(SOC, Chamber of Regions).....(Germany)

Mr Anders Knape.....(EPP/CD, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Sweden)

Mr Anatoly Saltykov.....(SOC, Chamber of Regions).....(Russian Federation)

Dr Ian Micallef.....(EPP/CD, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Malta)

Mr Stanislav Bernat.....(ILDG, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Slovakia)

Mr Istvan Borbely.....(EPP/CD, Chamber of Regions).....(Hungary)

Mr Ivan Kulichenko.....(ILDG, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Ukraine)

Mr Zaza Begashvili.....(ILDG, Chamber of Regions).....(Georgia)

Former President

Dr Herwig Van Staa.....(EPP/CD, Chamber of Local Authorities).....(Austria)

Committees

Standing Committee

Institutional Committee

Committee of Culture and Education

Committee on Sustainable Development

Committee on Social Cohesion

European Court of Human Rights

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European Court of Human Rights

*For a complete list of judgments and decisions from 2005,
please consult the Court's Internet site at:
www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/HUDOC/HUDOC+database/*

1. Ratifications and signatures of the European Convention on Human Rights and its protocols

Ratifications		
Convention and Protocols Nos. 2-8 and 11	Monaco	30/11/2005
Protocol No. 13	Greece	01/02/2005
	Monaco	30/11/2005
	Norway	16/08/2005
	Slovakia	18/08/2005
Protocol No. 14	Armenia	07/01/2005
	Bulgaria	17/11/2005
	Cyprus	17/11/2005
	Greece	05/08/2005
	Hungary	21/12/2005
	Iceland	16/05/2005
	Liechtenstein	07/09/2005
	Lithuania	01/07/2005
	Moldova	22/08/2005
	Romania	16/05/2005
	Serbia and Montenegro	06/09/2005
	Slovakia	16/05/2005
	Slovenia	29/06/2005
	Sweden	17/11/2005
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	15/06/2005	
United Kingdom	28/01/2005	
Signatures		
Protocol No. 12	Spain	04/10/2005
Protocol No. 14	Azerbaijan	16/02/2005
	Belgium	20/04/2005
	Bulgaria	23/09/2005
	Spain	10/05/2005
	Hungary	07/04/2005
	Czech Republic	29/06/2005
	San Marino	16/05/2005

2. Election of judges

On 26 January, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly elected Mr Dragoljub Popovic as the first judge of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Serbia and Montenegro.

On 27 April, the Parliamentary Assembly elected Ms Ineta Ziemele as judge of the Court in respect of Latvia. Ms Ziemele will complete the term of office of the former Latvian judge, Mr Egils Levits, who resigned and whose term of office was due to expire on 31 October 2007.

3. Statistics and case law

The Court delivered 1 105 judgments, 12 of which were delivered by the Grand Chamber (GC). It declared inadmissible 26 852 applications and communicated to governments 2 842 applications.

The length of court proceedings was at issue in a total of 272 judgments, in 221 of which it was the sole issue, while in a further 53 the only additional issue was the availability of an effective remedy under Article 13. Violations were found in all but 15 of the cases in which the merits were addressed.

Almost 600 out of the 1 105 judgments delivered (over 54%) concerned five groups of cases dealing exclusively with the following issues: the length of court proceedings (including the question of effective remedies), the non-enforcement of binding court decisions, delays in payment of compensation for expropriation in Turkey, the independence and impartiality of State Security Courts in Turkey (alone or in combination with infringements of the right to freedom of expression), and the use of "indirect expropriation" in Italy. Compared to 2004, the first, third and fourth categories continued to generate large numbers of judgments, while the second and fifth categories showed significant increases; conversely, the numbers relating to two previous high-count groups of cases – Immobiliare Saffi and Kutić-type cases – fell in 2005.

The highest numbers of judgments concerned the following states:

Turkey	290	(26.24%)
Ukraine	120	(10.86%)
Greece	105	(9.5%)
Russian Federation	83	(7.5%)
Italy	79	(7.15%)

The figures in brackets indicate the percentage of the total number of judgments delivered in 2005. These five states accounted for over 60% of the judgments.

The Court dealt with a number of important issues concerning, *inter alia*, the death penalty (*Öcalan v. Turkey*, No. 46221/99 [GC]), religious freedom in relation to the ban on wearing the Islamic headscarf at a university (*Leyla Şahin v. Turkey*, No. 44774/98 [GC]), property reforms in the context of German reunification (*Jahn and Others v. Germany*, Nos. 46720/99, 72203/01 and 72552/01 [GC]), and the obligation to investigate possible racial motives for acts of violence (*Nachova and Others v. Bulgaria*, Nos. 43577/98 and 43579/98 [GC]).

On 30 June, the Grand Chamber delivered its judgment in the case of "*Bosphorus Airways*" v. Ireland (No. 45036/98) concerning the impounding by Ireland of an aircraft (leased by a Turkish company) in execution of a European Council regulation implementing the United Nations sanctions regime against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Court found that the protection of fundamental rights by EC law could have been considered to be, and to have been at the relevant time, "equivalent" to that of the Convention system. It took note of the nature of the interference, of the general interest pursued by the impoundment and by the sanctions regime and of the ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), a ruling with which the Supreme Court was obliged to and did comply. It considered it clear that there was no dysfunction of the mechanisms of control of the observance of Convention rights. Accordingly, the impoundment of the aircraft did not give rise to a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1.

In the case of *Broniowski v. Poland* (No. 31443/95), where the Court had found in 2004 that the

violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 had originated in a systematic problem, the parties signed a friendly settlement agreement which allowed the Court to strike the case out of its list, the Polish Government having demonstrated an active commitment to take general measures intended to remedy the systematic defects found in the principal judgment.

In a very recent judgement in the case of *Xenides-Arestis v. Turkey* (No. 46347/99), which is not yet final, the Court similarly concluded that the violation of the applicant's rights guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1

originated in a widespread problem affecting large numbers of people and noted that there were already approximately 1400 property cases pending before the Court brought primarily by Greek-Cypriots against Turkey. It considered that the respondent state had to introduce a remedy, securing effective redress for the Convention violations in relation to the present applicant as well as in respect of all similar applications pending before the Court. Such a remedy should be available within three months from the date on which the judgment will be delivered and the redress should occur three months thereafter.

4. Composition of the Court

On 31 December 2005 the composition of the Court was as follows (in order of precedence):¹

Mr Luzius Wildhaber, President.....	(Swiss)
Mr Christos Rozakis, Vice-President	(Greek)
Mr Jean-Paul Costa, Vice-President.....	(French)
Sir Nicolas Bratza, President Section.....	(British)
Mr Boštjan Zupančič, President Section.....	(Slovenian)
Mr Giovanni Bonello.....	(Maltese)
Mr Lucius Caflisch.....	(Swiss) ²
Mr Loukis Loucaides.....	(Cypriot)
Mr Ireneu Cabral Barreto.....	(Portuguese)
Mr Rıza Türmen.....	(Turkish)
Mrs Françoise Tulkens.....	(Belgian)
Mr Corneliu Bîrsan.....	(Romanian)
Mr Peer Lorenzen.....	(Danish)
Mr Karel Jungwiert.....	(Czech)
Mr Volodymyr Butkevych.....	(Ukrainian)
Mr Josep Casadevall.....	(Adorran)
Mrs Nina Vajič.....	(Croatian)
Mr John Hedigan.....	(Irish)
Mr Matti Pellonpää.....	(Finnish)
Mrs Margarita Tsatsa-Nikolovska.....	(Citizen of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")
Mr András Baka.....	(Hungarian)
Mr Rait Maruste	(Estonian)
Mr Kristaq Traja.....	(Albanian)
Mrs Snežana Botoucharova.....	(Bulgarian)
Mr Mindia Ugrekhelidze.....	(Georgian)
Mr Anatoly Kovler.....	(Russian)

1. The seat of the judge in respect of Monaco is currently vacant.

2. Elected in respect of Liechtenstein.

Activity report

Mr Vladimiro Zagrebelsky.....	(Italian)
Mrs Antonella Mularoni.....	(San Marinese)
Mrs Elisabeth Steiner.....	(Austrian)
Mr Stanislav Pavlovschi.....	(Moldovan)
Mr Lech Garlicki.....	(Polish)
Mr Javier Borrego Borrego.....	(Spanish)
Mrs Elisabet Fura-Sandström.....	(Swedish)
Mrs Alvina Gyulumyan.....	(Armenian)
Mr Khanlar Hajiyev.....	(Azerbaijani)
Mrs Ljiljana Mijović.....	(Citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Mr Dean Spielmann.....	(Luxemburger)
Mrs Renate Jaeger.....	(German)
Mr Egbert Myjer.....	(Netherlands)
Mr Sverre Erik Jebens.....	(Norwegian)
Mr David Thór Björgvinsson.....	(Icelandic)
Mrs Danutė Jočienė.....	(Lithuanian)
Mr Ján Šikuta.....	(Slovakian)
Mr Dragoljub Popović.....	(Citizen of Serbia and Montenegro)
Mrs Ineta Ziemele.....	(Latvian)
Mr Erik Fribergh, Registrar.....	(Swedish)

Commissioner for Human Rights

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Commissioner for Human Rights

In accordance with Article 3, paragraphs b, c and e of Resolution (99) 50, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe is entrusted with the tasks of promoting the effective observance and full enjoyment of human rights in member states, identifying possible shortcomings in the law and practice of member states and assisting them, with their agreement, in their efforts to remedy such shortcomings. The Commissioner makes use of and co-operates with human rights structures in the member states and where such structures do not exist, he encourages their establishment.

1. The promotion of the effective observance of human rights

During the year 2005, the Commissioner made the following official visits:

Spain	(10-19 March)
Italy	(10-17 June)
Iceland	(4-6 July)
France	(5-21 September)

These visits allow the Commissioner to gain a direct and independent view of the human rights situation in the member state visited and to make appropriate recommendations. A visit typically consists of meetings with the head of state and/or competent ministers (such as the ministers of justice, for home affairs and for foreign affairs), representatives of the judiciary and national human rights protection mechanisms (ombudsman or national human rights institution, where they exist) as well as with the representatives of non-governmental human rights organisations. In addition, during the visit, the Commissioner may inspect sites where the protection of human rights is particularly sensitive, such as prisons, refugee camps or psychiatric institutions. Upon return the Commissioner outlines, in a report addressed to the Committee of Ministers

and the Parliamentary Assembly and published on the Internet, his opinion of the human rights situation in the country concerned. Each report contains a number of recommendations made by the Commissioner with a view to furthering the effective observance of human rights.

During the course of the year the Commissioner published reports relating to a number of visits made in 2004. These included Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Croatia and the Russian Federation. The Commissioner will have presented 32 country reports during his term of office.

Seven follow-up visits were conducted in 2005 by members of the Commissioner's office to prepare reports on the implementation of recommendations made in the Commissioner's earlier country reports. The countries visited were Slovenia, Hungary, Norway, Finland, Malta, Greece and Cyprus. The resulting reports will be published collectively in 2006.

The Commissioner also seeks to promote respect for human rights in crisis situations. During 2005, the Commissioner continued to pay particular attention to the situation in Chechnya, focusing on the promotion of effective human rights protection mechanisms, the development of civil society, and the fight against impunity. A member of the Commissioner's office was based in Grozny from April 2005 to implement activities in the region and follow human rights developments *in situ*. Having secured the agreement of the President of the Chechen Republic for the creation of a provisional ombudsman in 2004, the Commissioner organised a series of training events for the ombudsman and his staff during 2005. The Commissioner also organised seminars, in Nazran (1-3 August) and Strasbourg (5-6 December) to assist Chechen human rights NGOs and acquaint them with international standards and the donor community. A seminar on combatting impunity

was organised by the Commissioner together with the Directorate General of Legal Affairs in Kislovodsk on 28 July.

2. Identification of possible shortcomings in the law and practice of member states of the Council of Europe

On the request of the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner presented an opinion on the draft Council of Europe convention on the prevention of terrorism in February 2005. The Commissioner presented a preliminary report on the human rights situation of Roma/Sinti and Travellers in Europe containing a series of recommendations to member states of the Council of Europe in May 2005. The report is based on the Commissioner's findings during his visits to member states of the Council of Europe and will be completed, in its final version for publication in 2006, by further elements contributed by national authorities and NGOs.

3. Support of and co-operation with human rights structures and assistance for their establishment

The Commissioner seeks to promote the creation of ombudsman and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) where they do not exist and strengthen and co-operate with those that do. The Commissioner's office ran three concurrent projects for the promotion

of national human rights protection mechanisms. Firstly the Commissioner's office continued with its EU funded programme for the promotion of regional ombudsman institutions in the Russian Federation, organising two round tables and three seminars in different subjects of the Federation during 2005. Secondly, the Commissioner continued to oversee the activities of the Eunomia project, implemented by the Greek national ombudsman, for the development of a network of ombudsmen and NHRIs in South-Eastern Europe. Still in South-Eastern Europe, the Commissioner prepared a joint opinion with the Venice Commission on the draft law for the creation of an ombudsman institution in Serbia. Thirdly, the Commissioner's office set up a project, "JOIN", together with the European NHRI group to promote collectively the creation of NHRI in the many remaining member states of the Council of Europe in which they do not exist.

The ninth round table of the European National Ombudspersons was held in Copenhagen from 31 March to 1 April with the co-operation of the Danish national ombudsman, on the occasion of the institution's 50th anniversary.

4. Election of the new Commissioner for Human Rights

Thomas Hammarberg was elected Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights by the Organisation's Parliamentary Assembly on 5 October 2005, for a non-renewable term of office of six years commencing 1 April 2006.

- Political affairs
- Strategic planning
- Legal affairs
and local democracy
- Human rights
- Social cohesion
- Education, culture and
heritage, youth and sport
- Communication
- Internal structures
- Appendices



I. Political affairs

1. Support for political action

The Council of Europe brings together 46 member states in co-operation aimed principally at strengthening democracy, human rights, the rule of law and respect for cultural diversity on a continent of 800 million citizens. To be effective, its action needs to be based on applied knowledge of the political realities specific to each member state and on setting up regular, trusting and relevant political dialogue.

The Directorate of Political Advice and Co-operation helps the Secretary General and the Committee of Ministers meet this dual requirement. Within the Directorate General of Political Affairs, the directorate provides the necessary analysis and advice, prepares the ground for a large number of political discussions and official visits, and assists with certain aspects of strategic thinking. Whenever current developments require it, it prepares draft political stances and action plans.

In 2005, it provided support for the preparation and the fulfilment of about 15 official visits, numerous official contacts of the Secretary General in the member states and many meetings were held at the Strasbourg headquarters. The object of these visits was to promote political dialogue, to strengthen support for the undertakings of the Organisation, to assess co-operation on the spot, as well as to check on honouring of obligations and undertakings. This team provided input to the Committee of Ministers' examination of the political questions which are regularly on its agenda. As is evident from the body of this report, development in South-Eastern Europe, and in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, the evolution of the situation in South Caucasus, unresolved conflicts and questions of reconciliation have required special attention.

The effectiveness of this action received backing from a local presence in 10 cities: Yerevan, Baku, Sarajevo, Tbilisi, Chişinău, Belgrade, Podgorica,

Pristina, Tirana and Skopje. Whether led by a Secretary General's special representative, a head of office, a special advisor or a resident expert, such local presence enabled the Organisation, through sustained dialogue with the authorities, international partners and civil society, to gain a better understanding of contexts and needs, to adjust programmes and to improve co-ordination with other international agencies. The setting up of a local presence in Kiev is under discussion with the authorities in Ukraine.

In addition, 22 offices and information centres across central and eastern Europe presented the Council of Europe's work and conveyed the implications of particular programmes in the countries concerned. A scrutiny of the overall action of these offices has been undertaken by the Committee of Ministers. The permanence of their mission, their mandate, their *modus operandi* and the resources to be allocated will be the object of decisions in the summer of 2006, on the basis of an impact study which has been entrusted to the Secretary General.

2. Interinstitutional co-operation and external relations

The Warsaw Summit stressed the need to foster co-operation with other international and European organisations and institutions, thus giving a new impetus to interinstitutional relations.

Relations with the European Union

Political contacts between the European Union and the Council of Europe increased. The Secretary General met with European Commission President, Manuel Barroso, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Secretary General of the Council of the Union, Javier Solana, and Commissioners Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations), Franco Frattini

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(Justice, Freedom and Security), Jan Figel (Culture, Education, Training and Multilingualism) and Siim Kallas (Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud). He also addressed the European Council's Committee on Policy and Security.

A quadripartite meeting on 16 March, attended by the Luxembourg and Polish Foreign Ministers, the External Relations Commissioner, the Council of Europe's Secretary General and SG/HR Javier Solana as a guest, further strengthened the close relationship between the two organisations, and the coherence between Council of Europe conventions and EU legal *acquis*.

For its European Neighbourhood Policy, the European Commission uses Council of Europe standards as "key benchmarks" to assess progress by its neighbours in fulfilling the conditions for closer relations with the Union. This is done through regular exchanges at Secretariat level which are also used for the preparation of Commission country reports and action plans.

As decided at the Warsaw Summit, a memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union is being prepared and is expected to be signed in 2006. It will take into consideration a report on the relationship between the two organisations which, also at the request of the Warsaw Summit, is being drawn up by Luxembourg Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, in his personal capacity.

Following a public consultation process, to which the Council of Europe contributed very actively, on 30 June the European Commission published a Council Regulation establishing the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The draft regulation provides for a close institutional relationship with the Council of Europe, including the obligation for the Agency to co-ordinate its activities with those of the Council, the conclusion of a bilateral co-operation agreement and the appointment by the Council of Europe of an independent expert to the Agency's management board. Consultations on the Agency will continue to identify objectives and working methods which neither

duplicate Council of Europe activities nor counter-act its standards.

Highlights of the many other EU-related events over the year included an exchange of views between the EU's counter-terrorism co-ordinator, Gijs de Vries and the Committee of Ministers, and a ceremony in Strasbourg to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European flag.

Relations with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE increased both at the institutional level and in the field. Throughout 2005, the two organisations were represented at each other's meetings and events at intergovernmental, parliamentary and secretariat levels.

The Co-ordination Group, set up in 2004, held its first meeting in March in order to prepare a draft declaration on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. This was subsequently approved at a joint meeting between the Committee of Ministers and the Permanent Council in Strasbourg in April, and endorsed at the Warsaw Summit in May.

The Co-ordination Group has also identified and established focal points in four priority areas: the fight against terrorism; the fight against trafficking in human beings; the fight against intolerance and discrimination; and, the protection of national minorities.

A high-level "2+2" meeting took place in Strasbourg on 23 February, at the invitation of the OSCE Slovenian chairmanship. The annual meeting of senior officials took place in Strasbourg on 8 July.

The Council of Europe's presence in Tirana, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Chişinău, Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan maintained close contacts with the relevant OSCE missions and contributed to co-operation between the two organisations.

The Council of Europe also worked closely with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner for

National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, with a view to achieving increased effectiveness and promoting European standards.

Throughout 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe co-operated with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, ODIHR, as well as the OSCE field missions, in the observation of elections and referenda in a number of countries.

Relations with the United Nations

The Council of Europe stepped up its relations with the United Nations very considerably in 2005. In addition to the annual Council of Europe/UN/OSCE target-oriented and high-level tripartite meetings which were held in Strasbourg in February, the Secretary General visited the United Nations headquarters in New York in July for the sixth high-level meeting between the UN and heads of regional and other intergovernmental organisations, in September for the UN Summit, and in October for a meeting of the Security Council on Co-operation between the UN and Regional Organisations in maintaining international peace and security.

In June, the first ever desk-to-desk meetings between the political departments of the Council of Europe and the UN Secretariats took place in New York and were attended by the Deputy Secretary General who had also previously taken part in the Commission on the Status of Women in March.

Ambassador Andrey Denisov, Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, visited the Council of Europe in May to discuss mutual efforts to combat terrorism.

In April, the Secretary General met with UNESCO Director General, Koïchiro Matsuura, to discuss co-operation in the fields of culture, education, environment, youth and sport while throughout 2005, the Council of Europe continued working closely with a large number of other UN bodies including, UNHCR, UNHCHR, OCHA, UNMIK, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNECE.

Relations with other international organisations

Mr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conferences, visited the Council of Europe in October and in November the Council of Europe Secretary General took part in a ministerial conference on the child in Rabat organised jointly by UNICEF, OIC and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) as part of the follow-up to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children.

In 2005, the Council of Europe strengthened its relations with the ISESCO and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). At the Faro Conference of European Ministers of Culture, bilateral agreements were signed with the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation and ALECSO whose Director General, Mongi Bousnina, had also visited the Council of Europe.

In addition to the ongoing co-operation described above, the Council of Europe continued to maintain close relations with other international organisations, including OECD, NATO, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the League of Arab States, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Organisation of the Francophonie, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Commission on Civil Status, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Relations with the Council of Europe observer states

Co-operation with and support from the observer states flourished in 2005, with regular visits by parliamentarians, ministers and other government representatives.

Relations with other non-member states

A delegation of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) was granted observer status at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in November.

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The Head of the European Directorate at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of China visited the Council in January.

3. Civil society and non-governmental organisations

Civil society programmes

In 2005, civil society initiatives focused on promoting dialogue and co-operation between public authorities and NGOs in South-Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation and Belarus.

In addition, conferences on "Mass Graves and the Missing", implemented by the Humanitarian Law Centre within the framework of the "Challenging war crimes denial in Serbia and Montenegro" project, were supported under this programme.

A series of seminars to strengthen the democratic skills of civil society and opposition activists from Belarus took place in Vilnius. Other activities included support to a project implemented by a Jewish-Arab NGO, based in Tel Aviv, to finalise a "tolerance" curriculum for schools in mixed areas of Israel.

At the request of the members of the Democratic Leadership Programme (DLP) network, training seminars in 2005 dealt, *inter alia*, with gender issues and the "democratic oversight of the armed forces".

Seventeen civil society projects, to promote intercultural relations, were financed by the Confidence-building Measures (CBM) programme. They concentrated on the geographical priorities of the programme, in particular, South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

In the light of a re-prioritisation of activities in the context of the Warsaw Summit, the DLP and CBM programmes will be phased out in 2006. However, the intercultural dimension of civil society initiatives (CSIs) and the schools of political studies will be reinforced.

International non-governmental organisations (INGOs)

In January, the 375 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) enjoying participatory status became the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. This change in the title reflects the political recognition of the INGOs as a partner within the Council of Europe.

This recognition was further underlined with the participation of the INGO President, Ms Annelise Oeschger, in the 3rd Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw in May. The input of the Conference of INGOs in the follow-up to the Summit is particularly focused on the Forum on the Future of Democracy in Europe and the Council of Europe's relations with the European Union.

In November, the INGOs, together with the Council of Europe, organised a forum in Messina, Italy, on the role of NGOs in the integration of migrants.

4. Schools of political studies

The network of schools of political studies was further extended in 2005 with the creation of two new schools in Armenia (June) and Ukraine (December). In Romania a regional school was set up in Brasov, Transylvania, to respond to the increasing demand of candidates who wish to take part in the activities of the school. At the end of 2005, 12 schools of political studies were operating in the following countries: the Russian Federation, Georgia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Kosovo, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Romania, Armenia and Ukraine.

The school directors met twice, in Strasbourg in April and in Belgrade in September, in order to strengthen the links between the schools and promote the exchange of experiences. Co-operation between schools was also enhanced in 2005, in particular through a series of regional seminars which were organised by the Sofia school and a conference in Zagreb in December co-organised by

the Croatian school and the British Council, which brought together 120 participants from seven schools of South-Eastern Europe.

At the national level, each school organised in the framework of its annual programme at least three seminars of three to four days for a group of 40 to 50 participants. The themes for these seminars covered both the political actualities of the participating countries and European integration or international relations.

Some schools organised more outstanding events, such as the conference organised by the Belgrade school in October on the 5th anniversary of the end of the Slobodan Milosevic regime, with the participation of Javier Solana, High Representative of the European Union for the CFSP.

The Secretary General, during his official visits, visited several schools, in particular:

- on 15 April, in Tbilisi, Georgia, when he presented the Pro Europa medal to the director and founder of the School, Mr Armaz Akhvediani, on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the foundation of the Georgian school;
- on 12 November, in Skopje, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Throughout the year, numerous officials of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe intervened as speakers during the national seminars, thus enabling the mandate and work of the Organisation to be widely diffused.

The Warsaw Summit confirmed the importance of the schools of political studies to train future heads of government who benefit from the programme by inscribing it in its action plan adopted by the heads of state and government.

The closing seminars in Strasbourg enabled participants of nine schools to familiarise themselves with the Council of Europe and other European institutions located in Strasbourg. The seminars were regularly opened by the Secretary General or the Deputy Secretary General. The European Parliament, the local authorities (City and region), the academic institutions and the National School

of Administration (ENA) have regularly been associated with these closing seminars.

In each country alumni associations have been created to foster links between the participants at a national level as well as at regional level. Since 2005, exchanges between alumni of different schools have been set up and make up a network which includes numerous MPs, members of governments, members of regional legislatures and leaders from social and economic sectors.

5. Project "Good governance in the information society"

In 2005, the three-year project on "Good governance in the information society", set up at the beginning of the year as the follow-up to the integrated project "Making democratic institutions work" (IP1) had four main tasks:

- ensuring follow-up to the Committee of Ministers' recommendations on e-voting (Rec(2004)11) and e-governance (Rec(2004)15). These recommendations were promoted at several international events. Information on emerging good practice was collected with a view to establishing the Council of Europe as a clearing house for e-voting experiences and to organising exploratory work on e-democracy. An evaluation study was made on the Estonian local elections of October 2005 – the first nationwide e-voting elections ever to be held;
- drafting the Declaration on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Information Society. This declaration, the first policy framework on this issue at international level, was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 May 2005. It was presented at the Warsaw Summit and as the Committee of Ministers' contribution to the Tunis Phase of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), 16 to 18 November 2005;
- co-ordinating the Council of Europe's contribution to the Tunis Phase of WSIS. In addition to the presentation of the declaration, two parallel

events were held: one on the Convention on Cybercrime and the other on the theme of e-democracy and harmful content on the Internet. The Deputy Secretary General addressed the WSIS Plenary;

- implementing the Warsaw Summit decision to establish a Forum on the Future of Democracy. The launch meeting of the forum was held in Warsaw on 3 and 4 November 2005 on the invitation of the Polish authorities and brought together representatives of government authorities, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society from all over Europe.

6. European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)

The 2005 activities took place in the framework of the 15th anniversary of the North-South Centre and were carried out through its two main programmes: Global education and youth; and North-South dialogue.

In the Global education (GE) programme, the report of the peer review process on GE in the Netherlands was finalised and the GE report in Austria was launched. The GENE network, with its five new member states, helped to organise the Brussels Conference on Public Awareness and Development Education for North-South Solidarity. The project to reinforce GE in the Visegrad Group (Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia) gained momentum with the organisation of national seminars. The Global Education Week brought together 37 member states of the Council of Europe in November under the theme "Learning for everyone, everywhere, now!".

Where youth was concerned, the third Euro-African training course for youth organisations on "Youth participation in the fight against poverty" took place in Portugal and the 6th University on Youth and Development dedicated its week to the

general theme of the Millennium Development Goals and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the International Youth Year. Also, the second phase of the Partnership Agreement on Euro-Mediterranean Training (May 2005-end 2006) was signed between the European Union and the Council of Europe (Directorate of Youth and Sports and North-South Centre).

With regard to North-South dialogue, the Transmed programme organised a conference entitled "Democracy and citizenship in the Mediterranean", which proposed the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean platform on democracy. During this period, the centre continued to cooperate with the COPEAM (Permanent Conference of Audiovisual Operators) by organising the meeting "Gens Mediterranea. New Faces, New Societies: New Communication?" and with the liaison committee of INGOs of the Council of Europe by organising the symposium "Integration of Migrants in Europe: what role for NGOs?"

The Europe-Africa programme organised the third and fourth workshops on migration and co-development. The Europe-Africa meetings on governance and democracy (Dar Es Salam, Nairobi, and Cape Town) as well as the visit of members of the pan-African Parliament to the Assembly followed on from the dialogue initiated in 2004. The 12th edition of the Lisbon Forum was dedicated to "Democratic governance in the multicultural societies of North and South".

In the multimedia sector, the centre continued to use its website and publications to gain visibility. The 2005 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe was awarded to Dr Bogaletch Gebre, founder of the Kembatta Women's Self-Help Centre (Ethiopia) and to Mr Bob Geldof, musician and producer (Ireland).

It is also important to mention the signing of a Co-operation Agreement between the North-South Centre and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

II. Strategic planning

The Directorate of Strategic Planning's (DSP) areas of responsibility include monitoring, programming, resource mobilisation, co-ordination and evaluation of programmes.

1. Monitoring to ensure compliance with commitments

As part of its monitoring function, the DSP assists the Committee of Ministers in monitoring compliance with commitments accepted by member states, on the basis of the Committee of Ministers' declaration of 10 November 1994. There are two types of monitoring procedures: thematic (which encompasses all members states) and country-specific monitoring.

The thematic monitoring report on freedom of association prepared by the DSP in 2005 was the first one to be presented under the new modalities of the thematic monitoring procedure, adopted by the Committee of Ministers in July 2004. Consisting of three parts, the report gives an overview of the Council of Europe's work undertaken with respect to freedom of association, examples of legislation and practice of the member states in this area as well as proposals for further Council of Europe action. The report was declassified on 19 October 2005. Follow-up action was already decided on 4 July 2005, including the instruction to the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) to examine the proposal to elaborate a non-binding legal instrument in the form of a recommendation on NGOs, taking into account the report itself and the "fundamental principles on the status of NGOs in Europe".

Since the accessions of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2002 and Serbia and Montenegro in 2003, in accordance with decisions taken by the Ministers' Deputies and upon a proposal by the Secretary General, the DSP prepares regular reports on com-

pliance with commitments and obligations, which also cover the implementation of the post-accession co-operation programmes in the countries concerned. These reports, which aim at following closely the progress and difficulties of the compliance process, are examined by the Group of Rapporteurs for Democratic Stability (the then GR-EDS), transmitted to the Committee of Ministers and then published. Three monitoring reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina and three monitoring reports on Serbia and Montenegro were prepared by the DSP in 2005 and published on the sites: www.coe.int/sg and <http://dsp.coe.int/monitoring>.

Established in 2003, the regular assessment of the progress achieved by Georgia in fulfilling its commitments was pursued in 2005. The last report, covering the period of July 2004 to February 2005, was issued by the DSP in March 2005, subsequent to an *in loco* mission.

Stocktaking of co-operation with respect to Moldova, instituted in 2004, resulted, in December 2005, in the publication of a report and its addendum, subsequent to a visit to Chişinău in September 2005. The visit, combined with the meeting of the Steering Committee of the EC/Council of Europe joint programme "Support to continuous democratic reforms, 2004-2006" gave an opportunity to identify the priority areas for future co-operation in order to deal with the remaining problems related to compliance with commitments and obligations.

In 2005, the DSP also continued to provide support to the monitoring group GT.SUIVI.AGO, with respect to the issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan and related issues, notably by participating in the elaboration of the questionnaires of the group and in the analysis of the replies as well as by participating in the preparation of the Committee of Ministers' Reply to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1711 (2005), adopted on 28 September 2005.

2. Programming and evaluation

In 2005, the Planning and Evaluation Department had the important task of preparing the annual programme of activities (PoA) in line with the 3rd Summit decisions of the heads of state and government (May, Warsaw). The 3rd Summit action plan also gave new impetus for reforming the Organisation with regard to more transparency, efficiency and the improvement of working methods. The Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution Res(2005)47 on committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods in December. Further work on this and other aspects of the organisational reform will continue in the light of the action plan (Chapter I).

The annual progress review report was made more succinct and analytical and was expressly designed to aid strategic decision making, a rather radical change to the reporting format and its style compared with previous years. This was welcomed by the Ministers' Deputies. A new IT tool was developed for the preparation of the progress report which brings more transparency and standard presentation of results achieved.

In 2005, several independent evaluations were commissioned. The evaluation of the EC/Council of Europe Russian Federation joint programme was completed and substantial progress was made on the evaluation of joint programmes concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

Lastly, the capacity of around 80 Council of Europe staff for planning and evaluation of projects was improved through the organisation of 16 training courses on advanced project management methodology, concentrating, in particular, on performance indicators.

3. Resource mobilisation, partnerships and co-ordination

In 2005, co-operation and assistance partnerships were concluded for a total of about 20 million. New joint programmes with the European

Commission were signed for a total amount of 11268150, with the European Commission contributing 8888779, and the Council of Europe 2097252. New partnerships with member and non-member states and other international organisations mobilised resources in excess of 8 million.

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union focused on the EU pre-accession strategy for the countries of the Western Balkans, and on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Joint programmes were aimed at promoting democratic stability in Council of Europe member states in eastern Europe and the Caucasus, on the basis of human rights and the rule of law.

Country co-operation papers were elaborated for the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Action plans were subsequently formulated for co-operation with Georgia and Ukraine, and progress was made in drafting action plans for other countries. A number of joint programmes were designed to support progress of partner countries of the EC Stabilisation and Association Process towards meeting the EU benchmarks for accession, and to assist countries included in the ENP to make progress on reforms.

Co-operation in Turkey was actively pursued through the implementation of a joint programme on "Judicial modernisation and penal reform (2004-2007)".

During 2005, there was a substantial increase in consultation and co-operation with the EU delegations in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, Turkey, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, in line with the EU process of decentralisation to bring decision-making closer to the partner countries.

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR), responsible for EC assistance in Serbia and Montenegro, including the UN-administered Kosovo, and in "the former Yugoslav Republic of

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Macedonia" was also developed, under the framework agreement of co-operation of October 2003. Several joint initiatives were implemented in 2005 in Serbia and Montenegro and in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

A fourth annual meeting of senior officials of the European Commission and the Council of Europe was held in Brussels on 13 December 2005. Objectives and priorities for future joint activities were agreed at this meeting.

III. Legal affairs and local democracy

Conventions

Opening of signature

Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research (CETS No. 195) – January

Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) – May

Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) – May

Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198) – May

Entry into force

Protocol of Amendment to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (CETS No. 170) – December

Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (CETS No. 191) – February

Convention on Contact concerning Children (CETS No. 192) – September

Finalisation

Draft Protocol to the Convention on Nationality, on the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession

Recommendations

The list of the recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers can be seen in Appendix A of this report.

Finalisation

Draft recommendation containing the revised European Prison Rules (adopted by the Committee of Ministers in January 2006).

Draft recommendation on research on biological materials of human origin

Draft recommendation on internal displaced persons (IDPs)

1. Ministerial conferences

Five resolutions on debt problems, restorative justice, combating terrorism, judicial co-operation and the conditions of people detained in prison have been adopted by the European Ministers of Justice at their 26th Conference (Helsinki, April).

The strategic planning exercise for the medium term was defined in the declaration on delivering good local and regional governance and the statement on regional self-government was adopted at the 14th Session of the Conference of European ministers responsible for local and regional government (Budapest, February).

The adoption of three conventions to stop the actions of terrorists and organised criminals was supported at the third high-level meeting of the Ministries of the Interior (Warsaw, March).

2. Constitutional matters

Forty-five opinions and reports on constitutions, the functioning of democratic institutions, constitutional justice, protection of minorities, protection of human rights and electoral matters were adopted by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission). Constitutional issues were discussed with several European constitutional courts and with the Southern African Judges Commission (SAJC). Officials and relevant legal professionals were trained on electoral issues in Azerbaijan in Georgia. Assistance was provided to the elections observation delegations/missions of the Parliamentary Assembly (Azerbaijan, Albania, Moldova, and the Palestinian Territories). Civil servants of several European countries were trained within the framework of Universities for Democracy – UniDem Campus (Trieste).

3. Public international law

A list of possibly problematic reservations to international treaties applicable to the fight against terrorism was transmitted to the Committee of Ministers by the Committee of Legal Advisers on the Public International Law (CAHDI) acting as the European observatory of reservations to international treaties. An opinion on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation on "immunities of the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region" was adopted. An analytical report on the Council of Europe pilot project on "State practice regarding immunities of states and their property" has been finalised. Developments concerning the instruments for the protection of victims of armed conflicts and those relating to the International Criminal Court and international criminal tribunals were reviewed.

4. Law drafting technique and legislative process

A joint Council of Europe/Russian Federation working group was set up to identify and promote best practices in the organisation and management of legislative procedures and to develop uniform law drafting techniques.

5. Local and regional democracy

Reports on "Accounting rules and practice at local level", "Internal audit at local and regional level" were adopted, as well as national reports on the "Structure and operation of local and regional democracy" (Belgium and Portugal). The LOREG database (1491 national laws and Council of Europe documents on local and regional democracy) was developed.

Assistance was given to Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Montenegro for the design and implementation of major territorial reforms. The Russian Federation was supported in the drafting of new legislation on the division of competences between the Federation, the subjects of the Federation and local

authorities; regional authorities were assisted with legislative reforms required by the new federal legislation on local government in Chechnya. The decentralisation of competences and fiscal decentralisation were promoted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova and Serbia. The governors' administration was modernised in Bulgaria. Armenia, Georgia, Montenegro, were assisted in the drafting of specific legislation on local government issues.

The first Council of Europe capacity-building toolkit for local government was published, aimed particularly at associations of local authorities. Moldova, Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" were assisted with the development of national training strategies for local government elected representatives and staff. Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova and Slovenia were provided with best practice programmes. Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Bulgaria and Croatia were provided with benchmark/leadership development programmes. Performance management tools for local authorities were prepared in Bulgaria.

Projects on improvement of local public transport and on public finance management trainer training in several cities and regions of the Russian Federation were completed; other projects in several regions were launched. A best practice programme on cross-border co-operation in four pilot regions of North-West Russia was launched, aimed at providing a learning platform for approximately 40 local authorities sharing a border with EU neighbours. A guide to Transfrontier co-operation in North-West Russia was disseminated among the local authorities whose representatives were trained.

The citizen participation at local level was promoted in Bulgaria and Romania (pilot projects on the development of democratic citizenship and responsive leadership). The municipality of Kaliningrad was supported to improve communication between citizens and local authorities. A guide to participatory democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia and Montenegro was published.

Public ethics in local government were promoted in Albania and Bulgaria. Recommendations on how to include local governments in the implementation of national anti-corruption strategies were defined for 11 member states at the regional workshop on "The prevention of corruption and strengthening public ethics in local government" (Sofia, October).

6. Transfrontier co-operation

A preliminary draft European convention containing uniform law on transfrontier groupings of territorial co-operation was prepared. Comparative studies of euroregional statutes for euroregions around Lithuania, in South-Eastern Europe and around Slovakia were published. The Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities and Authorities (ETS No. 106) was promoted in Serbia, Montenegro, Monaco and at a conference in Poland. Strategies for development of transfrontier co-operation as outlined in the report on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT), were discussed at the regional conference in Bulgaria with the participation of central and South-Eastern European states.

7. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Evaluation reports on Armenia, Germany, Slovakia and Spain were adopted by the committee of experts and recommendations to Austria, Croatia and Spain were adopted by the Committee of Ministers. On-the-spot visits were paid to Cyprus, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The charter was promoted in the Czech Republic and Georgia with a view to facilitating its ratification.

8. Nationality

Recommendations concerning the reform of the nationality legislation were adopted in Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

9. Refugees and asylum seekers

Twenty guidelines on forced return were adopted by the Committee of Ministers. Comments on Parliamentary Assembly recommendations on the right to family reunion, protection for separated children seeking asylum and accelerated asylum procedures were adopted. Developments in the domestic law of member states concerning asylum were reviewed. Recommendations were provided on the compatibility of a draft law on asylum in Serbia and Montenegro with Council of Europe standards in the field of refugee law. Judges, policy makers and border guards of Azerbaijan and Moldova were trained on European standards in the field of asylum and of the protection of IDPs.

10. Civil society

Recommendations on legislative reforms in the field of legal status of non-governmental organisations were provided to Serbia and Montenegro and the Russian Federation.

11. Independence and efficiency of justice

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) revised the scheme for the evaluation of judicial systems and launched a regular evaluation process according to the action plan of the 3rd Summit; adopted a "Checklist for time management in courts"; set up a network of pilot courts to support its work; adopted recommendations to the Russian Federation on the execution of court decisions against public authorities; adopted an action plan for the implementation of the opinions of the CCJE; and adopted a medium-term programme of activities in accordance with the action plan of the 3rd Summit. Opinion No. 7 (2005) on "Justice and society" was adopted by the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE).

The 3rd European Day of Civil Justice, co-organised with the European Commission, was celebrated in

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15 member states; the first European Prize of innovative practices contributing to the quality of civil justice: "The Crystal Scales of Justice" was organised (22 entries from 15 member states).

Recommendations and action proposals were prepared with regard to relations between justice and the media at the 2nd European Conference of Judges (Krakow, April). Turkey was supported for judicial reforms within the framework of the "Judicial modernisation and prison reforms programme" funded by the European Commission. Recommendations for further reform of the judicial legislation were submitted to Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine. Judicial reforms on law on courts and judges were adopted in Azerbaijan where written exams for the selection of judges were organised. A continuous support was provided to the reforms of the judicial system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Recommendations for the reforms of judicial procedures were submitted to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Follow-up assistance was given to the functioning of the judiciary in Kosovo.

Recommendations for the development of legal aid systems were designed for Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Mechanisms for the enforcement of court decisions in civil and commercial cases were developed in Albania, Moldova and the Russian Federation.

Priorities for joint actions of the member states for the training of judges and prosecutors were defined at the seventh plenary meeting of the Lisbon Network and the first meeting of the Conference of Directors of the European Schools of Magistrates. The development of training institutions for judges and public prosecutors was supported in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Turkey. Legislative reforms on judicial training were supported in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro and Ukraine. The decision to create a school of magistrates in Azerbaijan was taken. Trainers of the Russian Academy of Justice were trained in cooperation with the academy's regional branches.

Recommendations to set up and to strengthen the implementation of the norms of professional ethics and disciplinary procedures of Bar Associations were provided to Albania, Georgia and Moldova. Recommendations for the functioning of the Bar Associations were provided to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Montenegro, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

12. Administrative law

Recommendations on legislative reforms in the field of administrative law and justice were submitted to Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro and the Russian Federation. Recommendations and action proposals for a better training and awareness of civil servants were designed at the conference on training of civil servants (Vilnius, October).

13. Protection of children

A new treaty on adoption is being developed.

Recommendations were prepared on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire "REACT" on sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Recommendations on the commitments made at the 2nd World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama, 2001) were defined at the conference for Europe and Central Asia (Ljubljana, July).

14. Judicial co-operation and reform in the criminal field

Concrete proposals for European norms on transnational criminal justice and their tools of implementation were drafted to ensure their consistency and visibility developed. The application of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and its protocols regarding witness protection issues, exchange of data from criminal records and requests for DNA collection was analysed. The final

report proposing normative developments dealing in particular with the rights and guarantees of people involved in transnational criminal procedures, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance, was adopted by the committee of experts.

Recommendations for the legislative reforms were provided to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Serbia, as well as the draft law on extradition to Bulgaria.

15. Prosecutors

Recommendations as regards "the relationship between public prosecutors and the police", "ethics and conduct of public prosecutors" and "public prosecutors' competencies outside the criminal sector" were adopted at the 6th Conference of Prosecutors General of Europe (Budapest, May). Recommendations were designed for legislative reforms in Ukraine with regard to the ethics of public prosecutors and discipline and in Kosovo with regard to the law on prosecutors.

16. Assistance to victims

The report on the assistance for victims of terrorism was adopted. Elements to include in a future recommendation were identified to update Recommendation No. R (87) 21 on the assistance to victims and prevention of repeat victimisation. Recommendations on the draft law on the compensation of victims of violent crimes were submitted to Ukraine.

17. Terrorism

The report on international law and action against terrorism with a view to identifying additional lacunae which could be the subject of future Council of Europe action was submitted to the Committee of Ministers. Country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity on some member states were adopted by the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER). Observations were formulated on the Assembly recommendations on "Media and terrorism" and "Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states".

18. Money laundering

Evaluation reports were adopted by the Select Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL) on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering measures in place in respect of three countries; first evaluation reports covering both money laundering and terrorist financing were adopted for two countries. More than 80 potential MONEYVAL examiners were trained on the comprehensive global anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism methodology. Nine countries were vested in the framework of the MONEYVAL Third Round (third round detailed assessment reports on Slovenia and Hungary adopted). Nine progress reports were analysed by MONEYVAL from countries as part of continuing peer pressure. A close co-operation of MONEYVAL with FATF (a MONEYVAL expert participated for the first time as a full examiner in an FATF evaluation) was developed; two FATF Steering Group countries (France and the Netherlands) became full members of MONEYVAL.

The EC funded project against money laundering in the Russian Federation has been successfully completed; the Russian Federation joined the FATF; and results were achieved in legal drafting and restructuring of the financial intelligence unit. A new policy advice project was launched to meet the standards of the Convention on Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. The EC funded project against money laundering in Ukraine (MOLI-UA) has been successfully completed; Ukraine removed from the FAFT list of non-co-operating countries; and, 22 co-operation agreements with foreign financial intelligence units were concluded. An IT system was set up, and 10 memoranda of understanding were concluded with foreign FIUs within the framework of the programme with "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" against money laundering, funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction.

19. Corruption

In the framework of the Second Round Evaluation, 12 visits were conducted by GRECO and 14 reports

were adopted. Joint first and second round evaluation visits were conducted in four countries. First round compliance procedures were opened with respect to seven countries and have been closed with respect to nine countries. The GRECO Secretariat participated in the study group on a follow-up monitoring process for the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

In the framework of the Paco Impact regional project, anti-corruption strategies and policies were prepared in Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Croatia; and anti-corruption strategies and action plans were implemented in Albania and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". An anti-corruption strategy was revised in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo were supported in their legislative reforms. Anti-corruption services from participating countries were strengthened in a joint declaration adopted in Skopje (March). In the framework of the Paco Moldova project, an operating mechanism was established to co-ordinate and manage the anti-corruption strategy and action plan; the law on financing of political parties was adopted; and a survey on corruption perception, attitudes and experience has been completed. In the framework of the Rucola project in the Russian Federation, draft laws were prepared by the Duma to enable the Russian Federation to ratify the United Nations and Council of Europe conventions against corruption. A national anti-corruption strategy and action plan has been finalised in Georgia as required by GRECO recommendations and draft legislative amendments have been finalised. Country-specific recommendations on corruption and ethics in local government were adopted for 11 countries at a regional seminar in Bulgaria (October).

20. Technical co-operation against organised crime

In the framework of the Cards Police regional project with the European Commission to strengthen capacities against organised crime in South-

Eastern Europe, a situation report on organised crime was adopted. A joint declaration was adopted by the Ministers of the Interior of the region endorsing a "Regional strategy on tools against organised and economic crime with project-area-specific actions" (Brijuni, September). Technical expertise was provided to improve the legislative framework and strengthen capacities in the fields of financial investigations, the use of special investigative means and intelligence and witness protection. Countermeasures against economic crime were defined by 250 experts from the public and private sector of some 50 countries at the Octopus Interface Conference 2005 (Cascais, September).

21. Cybercrime

The Convention on Cybercrime was promoted at the Conference on Cybercrime (Madrid, December) organised in conjunction with the Spanish Government and the Organization of American States (OAS) and in several countries (Germany, Serbia and Montenegro).

22. Police and security services

Senior teachers of Moscow University were trained on crime prevention and illegal immigration in the framework of the Russia VIII joint programme with the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation. Recommendations for reforms of police organisation were submitted to Armenia and Serbia. Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Moldova, Montenegro, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Ukraine were supported in the drafting and implementation of codes of ethics. The Code of Police Ethics entered into force in Romania.

23. Prison system

Priority activities of Council of Europe on probation were updated at the Conference on Probation and Aftercare (Istanbul, November). Albania,

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (joint project with the Canadian International Development Agency), Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro (joint project with the European Commission) and Ukraine were supported in the prison reforms through the implementation of the action plans. Turkey was supported for prison reforms within the framework of the "Judicial modernisation and prison reforms" programme.

24. Data protection

The progress report on the application of the principles of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108) to the collection and processing of biometric data was published.

Legislative reforms were supported in Albania, the Russian Federation, Montenegro and Ukraine.

25. Bioethics

The draft additional protocol on human genetics was examined by the Steering Committee (CDBI) in view of its finalisation. International ethical standards of biomedical research on human beings were discussed at the multilateral meeting in Ljubljana (December). National ethics committees gathered in Dubrovnik (April) within the framework of the European Conference of National Ethics Committees (COMETH) to discuss the challenges of changing societies. An educational tool was developed to initiate debate amongst young people concerning bioethical issues (organ donation, genetic tests and medically assisted procreation).

IV. Human rights

1. Control of execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

In 2005, the Committee of Ministers, in accordance with Article 46 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), supervised the execution on the Court's judgments at six meetings of two days, with an average of 3375 cases per meeting.¹ A certain number of cases raising urgent questions were also examined at other meetings of the Committee. In carrying out this task, the Committee dealt, *inter alia*, with the following questions (the interim resolutions adopted by the Committee are quoted in brackets):

a. Right to life and prohibition of torture and ill-treatment

- Measures required to remedy the shortcomings in effective investigations into abuses committed by police or security forces in Turkey (ResDH(2005)43), in Romania (Bursuc case), in Russia (three cases concerning military operations in 1999–2001 in Chechnya), in the United Kingdom (six cases concerning violations in Northern Ireland (ResDH(2005)20)) and in Ukraine (Afanasyev case).
- General measures adopted or being taken by Greece to remedy poor conditions of detention revealed by the *Dougos and Peers* judgments (ResDH(2005)21).

b. Rule of law

- Reopening by Turkey and Italy of domestic criminal proceedings which have violated the applicants' right to a fair trial and resulted in heavy convictions (see interim resolutions adopted in the cases *Dorigo v. Italy* (ResDH(2005)85) and *Hulki Günefl v. Turkey* (ResDH(2005)13)).
- The implementation of the *Ilaşcu and Others v. Russia and Moldova* judgment which found

the applicants' detention in the "Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova" to be arbitrary and unlawful and ordered the immediate release of the applicants still in detention (ResDH(2005)42 and ResDH(2005)84).

- The definition of a new strategy to be adopted in order to remedy the problem of excessive length of domestic proceedings in Italy (ResDH(2005)114).
- Measures to remedy the structural problem of non-execution of domestic judicial decisions in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
- Measures under way in France in order to ensure compliance with the *Vaudelle* judgment, concerning the unfairness of criminal proceedings brought against the applicant, who was under supervisory guardianship (*curatelle*), in that, although he was not fully capable of acting for himself on account of his mental disabilities, he was not given assistance to defend himself against the criminal charges in question (ResDH(2005)1).

c. Private life

- The lack of sufficient legal safeguards for the storage and use, by the intelligence service, of personal data (*Rotaru v. Romania* – ResDH(2005)57).
- Individual measures required to comply with the *Slivenko v. Latvia* judgment concerning the deportation of the applicants, former Latvian permanent residents of Russian origin, to the Russian Federation. The examination led to a friendly settlement between the government and the applicants, under which the latter recover the status of permanent residents of Latvia, of which they had been deprived in violation of the Convention.

d. Democracy and freedom of expression

- The legislative reform in the United Kingdom to remedy the unpredictable effects of "binding over orders" arising from the vague notion of "behaviour *contra bonos mores*", at the basis of the violation of the right to freedom of expression

¹ 2755 cases in 2004.

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found in the Hashman and Harrup judgment (ResDH(2005)59).

- Measures taken by Romania to comply with the Dalban judgment which found a violation of a journalist's right to freedom of expression (ResDH(2005)2).

e. Property rights

- The legislative reform required by the *Broniowski v. Poland* judgment, in which a violation of the applicant's property rights was found on account of Poland's failure to ensure adequate compensation to persons repatriated from the territories beyond the Bug River in the aftermath of the Second World War. The interim Resolution ResDH(2005)58 was immediately followed by the required reform adopted before the end of the year.

f. The Cyprus issue

- The evaluation of progress achieved and outstanding questions in the execution of the *Cyprus v. Turkey* judgment, in particular in regard to the issue of missing persons and the rights to education and freedom of religion (ResDH(2005)44).

g. Co-operation with the European Court

- Responses to be given by the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine to the Court's findings of violations of Article 38 (obligation to co-operate with the Court in the establishment of the facts) (*Shamayev and Others v. Russia*; *Ateş Yasin v. Turkey*; and *Nevmerzhitsky v. Ukraine*).

In 2005, the Committee adopted the above-mentioned 14 interim resolutions, giving notably indications to states as to the execution measures awaited, and 105 final resolutions (closing the examination of 151 cases), of which 31 noted the adoption of new general measures. At the end of 2005 around 4322 judgments were pending before the Committee for supervision of execution, 2183 of which concerned the excessive length of proceedings before the Italian courts.

Information concerning the execution of judgments is available on: www.coe.int/Human_Rights/execution.

2. European Social Charter

The European Social Charter (ESC) guarantees social and economic human rights. State commitment increased significantly: two states ratified the revised Charter (Georgia and Malta) and one state ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") ratified the 1961 Charter thus taking the total number of states parties to 38. Two states (Poland and Serbia and Montenegro) signed the revised Charter. All 46 member states of the Council of Europe have now signed either the 1961 Charter or the revised Charter. Furthermore, Hungary ratified the 1988 Additional Protocol which added new rights. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" ratified the 1991 Amending Protocol which amended the supervisory mechanism.

The European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) is the body responsible for judging the conformity of national law and practice with the ESC.

In the context of the procedure aimed at promoting the acceptance of further provisions (Article 22), the ECSR held meetings with the Governments of Bulgaria, Estonia and Ireland. The meeting reports have been transmitted to the respective governments.

Collective complaints: ECSR's decisions

- *Syndicat SUD Travail Affaires Sociales v. France* (No. 24/2004): violation as the alleviation of the burden of proof is not guaranteed in respect of public employees (no violation on the other grounds);
- *European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Italy* (No. 27/2004): violation of Roma rights;
- *Syndicat des agrégés de l'enseignement supérieur (SAGES) v. France* (No. 26/2004): no violation of the right to organise in the higher education and research sector;
- *Centrale générale des services publics v. Belgium* (No. 25/2004): no violation of the

right to collective bargaining in the public sector.

The ECSR declared three complaints admissible in 2005 and two complaints inadmissible. Four new complaints were registered in 2005.

Reporting procedure (ESCR's conclusions)

The ECSR made public its Conclusions 2005 and XVII-2 containing a total of 884 conclusions assessing the situation in law and in practice in 29 member states. The ECSR took note of a number of measures taken by states in accordance with the Charter's standards such as in Belgium, the Anti-Discrimination Act of 25 February 2003 introduced the possibility for the employee's reinstatement in case of unlawful dismissal; in Bulgaria, the Labour Code, as modified in 2004, provides for compulsory pre and post-natal leave; in France, the "Circulaire" DHOS/DSS/DGAS No. 2005-141 instructed hospitals to consider that any care provided to minors, whether legally or illegally staying in France, be considered emergency care; and in Greece, Act No. 3328/2005 prohibits corporal punishment in secondary schools.

3. Human rights co-operation and awareness activities

In 2005, training and expertise were provided to the government agent¹ offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Monaco, the Russian Federation and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Particular support was given towards the establishment in September 2005 of the government agent institution in Serbia and Montenegro and contacts with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued in order to set up a proper government agent office there. Awareness-raising activities were organised in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo for the ombudsman institutions aimed at increasing their capacities to protect and promote human rights through a better knowledge of the ECHR.

More than 100 ECHR training activities for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, civil servants, law enforcement and prison officials were carried out in all the beneficiary countries. The "training-of-trainers" methodology was integrated into the human rights training programmes in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo. In Georgia, curricula and examination standards for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and legal assistants to judges were developed which take fully into account the standards of the ECHR.

Study visits to the Council of Europe, including the European Court of Human Rights were organised for judges, prosecutors and public officials from the Russian Federation including from Chechnya, Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo, Sweden and Ukraine. During specially organised visits, police officers from Azerbaijan, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey observed the work and human rights training provided to other Council of Europe member states' police services. Efforts continued on the translation and publication of human rights materials in relevant local languages.

Human rights awareness-raising and training activities for civil society representatives were organised on specific issues in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and the Russian Federation. The organisation of the 21st edition of the René Cassin European competition on human rights, involving participants from all Council of Europe member states and other countries, was also supported.

Ad hoc legislative assistance was provided to Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo.

4. Human rights intergovernmental co-operation and human rights law and policy

Following the adoption of Protocol No. 14 to the ECHR in 2004, the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) organised round tables with a view to accelerating the ratification process of the protocol

1. Permanent interlocutor between the European Court of Human Rights and the parties to the ECHR.

by all member states. Given the vital importance of bringing the protocol rapidly into force, it is disappointing to note that, by the end of 2005, only 21 states parties have ratified the protocol. The CDDH started in 2005 the follow-up to the implementation (including the identification of possible lacunae) of five recommendations mentioned in the declaration adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 114th Meeting (12 May 2004). Moreover, it almost finished the preparation of "draft rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements".

In June, the CDDH organised a high-level seminar on the implementation by member states of the guidelines on human rights and terrorism and on the protection of victims of terrorist acts. In addition, a seminar was organised in October to mark the entry into force, on 1 April, of Protocol No. 12 to the ECHR (general prohibition of discrimination). Moreover, the CDDH prepared a manual on human rights and the environment and an activity report on social rights in the framework of the ECHR.

On 23 November, the Secretary General decided to open a formal inquiry (Article 52 of the ECHR) into recent reports suggesting that terrorist suspects may have been secretly detained in or transported through a number of Council of Europe member states with the possible involvement of foreign agencies.

5. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is an independent human rights monitoring mechanism, specialised in questions relating to the fight against racism and racial discrimination.

In 2005, ECRI published its third round monitoring reports concerning Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Poland, Sweden, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey and the United Kingdom. The publication of ECRI's country-by-country reports is an important stage

in the development of an ongoing, active dialogue between ECRI and the authorities of member states. In 2005, ECRI also carried out contact visits and drafted reports with a view to a confidential dialogue with the national authorities of Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, the Russian Federation and Spain.

In 2005, ECRI carried out and published a study on cases in which political campaigns for European or national elections have given rise to the use of racist, antisemitic and xenophobic rhetoric. ECRI adopted on 17 March a declaration condemning this alarming and increasing trend which has been observed in many member states of the Council of Europe, including by mainstream political parties.

In the framework of its programme of action on relations with civil society, ECRI organised in 2005 three national round tables, respectively on 14 June in Turkey (Istanbul), on 13 September in Austria (Vienna) and on 8 November in Poland (Warsaw). These round tables encouraged reflection in the relevant governmental and non-governmental circles. On 17 and 18 February, ECRI organised a seminar on the issue of ethnic data collection with national specialised bodies to combat racism and racial discrimination.

6. Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The number of ratifications of the framework convention reached 38, with ratifications by the Netherlands on 16 February, Latvia on 6 June and Georgia on 21 December. The monitoring process of the convention became an increasingly strong element in the European human rights protection system.

The Committee of Ministers issued resolutions in respect of the implementation of the Framework Convention in nine countries (Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina on 11 May, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" on 15 June, Croatia and Slovenia on 28 September, Liechtenstein and

Moldova on 7 December, and Hungary and Denmark on 14 December). It introduced a new format for the second cycle resolutions, with more detailed findings and concrete recommendations, along the lines proposed by the advisory committee of independent experts.

The advisory committee continued its practice of conducting country visits, including to minority populated regions, and issued detailed second cycle opinions on how the Framework Convention has been implemented in the Czech Republic (the 2nd Opinion adopted on 24 February, Estonia (24 February), Italy (24 February), Malta (22 November), Romania (24 November), the Slovak Republic (26 May) and Slovenia (26 May).

The Secretariat of the framework convention organised, together with the authorities concerned, nine "follow-up seminars" in 2005 (Dublin on 28 February, Stockholm on 25 April, Split on 16 September, Warsaw on 26 September, Tirana on 27-28 September, Skopje on 3 October, Belgrade on 10 October, Sarajevo on 5-6 December and Baku on 19 December), in order to provide an inclusive forum for the advisory committee members, officials, minority representatives, NGOs and others concerned to discuss how to put into practice the findings of the monitoring process. These follow-up events, together with the second cycle opinions, showed that, although there remain outstanding issues in practically all countries, the monitoring process has already yielded many concrete improvements in minority protection, ranging from new laws on national minorities to additional tools to improve participation of persons belonging to minorities in public bodies.

The Council of Europe set an important precedent as it started the monitoring of the implementation of the framework convention in Kosovo on the basis of a special agreement concluded with the UNMIK (UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo). The advisory committee visited Kosovo in October and adopted its opinion on the implementation of the framework convention in Kosovo on 25 November. The opinion was then submitted to the Committee of Ministers for consideration.

7. Media

The 7th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy was held in Kiev on 10 and 11 March. The texts adopted – a political declaration, three resolutions and an action plan – outline the new objectives for the Council of Europe in respect of mass media policy and new communication services for the next few years.

On 2 March the Committee of Ministers adopted a declaration on freedom of expression and information in the media in the context of the fight against terrorism. This text, *inter alia*, calls upon public authorities in member states to guarantee journalists' access to information, to respect their right not to reveal their sources, and to firmly support the editorial independence of media. Related work included a conference on "safeguarding free speech and the right to information: media in times of crisis".

In 2005, work on monitoring media concentration and its impact on media pluralism and cultural diversity was also initiated, and a draft recommendation was submitted to the Committee of Ministers encouraging ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

At the request of the Committee of Ministers, the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communications Services (CDMC) examined the alignment of the laws on defamation with the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the issue of decriminalisation of defamation. It will provide a reply to the Committee of Ministers in 2006.

Work on the revision of the Convention on Transfrontier Television has continued in 2005 with a view to adapting it to the new technological environment. The Standing Committee which supervises the convention's implementation examined issues such as scope, protection of minors and respect for human dignity, right to information and cultural objectives, advertising, teleshopping and sponsorship.

In 2005, work concerning the Information Society has been stepped up. The CDMC has underlined the

importance of the Council of Europe bringing a strong human rights dimension to discussions on Internet governance.

The technical assistance and co-operation activities in the media field organised in member states with a view to ensuring the establishment and implementation of regulatory frameworks for freedom of expression and the media which comply with Council of Europe standards continued at a steady pace.

8. Equality between women and men

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 3 May and opened for signature in Warsaw on 16 May, on the occasion of the 3rd Summit.

As a follow-up to Recommendation Rec(2003)3, gender-segregated data on the participation of women and men in legislative, executive and judicial powers as well as in the diplomatic services of the Council of Europe member states was collected and evaluated.

In the gender mainstreaming field, a report on gender budgeting was adopted. It contains guidelines to assist member states in integrating a gender perspective in the budgetary process as part of the gender-mainstreaming strategy.

In view of measuring progress in implementation of the measures contained in Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence, information provided by member states on the basis of indicators was collected and analysed. A stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member states was prepared. A conference identified the different roles which men can play in the context of family violence, not just as perpetrators of violence, but as victims of family violence and their role in preventing violence and protecting victims.

Co-operation activities in the field of equality between women and men and action to combat

trafficking in human beings were carried out in the following member states: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Moldova. A number of Council of Europe documents in the field of gender equality were translated into Bosnian and Azeri.

9. Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Visits by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) in 2005:

- Ten periodic visits: Albania, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Norway, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia and Ukraine
- Seven visits required in the circumstances ("ad hoc visits"): Azerbaijan, Malta, Moldova, Spain, Turkey, and twice to the United Kingdom
- Totalling 152 days of presence in the field.

Further details on these visits are available on the Committee's website: www.cpt.coe.int

Following an exchange of letters between the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the CPT dated November 2000, and activated in the context of an Enforcement Agreement concluded between the United Nations and the United Kingdom in 2004, the CPT monitored the treatment and conditions of detention of a person convicted by the ICTY and serving his sentence in the United Kingdom, during its ad hoc visit in July 2005 to this state (see also the Committee's 15th General Report (CPT/Inf(2005)17), paragraphs 14–15).

With a view to ensuring the application of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment throughout the territory of Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (which is currently under interim international administration), access for the CPT to places where persons are detained

by an authority of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) is now guaranteed by an agreement between UNMIK and the Council of Europe signed on 23 August 2004 (see Appendix 8 to the CPT's 14th General Report – CPT/Inf(2004)28). Similar arrangements of a binding nature must be concluded with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in respect of detention facilities operated by the "international security presence in Kosovo" (KFOR), which also has the power to detain civilians. On 28 February, the CPT's President had an exchange of views with the Political Committee of NATO, in order to explain the Committee's *modus operandi* and remove any possible misunderstandings. On 10 January 2006, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe requested that the CPT should be given immediate and unlimited access to all KFOR detention facilities in Kosovo.

On 30 November, Monaco ratified the convention. It has now been ratified by all the member states of the Council of Europe.

Nine visit reports were published by the committee in 2005, at the request of the governments con-

cerned, together with the government responses (in respect of Austria, Estonia, France, Latvia, Malta, San Marino, Turkey and two reports concerning the United Kingdom). At the time of writing, there are 149 CPT visit reports in the public domain.

In its 15th General Report, the committee comments on a number of issues relating to its activities, including the question of diplomatic assurances. As regards the impact of the CPT's standards, the committee was associated with the elaboration of the 20 guidelines on forced return of foreign nationals adopted by the Committee of Ministers in May, as well as the review process of the European Prison Rules, which were adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 January 2006.

With a view to assisting the media when reporting on the CPT's work, a video kit was produced by the Directorate of Communication. Primarily aimed at TV journalists, it contains a series of reconstructions of events linked to the committee's activities. Copies of the video kit in BETA format are available from the Directorate of Communication.

V. Social cohesion

1. Social affairs and health

Social policy

In the Council of Europe, social cohesion is understood to mean the capacity of a society to ensure the welfare of all its members, minimising disparities and avoiding polarisation.

The Strategy for Social Cohesion, drawn up by the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS) and approved by the Committee of Ministers, is based on the two following fundamental concepts: social cohesion must be built on human rights and must be understood as a responsibility shared by all. The strategy has been translated into 17 languages and presented in several countries during national seminars on social cohesion.

The Task Force on Social Cohesion, decided upon during the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Governments, has come into being. It is composed of eight high-level experts who have the task of reflecting on social cohesion in the 21st century and the challenges posed by an ageing population and other social and economic developments while bearing in mind the Organisation's experience in this field.

In the field of access to social rights, the Group of Specialists on User Involvement in Social Services and Integrated Social Services Delivery and the Group of Specialists on Housing Policies for Social Cohesion are currently drawing up guidelines. The work should be finalised in 2006. In this sector an important ministerial conference on employment in South-Eastern Europe was held in Sofia in October.

The assistance activities which were carried out in the social security field with a view to extending the standards of the European Code of Social Security to member states led to Lithuania signing the code in November. A new committee of experts on social security will undertake the tasks formerly

carried out by the Committee on Standard-setting Instruments and the Committee for Co-ordination in the social security field. The Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSCEO) has acquired a database and now covers all the states of the Council of Europe which are not members of the European Union.

In the children and family sector, apart from the work on parenting and the preparation of the next ministerial conference on a similar theme, a new programme entitled "Building a Europe for and with children" was launched. It will be run by a newly created co-ordination unit.

The European Population Committee held an important Conference on Demographic Challenges for Social Cohesion. The committee also adopted its annual report on recent demographic developments in Europe, which examines European trends concerning population, fertility, mortality, migration, family matters and demographic tendencies.

In addition, the Council of Europe has finalised follow-up work by the international census observation mission in Moldova and similar work has started in Kosovo.

The 2005 edition of the annual Forum on Social Cohesion was on the theme "Reconciling labour flexibility with social cohesion". Four volumes in the series *Trends in Social Cohesion* have also been published.

Migrations

The action plan adopted at the 7th Conference of European ministers responsible for Migration Affairs, held in Helsinki in September 2002, led in particular to strengthening co-operation with non-member states and with the EU.

The fourth and fifth meetings of the Council of Europe Political Platform on Migration took place in the margins of the two sessions of the European Committee on Migration (CDMG). The following themes were discussed: co-development between

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North and South and links between migrants and their countries of origin (Strasbourg, 21 April) and the image of migrants in the media (Athens, 21 October). The Parliamentary Assembly actively contributed to both sessions of the political platform.

A Council of Europe's Regional Conference organised in Malaga (Spain) on 27 and 28 October, in co-operation with the Spanish Ministry responsible for migration, aimed at seeking sustainable solutions in terms of prevention of migration and at defining life goals for unaccompanied minors both in the host country and in the context of a safe return to the country of origin. The Parliamentary Assembly was represented at that conference.

Two workshops on migration and co-development organised in Lisbon in co-operation with the North-South Centre aimed at improving working relations with countries of origin and transit outside Europe. In 2005 the themes of the workshops were: "Migrants: economic players in their countries of origin" (Lisbon, 18-19 March) and "Financing co-development" (Lisbon, 7-8 October). The Council of Europe took part in two meetings of the European Migration Network organised by the European Commission.

The CDMG concentrated on integration and community relations policies aimed at the promotion of tolerance, social cohesion and the social rights of migrants.

A select committee of experts examined the specific problems faced by the children of migrants (including second and third generation) with a view to preparing, for the attention of the CDMG, proposals for guidelines on: the integration of newly arrived children of migrants into the educational system; national policies aimed at providing children with adequate language skills at a pre-school level; the means of achieving a successful transition from school to labour market and the situation of migrant children living in segregated/disadvantaged areas.

A select committee of experts has been established to review the Migration Management Strategy of the CDMG set out in the report "Towards a Migration Management Strategy" and to make

such proposals to the CDMG to adapt it as they consider appropriate.

A select committee of experts is preparing proposals for guidelines on promoting access to employment and self employment for the following people: legally resident migrants; and people of immigrant/foreign origin.

In the field of the legal status and other rights of migrants, a draft recommendation on admission policies, rules and practice relating to foreign students in the Council of Europe member states was prepared on the basis of a study commissioned in 2004.

Roma and Travellers

In 2005, the two statutory meetings of the Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) took place in Strasbourg on 7 and 8 April and on 22 and 23 November, respectively.

The Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation Rec(2005)4 on improving the housing conditions of Roma and Travellers in Europe on 23 February.

In 2003 the Parliamentary Assembly adopted Recommendation 1633 (2003) on forced returns of Roma from the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, to Serbia and Montenegro from Council of Europe member states. In 2005 a new recommendation on the current situation in Kosovo (Recommendation 1708 (2005)), requested the co-ordinator on Roma activities, if necessary with the assistance of the Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, to conduct a fact-finding mission to Kosovo to collect first-hand information on the socioeconomic conditions of the Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian internally displaced population, as well as of Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian returnees.

The co-ordinator carried out a field visit to Kosovo on 22 and 23 August, limited to examining the situation in Mitrovica and seeing what measures were being taken to avoid the further poisoning of the Roma in the contaminated area in which they were living.

An international conference on "the implementation of policies/action plans for Roma, Sinti and Travellers, and measures against the anti-Gypsyism phenomenon in Europe" took place in Warsaw on 20 and 21 October. The conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, as the Chair-in-Office of the OSCE in 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior and Administration of Poland, the Council of Europe, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC).

It focused on concrete measures undertaken by the participating states to implement the action plan for the improvement of the situation of the Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area, in the light of the Council of Europe's relevant recommendations, European Union standards, as well as participating states' own relevant national strategies. It also focused on the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism in Europe and how the participating states, NGOs and the international community can best provide remedies against this phenomenon. A follow-up to this conference will be organised in Bucharest on 4 and 5 May 2006 under the Romanian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

Programme on Roma and Travellers in Europe

In 2005 the programme was financed by voluntary contributions from Finland and Norway. Five main priorities have been set up within this programme in 2005: promotion of human rights and legal assistance activities to develop and implement national programmes for Roma; access to health care for the Roma and Travellers; access to housing; Roma education, language and culture; and Roma youth and migration.

Stability Pact Project: "Roma in South-Eastern Europe"

A second joint European Commission/Council of Europe project started in February 2003. The Council of Europe's part of the project, which came to an end in July, consisted in fostering the adoption of national comprehensive strategies to improve the situation of Roma in "the former Yugoslav Republic

of Macedonia", Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Moldova through a constructive dialogue between state and local authorities and Romani NGOs. The project also aimed at assisting the implementation, at the local level, of strategies that have already been adopted in Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro.

Access to education, to property, and to employment were amongst the top priorities of the project. A survey on illegal settlements in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a bilateral meeting between Albania and Greece on trafficking of Romani children and women, the creation of Roma sociosanitary mediators in Moldova and a series of training for young Roma in Croatia were carried out from 2003 to 2005.

A new joint European Commission/Council of Europe project on Roma in South-Eastern Europe (co-funding) was signed by both parties on 21 December. It will focus on training sessions for members of interministerial commissions in charge of national programmes for Roma and will launch a two-year awareness-raising campaign against anti-Gypsyism in the countries concerned.

European Roma and Travellers' Forum

The European Roma and Travellers' Forum (ERTF) was registered in Strasbourg as a non-governmental organisation in September 2004 and a Partnership Agreement was signed between the ERTF and the Council of Europe on 15 December 2004. This agreement provides for a Council of Europe contribution in terms of funds and human resources and enables the forum to have a privileged relationship with all sectors of the Organisation, including the Parliamentary Assembly, which deal with issues relevant to Roma and Travellers.

The First Plenary Assembly of the ERTF, hosted by the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg on 13 to 15 December. The event gathered about 70 Roma and Travellers' representatives from the Council of Europe's 46 member states and focused on the integration and the difficult situation of 10-12 million European Roma and Travellers. The event was largely broadcasted in the media.

Health policy

A recommendation emanating from the European Health Committee (CDSP) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2005 (Rec(2005)11) on the role and training of professionals responsible for organ donation (transplant "donor co-ordinators").

The 11th edition of the *Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components* was published. The guide forms the basis for many national guidelines, both in Europe and outside. The 12th edition was adopted by the CDSP and will be published in 2006.

The third edition of the *Guide to safety and quality assurance for organs, tissues and cells* was updated. Its publication is due in 2006. The guide provides guidance for all those involved in transplantation to maximise the quality and thereby the success rate of transplants and to minimise the risks to all involved in this complex procedure.

Hosted by the Swiss authorities and organised by the Council of Europe, the seventh European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation took place in Geneva on 14 October. This was the occasion to express solidarity and support to all those in need of organ transplantation and honour all donors and their families, as well as to promote the ethical principles of non-commercialisation and of protection of donors and recipients.

The Polish authorities hosted a conference in Warsaw, on 14 and 15 April, addressing the issue of patient safety as a key component of the quality system of healthcare infrastructures.

On 20 and 21 October, the Serbian authorities hosted, the European Conference on Palliative Care in Belgrade. The conference was organised by the Council of Europe and offered an opportunity for policy makers and health professionals to discuss and raise awareness on the provision of palliative care across member states.

The Council of Europe organised the Second Forum of Health Ministers on "Health and economic development in South-Eastern Europe in the 21st century", in Skopje ("the former Yugoslav Republic

of Macedonia") on 25 and 26 November. Ministers of finance also attended the forum.

Hosted by the Slovenian authorities, the Council of Europe organised a two-day seminar on "New challenges for citizens/patients in healthcare" in Ljubljana on 8 and 9 December.

The Council of Europe contributed to the organisation of the WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health held in Helsinki from 12 to 15 January.

Within the joint programme of the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Moldova, several assistance activities took place during the year in the field of mental health and organ transplantation.

2. Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field

Bulgaria acceded to the Partial Agreement on 1 November.

Disability

The Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities (CD-P-RR) completed the draft Council of Europe action plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society and to improve their quality of life in Europe 2006-2015.

Resolution ResAP(2005)1 on safeguarding adults and children with disabilities against abuse was adopted by the Committee of Ministers and the report entitled "The status of sign languages in Europe" was published.

The committee continued its work on the following subjects: accessibility of the built environment, goods and services for people with disabilities (Universal Design), the integration and education of children with autism and community living (deinstitutionalisation) of children with disabilities. Targeted dissemination activities on access to social rights for people with disabilities were carried out in Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The next biennial work programme will focus on the promotion, implementation and follow-up of the Disability Action Plan.

Public Health

The Public Health Committee (CD-P-SP) oversaw a work programme which added to raising the level of consumer health protection in Europe in the fields of food and nutrition, including food packaging and flavouring substances, as well as cosmetic products and pharmaceutical practice, in particular counterfeit medicines, safe medication practices and the classification of medicines into prescription and non-prescription medicines.

The Committee of Ministers adopted the following resolutions emanating from the Public Health Committee: ResAP(2005)2 on packaging inks applied to the non-food contact surface of food packaging materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs; ResAP(2005)3 on healthy eating in schools and ResAP(2005)4 on sun protection products to optimise consumer protection.

The multidisciplinary seminar on counterfeit medicines ("Counteract the counterfeiters!"), organised by the Committee of Experts on Pharmaceutical Questions (P-SP-PH) in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 September, was attended by 200 experts from 40 countries, and elaborated recommendations to address the issue at international level, namely on a harmonised legal environment, best practices to protect the patient and the market, risk management, enforcement, and international co-operation.

The report "Eating at schools – Making healthy choices" was published.

3. Partial Agreement Pompidou Group

The Pompidou Group has carried out a survey of member states concerning its role and working methods in the evolving European institutional context and in the light of other organisations' programmes. Proposals for the future will be submitted for final approval at the 2006 ministerial conference of the group.

Work focusing on the practical implementation of drug policies continued in the thematic platforms created for the 2004-2006 programme. Conclusions addressed to governments were completed in areas such as: police, social and health service co-operation in reducing public nuisance, treatment of young drug users, participation of target groups in drug prevention and the use of telematics and information technologies in prevention.

A conference was held in December on ways to promote the dissemination of good practice in the drug abuse prevention field. A report on the ethical issues raised by drug screening in schools has also been finalised. Apart from its ongoing exchange of experience, the airports group has focused particularly on the prevention of airport crime in general.

The research group has produced reports on current themes and future developments in both social and biomedical drug research and has launched an inventory of current drug research in co-operation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

4. Partial Agreement on the Development Bank of the Council of Europe

In ensuring its responsibility for examining the projects presented by member countries and preparing the Secretary General's opinion of admissibility from the political and social points of view, the Secretariat of the Partial Agreement prepared 48 opinions of admissibility including six opinions required for donations and structural modifications to projects during implementation. The Secretariat prepared the 16th annual report on the social effects on 18 projects completed in 2004 for the attention of the Bank's organs.

As at 31 December 2004, the Council of Europe Development Bank's subscribed capital stood at €3.29 billion, bringing its own funds to €4.5 billion, whilst net profit amounted to €115.1 million. On the same date, the amount of loans outstanding

reached a total of €10.7 billion, representing the highest amount since the Bank's inception.⁵

In 2005, the first year of the CEB's new Medium-Term Development Plan 2005–2009, the CEB specifically reinforced its commitment to promote social cohesion and reduce inequalities in central and South-Eastern European countries, as was confirmed by the evolution of lending activities with 25 projects approved directly in favour of 14 of the target group countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", and Turkey) for a total amount in excess of €1 billion.

The projects approved included projects in its priority fields of action: refugees; displaced persons and migrants; and victims of natural disasters, complemented by projects for the prevention of natural disasters. The projects also focused on key areas such as social housing, health and education, job creation in SMEs and the environment. The 42 projects approved represented a total amount of €2517 billion across 20 countries of operation. Four projects responded to the need for reconstruction and prevention related to natural disasters totalling €320.6 million.

The CEB also approved three donations for a total of US\$115 million in favour of priority and vulnerable target group populations: two donations for refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro to be implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and one donation for improved education structures for Romani children in Bulgaria.

The CEB, in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the World Health Organization (WHO), was actively involved in preparing the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Health in Skopje (25 and 26 November) attended by ministers of health and finance from eight South-Eastern European countries.

Finally, the CEB published two studies in the Bank's fields of action: "Social Challenges in South-Eastern

Europe" (July) and "Trends and Progress in housing reforms in South Eastern Europe" with the support of the Council of Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM)

Observer status at the European Pharmacopoeia Commission was requested by and granted to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as Madagascar, Brazil and Israel. There are now 35 members and 18 observers at the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, including the World Health Organization.

The licensing authorities and pharmacopoeias of South Korea and China have also shown great interest in the EDQM and the European Pharmacopoeia's activities related to biological products and Chinese medicinal plants.

EDQM activities related to the European Pharmacopoeia

The European Pharmacopoeia Commission continued to revise the fifth edition of the *European Pharmacopoeia*; it also launched a new publication called *Pharmeuropa Scientific Notes* in printed and online versions. The procedure for Certification of Suitability of Monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia continues to grow throughout the world; it is an essential tool used by national health authorities to control the quality of raw materials used in medicines marketed in Europe.

EDQM activities related to surveillance of marketed products

By co-ordinating the European network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories, the EDQM contributes to market surveillance in Europe and facilitates mutual recognition of national quality control testing among states. Over 90 official control laboratories from 35 countries collaborate in

5. The last published figures are available in the Governor's Report for 2004. The annual report for 2005 will be available in spring 2006.

this network, in which their proficiency is assessed regularly.

The 10th annual meeting of the network took place from 23 to 26 May in Rome (Italy) with the support of the Italian authorities (Istituto Superiore di Sanita). This meeting was attended by nearly 200 representatives of national laboratories from 31 countries. Representatives of the European Commission and the European Medicines Agency

(EMA) were also present. An information day was organised on 27 May in Rome to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the network.

The role of the European network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories in independent testing has been confirmed and reinforced in European legislation on medicines for human and veterinary use.

VI. Education, culture and heritage, youth and sport

Intercultural dialogue

The highlights of the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention at the end of 2004 and in 2005 were: the Opening Conference of European ministers responsible for culture (Wrocław (Poland), December 2004), a colloquy of intellectuals on "European Culture: Identity and Diversity" (Strasbourg, September 2005), and the Closing Conference of European ministers of culture (Faro (Portugal), October 2005). Numerous activities celebrating the occasion were organised at national level.

On the occasion of the Closing Conference, the European ministers of culture adopted a declaration containing guidelines for the Council of Europe's strategy for developing intercultural dialogue (the "Faro Strategy"). Recent events relevant to this policy include the signature with Unesco of a "Declaration of Intent on the setting-up of an open platform of interinstitutional co-operation for intercultural dialogue" ("Faro Open Platform"), and the signature of bilateral agreements on practical co-operation with the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALECSO). The General Director of DGIV, Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni was nominated as the Council of Europe's Co-ordinator for Intercultural Dialogue.

1. School, out of school and higher education

The European Year of Citizenship through Education (2005), which addressed itself specifically to education professionals and policy makers, was marked, by over 600 activities in more than 40 member states, based on their priorities and concerns. The Council of Europe set up a website, prepared framework documents and a collection of tools, notably

on teacher training and quality assurance, which were translated into several languages, disseminated to various target audiences and published on the 24 dedicated national websites. The 2005 activities have made it possible to strengthen and expand working relations and partnerships with INGOs and NGOs, and to demonstrate that the Council is the leading agency in Europe concerning education for democratic citizenship and human rights. The evaluation conference will be held in Sinaia, Romania, on 27 and 28 April 2006

Higher education

The Council of Europe continued to assist the Bologna Process aiming to establish a European higher education area by 2010. In May, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine acceded to the Bologna Process, which now encompasses 45 of 48 cultural convention countries. The Council of Europe has further strengthened its position as a major actor in higher education reform in Europe, which is reflected by the fact that the Bologna Process is part of the action plan adopted by the 3rd Summit as an innovative form of co-operation between most European countries, a number of international organisations and NGOs. The Council's work on the recognition of qualifications and the joint convention with Unesco – which has now been ratified by 41 countries – are also important contributions to the European higher education area.

The Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation on the governance and management of university heritage, and new initiatives such as a series of conferences under the label of "Council of Europe Higher Education Forum" were launched. In the *Council of Europe higher education* publication series, two volumes were published.

Teaching history

The current intergovernmental project on key dates in European history concluded its operational parts with two conferences on 1912-13 – the Balkan

wars – and 1919 – the new Europe emerging from the battlefields of the First World War. In 2006, this project will be concluded with the publication of a CD-ROM aimed at secondary school students. Significant work on history teaching is also conducted on a bilateral and regional basis, in particular in Cyprus, where history educators from both major communities were brought together, in the Russian Federation and South-Eastern Europe

Language policy

There were over 800 events in 36 countries to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Guidelines and illustrative materials have been developed to facilitate the implementation of the language competence standards recommended by Committee of Ministers in Recommendation No. R (98) 6. A survey has been completed on the use of the language competence standards, which show that these are now the key reference for curricula and examinations in Europe. Guidelines were developed to assist teams in elaborating detailed descriptions of their national or regional language according to the language competence levels (nine languages achieved or under development). A number of language policy reviews have been conducted or were completed, resulting in joint policy proposals for future action. Five new European language portfolio models were validated, including the first electronic model; 14 further models are being validated.

The EU has adopted the Council of Europe language standards for its Linguistic Indicator and Europass. Work on language proficiency standards was greatly assisted by co-operation with Eurocentres and the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE). The first electronic portfolio was accredited and launched on the basis of the work with ALTE/EAQUALS.

Specific activities on the linguistic integration of migrants contributed to the European Year of Citizenship through Education. A forum was organised in Berlin in close co-operation with ALTE (the Association of Language Testers in Europe). The European Centre for Modern Languages (Graz) celebrated 10 years of work promoting excellence and innovation in language teaching and helping

Europeans learn languages more efficiently through the projects it supports.

Education policy and legislative reforms

In 2005, some 30 important activities in the field of education policy and legislation were conducted in various member countries. Support to legislative reforms in education was provided in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Serbia and Montenegro, and Belarus. The Council of Europe as the lead agency for education legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has focused on the development of a new state-level framework law for higher education.

A three-year regional project on education policy and minorities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine was successfully completed and its recommendations were presented to the governments concerned. In the Russian Federation, the International Strategic Expert Group (ISEG) continued to advise the Minister of Education on implementing the plan for the "Modernisation of the education system of the Russian Federation by 2010". Educators from the Chechen Republic were continually involved in various projects concerning the development of language policy and history teaching.

A generous contribution from the Netherlands' Matra Fund and funding provided under the new joint programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for strengthening democratic stability in the Russian Federation (Russia VIII) made possible the launching of an innovative cross-sectoral project on management of cultural and religious diversity through education. The project, which ends in 2006, will result in recommendations to the Russian educational authorities for the management of cultural and religious diversity through education.

2. Culture and cultural and natural heritage

Cultural policy and action

In the framework of the intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention project, 2005 saw the publication

of the popular version of the Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict Prevention ("The Opatija Declaration" adopted in 2003) which will be distributed to a wide public. A survey of good practice in intercultural dialogue was carried out in member states in 2005 and the results were included in the "Compendium" cultural policy and information system. Preparations for the 3rd Intercultural Forum in Bucharest, Romania, on 16 to 18 March 2006 within the framework of the Romanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers went ahead.

The national cultural policy review programme, analysing the cultural situation and developing a national short and medium-term strategy to optimise democratic governance in culture, was started in Ukraine. Three ad hoc missions on legislative assistance were provided to the Republic of Montenegro in the field of libraries and archives. Two countries joined the "Compendium of Cultural Policies in Europe", increasing the number of participating countries to 38. The monitoring function of the system was further developed. The manual on monitoring the impact of Recommendation Rec (2000)13 on access to archives was published. A study on the role of culture in building citizenship capacity and preliminary work towards standard-setting were launched.

Directed towards Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the STAGE project (Support for transition in the arts and culture in greater Europe) concluded its action plan for 2004/2005, focusing on the development of cultural strategies, and training activities for museums, libraries and cities. These contributed to the reinforcement of intercultural dialogue and democratic stability in the region. The 5th Ministerial Colloquy of the three South Caucasus countries and of observer and donor countries, enlarged in 2005 to all countries signatories of the European Cultural Convention, was organised in Kiev in September, under the title "Culture and Cultural Policy for Development". At this meeting, the "Kiev Initiative" was launched, proposing a follow-up of STAGE in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The creating cultural capital project promotes access to culture, cultural exchange and democratic

diversity. Implementation work for cultural development agencies was undertaken in the Russian Federation in Togliatti and Saratov, within the framework of the existing action plan. Meetings with the Regional Governor of Nijni-Novgorod resulted in a commitment to set up a lead agency in that city. The creation of a development agency in Kiev in Ukraine was started. A joint seminar with the "Biennial of Young Creative People" (BJCEM) resulted in a commitment to work with the Cultural Exchange Network in the Mediterranean. The pilot project "Bridges to new partnerships for culture", also developed within the action plan for Russia and aimed at making connections between the cultural and business sectors, enabled cultural managers to build lasting partnerships with the business sector.

In 2005, the cultural routes programme was redefined. Several diplomas were awarded to "Major cultural routes of the Council of Europe". Based on the newly defined criteria, the Council organised two public award ceremonies for the routes "Saint Martin of Tours" (24 September) and "the European route of Jewish heritage" (5 December).

The group of consultants responsible for the Council of Europe series of art exhibitions met in September 2005. Planning continued for the 28th Exhibition on "Universal Leonardo", to be launched in March 2006. A Europe-wide programme of exhibitions will highlight Leonardo da Vinci's contribution to art, science and technology using digital technology and innovative design. A dedicated website will provide information on exhibitions, travel, programme, scientific research and educational aspects of the project.

Cultural heritage

The Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society was adopted on 13 October by the Committee of Ministers, and opened for signature on 27 October during the Conference of Ministers of Culture in Faro (Portugal). The text has been signed by six countries. The Framework Convention gives a new dimension to cultural heritage as part of human rights, and makes cultural heritage the responsibility of everyone.

Activity report

The Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage (CDPAT) reaffirmed the need to develop an observatory function of the cultural heritage policies. It considered the information system HEREIN (European Heritage Network) and the Technical Co-operation and Field Action Unit appropriate instruments. The national correspondents of the HEREIN network met in Helsinki in June. Five new countries joined HEREIN.

In 2005, the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe organised a seminar on Integrated Management Tools of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (Bucharest, November 2005) with representatives of three steering committees dealing with natural and cultural heritage and spatial planning. In its joint programme on integrated rehabilitation projects with the European Commission, each of the nine participating countries/regions carried out preliminary technical assessments. The assessments were presented at the *IX Salone dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali* in Venice. In Kosovo, protection and consolidation work on the religious buildings/ensembles and cultural sites damaged in March 2004 was completed under the supervision of the "Reconstruction Implementation Commission for Orthodox Monuments in Kosovo", created together with the European Commission and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The Regional Programme for Cultural and natural heritage in South-Caucasus/Institutional capacity-building and Management of historic cities was further developed, especially successfully in Armenia. *Guidance on Heritage Assessment* was published.

The European Heritage Days were launched in Prague in September. The Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage discussed the reorientation of the programme and decided to launch the programme in September each year together with an annual colloquy on heritage issues. Within the framework of the pilot project "Europe, from one street to the other", the multicultural exhibition of children's drawings was used at various meetings.

Natural heritage and biological diversity

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (T-PVS) addressed five recommendations to contracting parties and decided to set up a group of experts to prepare a European charter on hunting.

The Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (STRA-CO) adopted a document on the Pan-European 2010 Biodiversity Implementation Plan, a related communication strategy, and a list of pan-European biodiversity indicators.

The Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP) examined and transmitted to the Committee of Ministers, for adoption, the draft resolutions concerning the renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas for 18 sites.

The Committee of Experts for the Development of the Pan-European Ecological Network (STRA-REP) started preparing a report on the state of implementation of the network in the 54 participating countries and the corresponding indicative maps. Progress in the implementation of the "Emerald Network" has been possible thanks to the launching of pilot projects in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro. A seminar of the managers of the 66 European Diploma sites was held from 1 to 3 September 2005 in the Thayatal national park (Austria). A think tank met twice to reflect on the specific role of the Council of Europe in the promotion of sustainable development.

The *Naturoipa* magazine, intended to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable territorial development, published a special issue on "Landscape through literature" (No. 103).

In 2005, the European Landscape Convention was signed by Hungary, the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic and ratified by Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal and the Slovak Republic. At the end of 2005, 12 states had signed but not yet ratified the treaty and 20 further states had ratified it. Draft regulations on

the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe were drawn up and a draft guidance document on the practical and legal implementation of the convention was prepared. Two information seminars on the implementation of the convention were held in Cork (Ireland) and in Tirana (Albania).

Spatial planning

The Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) began preparations for the 14th CEMAT session (Portugal, 2006). In this context, three international CEMAT seminars were organised, respectively in Strasbourg, Moscow and Bled (Slovenia). The Pan-European Network of CEMAT Model Regions (regions of innovation) was further developed with a particular emphasis on the programme "Armenia as an innovative bridge of CEMAT in the European model regions network."

"EUR-OPA Major Hazards" Partial Agreement

Following the tsunami in South-East Asia in December 2004, the "EUR-OPA Major Hazards" Partial Agreement took steps to contribute to the many initiatives of the world community. It participated actively in the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobé, 18-22 January) and in the two follow-up meetings of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Inter-Agencies Task Force (IATF-ISDR). A working group on early warning was set up to identify potential contributions of the agreement within its member states. More specific awareness-raising initiatives on natural and technological risks (both at educational and institutional levels) were supported through the activities of the network of specialised centres based in member states.

Eurimages Partial Agreement

The main achievements of the three support programmes run by Eurimages (Support Fund for the co-production and distribution of creative cinematographic and audio-visual works), were the following:

- Co-production: 57 feature films and four documentaries were supported for a total amount of €19536145;
- Distribution: €837670 were allocated to this programme, supporting 152 applications for distribution in 12 countries;
- Cinema Support: 42 cinemas in five countries were supported by the Eurimages/Europa Cinemas network.

As of January 2005, Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina joined Eurimages, which now has 32 members. The accession request of Lithuania will be considered in 2006.

Eurimages-supported films had considerable success in 2005. *Mar Adentro* by Alejandro Amenabar (a co-production between Spain, France and Italy) received an "Oscar" as the Best Foreign Film. *L'Enfant* by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (a co-production between Belgium and France) received the *Palme d'or* for Best Film.

The Board of Management appointed a new Executive Secretary of the Fund, Mr Jan Vandierendonck, who took up his duties on 1 January 2006.

3. Youth and sport

Youth

In 2005 the Youth programme promoting human rights and social cohesion provided educational and policy tools to respond to violence, racism and discrimination affecting children and youth, and facilitated access to educational and methodological resources to practitioners.

Compass, a manual on human rights education, was published in Bosnian, Bulgarian, German, Georgian, Polish, Slovenian and Spanish in addition to the eight language versions already available. The Arabic version is now being used for a regional training programme of human rights educators and activists in the Arab-speaking countries covered by the Euro-Med youth programme. National

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training courses have been organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Ukraine. The education pack "All different-all equal" was updated, in time for the preparations of the new "all different – all equal" youth campaign. A manual on the "Living library", a manual for addressing prejudice and stereotypes in informal education, was published in co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers.

In parallel to the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, the 2nd European Youth Summit was held in Warsaw on 15 and 16 May 2005. It provided an opportunity for the 100 participants to develop the message and political bases of the "all different – all equal" youth campaign for diversity, human rights and participation, supported by the heads of state and government in the action plan adopted at the 3rd Summit. During the year, several study sessions and a symposium were organised to prepare the campaign guidelines.

In 2005, the revised Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life was successfully propagated to a wide audience through various initiatives including a conference organised in co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Ukraine, a training course on the implementation of projects at local and regional level, and seminars in Slovakia, the Russian Federation and Andorra. The youth sector continued in 2005 to contribute to the European Year of Citizenship through Education, including the Young Active Citizens' Award devoted to cultural and pedagogical products.

In 2005, the European youth centres organised 10 study sessions in co-operation with youth NGOs on youth building peace and intercultural dialogue. A long-term training course on "Intercultural dialogue in South Caucasus" started in 2005, including 30 projects of youth leaders. A seminar on Turkey/Europe: the role of youth NGOs, was organised in Ankara. The sector published the report of

the youth and globalisation event and republished the booklet *The region I love – young people from the Balkans reflect on the situation in the Balkans*.

In the area of youth policy development, the 7th Conference of European Ministers responsible for youth (Budapest) adopted a declaration stressing in particular the importance of active participation of young people in strategies and programmes aiming at preventing violence. The reviews of national youth policies of Cyprus and the Slovak Republic were successfully completed. Assistance for the development of national youth policies included seven training seminars and consultative meetings in Turkey, South Caucasus and the Russian Federation. The "European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policies", implemented in co-operation with the European Commission and launched in June, is a virtual knowledge management system providing facts and figures on key youth policy items.

A youth research seminar on social inclusion and a network meeting with researchers from various member states was organised within the partnership programme with the European Commission. In co-operation with the Directorate General of Social Cohesion, a draft strategy paper was produced, aiming to further improve co-ordination and co-operation between child and youth. A draft European portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers was finalised and will be tested in the course of 2006, providing youth workers with a tool to assess and describe their competencies acquired through the practice of youth work.

The project "Quality development and support measures" focused on the development of quality standards for European non-formal education and training activities in the youth field and on the recognition of non-formal education and youth work. A significant part of this work is done in close co-operation with the European Commission. A second training course was organised in order to develop the capacity of youth NGO leaders to run intercultural educational activities, especially through study sessions at the European Youth Centres. Similarly, the sector organised, in co-

operation with the European Commission, a long-term training of 30 trainers active in Euro-Med youth projects on intercultural dialogue. Intercultural language courses provided teaching of English, French, Russian, Italian, German and Spanish to multipliers from youth organisations and services.

In 2005, the European Youth Foundation (EYF) received 667 applications for financial support from youth NGOs. Grants totalling €2 715 620 were awarded to 294 projects, involving some 17 000 young Europeans. Out of 77 applications for pilot projects on human rights, the EYF supported 30 projects for a total amount of €153 000. In 2005, 30 applications for financial support were received by the Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility. Eighteen projects, involving 630 disadvantaged young Europeans, were supported for an amount of €67 580. It should be noted that the number of InterRail cards sold, which constitutes the only source of financing of the fund, has decreased by 40% over the past two years.

Sport

In view of the transfer of the sports co-operation activities from the Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS) to a new agreement, the Secretariat prepared transitional measures for 2006 and drafted terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Agreement on Sport (CAHAS) which were approved on 15 December. Other activities under the CDDS

programme included the conclusion of the European Sports Charter Policy Indicators questionnaire; several consultative visits for the "Compliance with Commitments"; follow-up to the 10th Conference of Sport Ministers (2004) and the organisation of the Burgas Conference on Good Governance (May); the official launching of the first *Ballons rouges* summer camp in Georgia (July); and the summer camp for children suffering from the Chernobyl disaster under the SPRINT (Sports Reform, Innovation and Training) programme (August).

In the context of the Convention against Spectator Violence, an evaluation of the Euro 2004 resulted in the publication of a document on good practice. The "Compliance with commitments" project continued (Switzerland, Austria and Finland), and the National Ambassadors for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play met to share their experiences of activities at national level. Advisory visits (Slovakia, and Romania) and evaluation visits (Poland) also took place in the context of monitoring implementation of the Anti-Doping Convention. An online questionnaire was introduced which allows the generation of new monitoring reports presenting overall trends and the situation in each country. The monitoring group also followed the conclusion of negotiations of the Unesco international convention against doping in sport and drew up different opinions on this instrument for the attention of states parties to the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135).

VII. Communication

For the Directorate of Communication, the year 2005 was marked by the Council of Europe's renewed commitment to developing a coherent and comprehensive approach to communication aiming to improve public perceptions of the Council and to integrate communication in all aspects of the Organisation's work.

Following the appointment of the new Director of Communication in March 2005, the main priority for the directorate was to develop and start implementing a new communication strategy for the Organisation as a whole. An action plan based on the new strategy was presented to the Committee of Ministers and will be followed in early 2006 by a comprehensive strategy aiming to engage all actors, setting out the vision of the communication approach and the concrete initiatives to be undertaken in the medium and long-term.

On an operational level, the work of the directorate focused on a number of major events, including the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Europe Open Day, and the 50th anniversary of the European flag, as well as providing ongoing communication support to the whole range of the Organisation's activities.

The first phase of the strategy development in 2005 included improving communication with different parts of the Council. Furthermore, work began on reviewing the role and potential of the Council's information network – including press officers, Council of Europe offices in Brussels and Paris, and the communication capacities of Information Centres and Offices – in order to establish better co-ordination mechanisms.

1. Press

The main aim of the Press Office is to establish contacts with journalists in the 46 member states and to ensure quality media coverage of the Council of Europe's main activities by developing productive

working relationships with journalists and media organisations.

The following strategic initiatives were launched in 2005: reinstating of the policy of regular press briefings for local journalists; development of the project of dedicated media trips to national capitals for Council of Europe officials through a number of preliminary contacts and visits; a thorough review of the current media contacts database and investigations into finding a long-term solution for storing and sharing media contacts information.

Press Office in figures

The 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government was the main media event of the year: 1 155 media representatives (275 print journalists, 159 TV reporters, 70 radio journalists, 77 photographers and 300 other representatives were accredited). There were also 10 media events with press briefings organised prior to the Summit. Two study sessions for representatives from key Polish media took place in Strasbourg.

The Warsaw Summit gave rise to very special media monitoring, with a comprehensive press analysis of almost 700 articles, dispatches and transcriptions of TV and radio broadcasts being collected from 225 different sources, and qualitative and comparative analyses being made of this media coverage.

The unit also ensured the media coverage of major Council of Europe activities: the Parliamentary Assembly sessions (713 media accreditations) as well as the various sessions of the Congress, the Committee of Ministers and the European Court of Human Rights and other conferences (319 accreditations). Some 135 permanent accreditations were issued to Strasbourg-based correspondents, cameramen and photographers.

Fifty-two press conferences were organised in Strasbourg, 43 of which related specifically to the Parliamentary Assembly. Some 713 press releases and 176 "Notes to Editors" were published. The informa-

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tion dissemination team also accredited 1 428 journalists and distributed over 100 media alerts.

2. Public relations

The Public Relations Unit is responsible for organising its own events and campaigns and providing professional advice and assistance to other parts of the Council in relation to projects aimed at boosting awareness of the organisation and its activities among specialist groups, the general public and the media.

As a follow-up to the Summit action plan, the unit began developing communication proposals related to visual identity (slogans, organisation of events and communication products) for a number of major awareness campaigns: the Youth Campaign for diversity and participation, "Children and Violence", and combating violence against women. These campaigns are long-term projects (2005–2007) aimed at raising the Council's visibility among several key target groups, whilst consolidating its image as an organisation working to protect the dignity and rights of individual human beings.

In 2005, the department also designed and produced all the visibility material for the 3rd Council of Europe Summit (Summit logo, freestanding panels, and exhibition kit), as well as the promotional materials used in the press files.

More than 9 000 people visited the Palais de l'Europe on Open Day (18 September), which focused on the Council of Europe's efforts to combat both terrorism and the trafficking of human beings. Posters, brochures and exhibition panels on the themes of human trafficking and terrorism were produced for this occasion.

Joint activities with the European Commission marked 50 years of the European flag: a publicity campaign in the City of Strasbourg itself (including posters and publications) and various public relations exercises elsewhere in Europe, organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe Information Offices (CEIOs) and the Representations of the European Commission. A ceremony held on 16 November was

attended by senior officials of both the Council of Europe and the European Union. A poster and a brochure were distributed in five languages. A significant amount of material was produced in other languages, in co-operation with the CEIOs and the campaign was launched in many of the member states.

Among the other events publicised by the public relations department were the following: the *Prix Europa*; the René Cassin European Human Rights Competition; International Women's Day (8 March); the 9th European Debate on the Venice Commission and the Strasbourg road races.

Public relations in figures

A wide range of information material for the general public was produced (including brochures, leaflets, posters, exhibition panels, stickers, document folders, diaries, maps showing the member states, map/calendars, bookmarks, and European anthem CDs). Some 77 916 items bearing the Council of Europe's name and logo were distributed (of which 14 000 items during the Warsaw Summit).

The Visitors' Service welcomed almost 49 000 visitors in 2005. Depending on their composition, groups enjoyed either a study programme geared to specialist audiences (22 670 visitors) or a tour offering more general information (26 110 visitors). The service organised 459 lectures and 118 discussions with members of Permanent Delegations or of the Parliamentary Assembly.

3. Audiovisual

The Audiovisual Department focuses its work in four main areas: television, radio, multimedia and photography. Under the new strategy, the department's aim is to reach out to audiences across Europe, using both in-house production and co-production agreements with major television channels and producers. In 2005, the audiovisual sector had already started work on developing co-production projects with key broadcasters such as ARTE and Euronews. These will include a number of

feature stories on subjects related to the Organisation's activities. The preparation of a new film on the Council of Europe is also in progress.

Audiovisual in figures

Photography: Continuing progress in the electronic transmission of images by e-mail and the Internet server allowed a reduction in the number of printed photographs: 1341 reports, 2353 transmissions by e-mail (up by 60%), 18276 colour prints (down by 38%).

Video: 376 shoots for TV (395 in 2004), 149 transmissions (209 in 2004), 739 copies on all formats (644 in 2004).

The transfer of video archives to digital format was continued in 2005, after the project was launched in 2004. To date half of our archives have been transferred onto digital Betacam format.

Multimedia: 213 video and audio sequences, 60 live transmissions.

Radio: 233 requests for studio assistance, 430 hours of archive recordings restored or digitalised.

4. Online communication

The Council of Europe's website is a key component of the Organisation's commitment to inform, engage and communicate with its many audiences. It is also the main means of distributing the majority of the Organisation's documents. Under the new communication strategy, the Online unit, while working closely with the Press office and other directorates and departments, is primarily responsible for the editorial content of the Council of Europe portals and for developing and co-ordinating the Organisation's online communication strategy.

Rather than further expansion of the website, the future priority will be to refocus the work on evaluating, and if necessary adapting, its content and presentation. In 2005 an external evaluation survey was commissioned in order to assess the general impact of the Council of Europe's online communication and a number of concrete solutions were

identified. This project will feed into the long-term aim of creating a high quality and constantly evolving website which is attractive, informative and easy to use, and which projects an accurate and coherent image of the Council of Europe to a wide whole range of different audiences.

Online unit in figures

In the first half of 2005, the Online Unit provided Internet coverage of all information related to the 3rd Summit. A special Summit website was published online in April in 6 languages: French, English, German, Italian, Russian and Polish. Real-time coverage of the Summit (including speeches, interviews, practical information, special pages on different events and multimedia resources) was provided and the site received 66292 hits during the month of May 2005.

Some 40 files on the year's main events (including the 50th anniversary of the European flag, the Portuguese and Romanian chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly sessions) and topics (such as trafficking in human beings and violence against children) were published. Seventy photo galleries were also made available online. In total, the Online Unit published 2736 items.

Some 25 000 articles and dispatches were published on the press review site, of which 6 346 mentioned the Council of Europe. The regular monitoring was extended to several national press agencies, and its scope was further enhanced by the acquisition of a new search tool. Search engines were also introduced on the Internet and Intranet portals making it possible to search for items previously published. The development of "mini-portals" in languages which are neither official nor working languages continued.

Twenty files and 1494 news items were published on the Intranet, focusing on administrative, practical or information items of importance and interest to staff.

5. Publishing (<http://book.coe.int>)

The role of the Publishing Division is to promote, market and distribute the whole range of Council of Europe publications. The division has its own programme of publications, which represents around 10 titles per year.

While continuing to develop its marketing and distribution network, a priority for the Publishing division in 2005 was to start widening the target audience of its publications to include young university students and schools by producing specific material (a teaching kit and a short guide). A partnership with French and English publishers was also sought for the dissemination of an educational tool on bioethics, produced in co-operation with the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

With over 128000 visits in 2005 and more than 4100 online book orders (approximately 29% of the overall turnover), the Council of Europe's online bookshop is continuing to expand. The database of subscribers to mailing alerts now holds more than 25000 contacts. Thanks to the server migration (Arwen), the Publications division upgraded its service to online customers – an enlarged choice of titles in PDF format and faster access to pages is now available.

In 2005, some 190 books were published, including around 100 new titles in French and English.

The Publishing division also launched two new collections: the *Migration* series, highlighting the Organisation's various activities in this field; and *Europeans and their rights*, produced in co-operation with the Venice Commission, which offers an overview of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and of European constitutional courts.

About 35800 copies were sold, mainly through direct sales and indirect sales via the distribution networks, and about 68900 were distributed free of charge. Council of Europe publications were presented at some 20 congresses, conferences and fairs in Europe and the rest of the world. More than 200 newspapers and book reviews, mostly specialised, ordered free copies of Council publications.

The Publications division also aims to have a growing number of books translated into non-official languages in order to reach a wider public and increase the Council of Europe's visibility. Thirty-five commercial contracts concerning translation rights and three co-publishing contracts were concluded in 2005. In addition, the division prepared 74 agreements granting rights to translate texts for distribution free of charge and gave permission to reproduce Council of Europe texts on 92 occasions. The division also produced the 2004 edition of the *European Yearbook*, a bilingual reference book describing the activities of the leading European organisations, which is published by Brill Academic Publisher.

VIII. Internal structures

1. Administration and logistics

Early departures

The Central Division of the Directorate General of Administration and Logistics (DGAL) conducted an early-retirement operation. Interviews were conducted with the 41 candidates fulfilling the statutory conditions. Seventeen staff members will benefit from the scheme: five A4/A5-grades, 11 B-grades and one C-grade.

Streamlining of internal rules

All secondary instruments (that is, rules, instructions and circulars) concerning nine out of the 16 thematic areas covered by the Staff Regulations were reviewed to identify possible lacunae, inconsistencies, overlap or out-of-date provisions. New comprehensive instruments were drafted concerning working conditions, social and medical cover, appointments, discipline, leave, staff's rights and obligations, disputes, reimbursement of expenses, allowances, temporary staff, staff members' personal files as well as consultants and outsourcing.

Administrative modernisation

With regard to administrative modernisation, the main achievements in 2005 have been:

- development and implementation of methods and instruments for monitoring the quality of services provided by the DGAL;
- conducting organisational projects and working-methods studies aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the use of the Organisation's resources: the development of procedures for the management of investments; drawing up procurement policy and procedures; and the reorganisation of certain administrative entities (Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe; Directorate of Communication and Research; Directorate of Logistics; and Directorate of Human Resources).

Human resources

In 2005, priority continued to be given to the reform of human resources policy.

See the Establishment table by directorate and department in Appendix D and the Organisation chart of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in Appendix E.

Recruitment and career management

Thirty-two external recruitment competitions were launched, including competitions for senior posts and general competitions in under-represented member states. Rules on the new contractual policy and recruitment and appointment panels were approved by the Committee of Ministers in September, and will be implemented as from 1 January 2006.

Management of posts and job classification

A classification survey of all permanent posts in the Organisation was conducted on the basis of an inventory of reference jobs. The survey confirmed that the large majority of posts were correctly graded. Different options are considered for the implementation of the results in 2006.

Appraisal

Some 1965 appraisal reports for 2004 (93.3%) and 2055 objective-setting forms for 2005 (96.75%) were processed. A new online electronic appraisal form was introduced in December. The new human capital management system (HCMS) links the competency inventory to appraisal.

Training

The training programme has been aligned to the "competency management" approach as from September. The Human Resources Forum, "From training to competency development" (1 December 2005) gave staff an overview of the new competency management approach, and training provided, including the new management and leadership development programme which will be

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launched in 2006. Language courses were reorganised under the language training policy – there were about 700 registrations.

Equal opportunities and gender mainstreaming

Several projects linked to gender equality started during the year, in particular a survey on access to managerial careers. Several initiatives have been taken to facilitate the integration of people with disabilities; in December a strategy document on equal opportunities for people with disabilities was published. Draft statutory modifications on the issue of equality of rights for staff members who cannot marry their partner because of their sex have been prepared and will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers in 2006.

Balance between work and private life

The negotiation group reached agreement on parental leave, home leave expenses and flexible working bands. The group also assessed the teleworking experience conducted at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights and evaluated the negotiation process.

Administrative issues

A pilot electronic workflow system for the approval of leave requests will be extended to the entire Organisation in 2006. Human resource correspondents are now able to use PeopleSoft to consult certain data concerning staff in their administrative entity.

Finance and linguistic services

Finance

A major project in 2005 was the upgrading of the computerised Financial Information Management System (FIMS), after five years of operation, to the latest version of Oracle Financials. The upgrade was implemented successfully and training was given to all system users.

The upgrade was accompanied by the selection, in consultation with users of the system, and implementation of a new reporting tool, Web Focus. A library of reports to satisfy user-defined requirements has been developed.

The new arrangements for external audit came into effect in 2005. External audit of the Organisation is now carried out by a single supreme audit authority of a member state. The National Audit Office of the United Kingdom was appointed to this function in respect of the financial years 2004 to 2008.

See the budget chart in Appendix E.

Translation

The number of pages translated in 2005 was 151000. Of the total, 61% were translations into French, 31.5% were translations into English, the remaining 7.5% being translations into non-official languages. Improvements in efficiency were reflected in a saving in overall budgetary cost compared to forecast.

Interpretation

In 2005, the team of permanent interpreters launched a quality performance review exercise which will review the standards of performance of freelance interpreters.

Logistics

Buildings

By the end of 2005, the New General Office Building was 50% finished and structural work on the New Pharmacopoeia Building had been completed. Nearly 20 projects were completed in the summer: renovation of the entrance hall in the Palais, the bank, Post Office, philately counter, newsagent, "Bar des 12 étoiles" and self-service restaurant; renovation of the restaurant in the Human Rights Building, major renovation work on the Budapest European Youth Centre, and the choice and fitting out of new premises for the Brussels office.

Security

Security work was carried out in two fields in the Palais de l'Europe:

- prevention of fire hazards: continuation of the programme, along with works to facilitate access for people with disabilities and enable them to be independent;

- prevention of access by intruders: measures to secure the forecourt and digitalisation of the remote monitoring system.

Document production

Thanks to the new Centralised Office Copying and Printing System (SCRIB), a saving of €236 000 in comparison with 2004 was made for the same volume of production. Productivity increased by 7% and the number of machines was reduced by 40% in the case of printers and copiers and 25% in the case of "high-volume" equipment. Paper consumption fell by 10%, which represents a saving of €20 000.

Logistic services

Despite the increase in fuel costs and taxes, the average price of an air ticket fell slightly in comparison with 2004. The Customs and VAT Unit processed over 1 200 transactions and nearly 400 VAT exemption applications.

Information technology

In order to optimise the potentialities of the information system, actions were undertaken to raise staff awareness of good practices. These focused on better use of e-mail, the Internet, data storage, security and project management. A new programme of self-training was introduced. For mobile phones a new offer aiming at better budgetary control was generalised.

New systems have been developed and integrated: the human capital management system (HCMS), the pilot phase for the electronic leave management form, the migration of the financial management application (FIMS), the monitoring of the anti-doping convention, and an application for the Development Bank.

In order to supervise the information system and repair breakdowns rapidly, an on-call service has been organised 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The availability of the information system infrastructure was 99.43%. New technical platforms for electronic mail and the printing system were set up. Remote sites, Skopje, Kiev, Chişinău and Warsaw were inte-

grated into the Intranet. The cabling of the D building was renewed and the desktop migration to Windows XP was finalised. Five meeting rooms were equipped with multimedia facilities.

Giuseppe Vedovato Library

The Library and Archives Division joined the Information Technology Department in June 2005. The Secretary General has been provided with background information on its activities for the purpose of defining its future mandate. Services continued for its 4 102 users and, apart from the routine work, staff replied to 7 577 enquiries and received 73 927 visits via the web catalogue.

Archives

While awaiting the anticipated confirmation of its mission, the Archives division continued the deacidification and digitisation programme for the historical documents. The scan-on-request service and fulltext web catalogue has provided a solution for numerous enquiries and research requests. This was complemented with 800 enquiries and research visits dealt with by staff. Training 80 staff members in record management and archiving has promoted awareness-raising for the necessity of applying sound techniques and practices to increase efficiency and output as well as preserving the institutional memory of the Organisation.

Collaboration with other libraries and archives

The division provides electronic library management tools and methodological support for 27 Council of Europe libraries and documentation centres. Staff of the division participated also in the Information Life Cycle management activities undertaken by the Information Technology Department.

The division networked with other institutions such as the European Union Library network EUROLIB, the European Information Network on International Relation and Area Studies (EINIRAS), the International Council of Archives, Archives of the European Parliament, Archives of the United Nations, etc.

2. Protocol

The Directorate of Protocol assisted various bodies within the Organisation with the protocol aspects of official visits by heads of state:

- Mr Saakashvili, President of Georgia, Mr Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, Mr Marovic, President of Serbia and Montenegro;

and heads of government:

- Mr Terzic, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

It managed the protocol, organisational and technical aspects of ceremonies and official events, including:

- the ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (25 January 2005);
- the laying of the foundation stone of the new building of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines – or European Pharmacopoeia (28 April 2005);
- the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the Council of Europe, held in Warsaw (16–17 May 2005);
- the 12th Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (31 May–2 June 2005);
- the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the European flag (16 November 2005);
- the 115th Session of the Committee of Ministers (16–17 November 2005);
- and the four sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly.

It also assisted directorates general and departments with the preparations for six conferences of specialised ministers responsible for: local and regional government, internal affairs, justice, mass media policy, youth, and cultural affairs.

Lastly, the directorate dealt with the administrative matters traditionally under its remit, such as

questions relating to the privileges and immunities of members of Permanent Delegations and visa requests for staff and experts travelling on behalf of the Council of Europe.

3. Audit

The mission of Internal Audit is to provide oversight, objective assurance and consulting services designed to improve the Organisation's operations.

The largest part of the workforce is devoted to audits and other controls (62%). Performance and operational audits represent about two thirds of the audit work, and one third of the audit work is spent on financial and compliance audits. Advisory work represents about 5% of the workforce. Research and training of auditors, which are an integral part of the audit work, represent about 10% of the workforce. External networking makes up 4% of the audit time. The rest of the workforce is absorbed by managerial and administrative tasks.

The recommendations arising from the 15 audit reports in 2005 have had a major impact on the Organisation. For example:

- internal controls in financial management have been considerably improved;
- payroll audits made it possible to correct detected errors, to identify weaknesses in internal control procedures and to draw the attention of management to the risk of very rapid growth of the cost of the allowance in respect of other dependants in the future;
- firm controls of payment of expatriation allowances have been introduced;
- investigations have proven that firm action is taken in case of misconduct and that financial losses are recovered;
- provisions on the staffing needs for the Court contributed to discussions at the 3rd Summit and to the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers concerning the reinforcement of the Court's staff;

- The INGO audit provided assistance in the decision on granting additional support to one of the 3rd Summit's priority areas.

In 2005, Internal Audit has intensified its international relations. In addition to its regular contacts with internal oversight services of other international organisations and some Supreme Audit Institutions in the member states, Internal Audit

carried out a quality assessment of the Internal Audit service of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Furthermore, one internal auditor spent 2 weeks in the European Anti-Fraud Office of the European Commission (OLAF) in order to gain an in-depth insight into methods and procedures designed to detect and investigate fraud.

Appendix A – Texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers

1. 3rd Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16–17 May 2005)

a. Warsaw Declaration

We, Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe, gathered in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005 for our 3rd Summit, bear witness to unprecedented pan-European unity. Further progress in building a Europe without dividing lines must continue to be based on the common values embodied in the Statute of the Council of Europe: democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Since its Vienna (1993) and Strasbourg (1997) Summits, the Council has grown to encompass almost the whole continent. We welcome the valuable contribution which the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe have made to this achievement. We look forward to the day when Belarus is ready to join the Council of Europe.

Sixty years after the end of the Second World War, 30 years after the Helsinki Final Act, 25 years after the founding of "Solidarity" and 15 years after the fall of the Berlin wall, we pay tribute to all those who have made it possible to overcome painful divisions and enlarge our area of democratic security. Today, Europe is guided by a political philosophy of inclusion and complementarity and by a common commitment to multilateralism based on international law.

However, we remain concerned by unresolved conflicts that still affect certain parts of the continent, putting at risk the security, unity and democratic stability of member states and threatening the populations concerned. We shall work together for reconciliation and political solutions in conformity with the norms and principles of international law.

This Summit gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to the common values and principles which are rooted in Europe's cultural, religious and humanistic heritage – a heritage both shared and rich in its diversity. It will also strengthen the Council of Europe's political mandate and enhance its contribution to common stability and security as Europe faces new challenges and threats which require concerted and effective responses.

We can now focus on these challenges and continue to build a united Europe, based on our common values and on shared interests, by strengthening co-operation and solidarity between member states. We will remain open to co-operation with Europe's neighbouring regions and the rest of the world.

1. The Council of Europe shall pursue its core objective of preserving and promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. All its activities must contribute to this fundamental objective. We commit ourselves to developing those principles, with a view to ensuring their effective implementation by all member states. In propagating these values, we shall enhance the role of the Council of Europe as an effective mechanism of pan-European co-operation in all relevant fields. We are also determined to strengthen and streamline the Council of Europe's activities, structures and working methods still further, and to enhance transparency and efficiency, thus ensuring that it plays its due role in a changing Europe.

2. Taking into account the indispensable role of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Court of Human Rights in formulating, promoting and implementing human rights standards, it is essential to guarantee their effectiveness. We are therefore strongly committed in the short term to implement the comprehensive set of measures adopted at the 114th Session of the Committee of Ministers which address the Court's rapidly increasing caseload, including the speedy ratification and entry into force of Protocol No.14 to the

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Convention. Furthermore we are setting-up a group of wise persons to draw up a comprehensive strategy to secure the effectiveness of the system in the longer term, taking into account the initial effects of Protocol No.14 and the other decisions taken in May 2004.

3. We are convinced that effective democracy and good governance at all levels are essential for preventing conflicts, promoting stability, facilitating economic and social progress, and hence for creating sustainable communities where people want to live and work, now and in the future. This can only be achieved through the active involvement of citizens and civil society. Member states must therefore maintain and develop effective, transparent and accountable democratic institutions, responsive to the needs and aspirations of all. The time has come to intensify our work within the Council of Europe to this effect, in particular through the establishment of the Forum for the Future of Democracy.

4. We are committed to strengthening the rule of law throughout the continent, building on the standard-setting potential of the Council of Europe and on its contribution to the development of international law. We stress the role of an independent and efficient judiciary in the member states in this respect. We will further develop legal co-operation within the Council of Europe with a view to better protecting our citizens and to realising on a continental scale the aims enshrined in its Statute.

5. We are resolved to ensure full compliance with our membership commitments within the Council of Europe. Political dialogue between member states, which are committed to promoting democratic debate and the rule of law, evaluation, sharing of best practices, assistance and monitoring – for which we renew our firm support – will be fully used for that purpose. We shall work for the widest possible acceptance of Council of Europe's conventions, promoting their implementation with a view to strengthening common standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

6. We shall foster European identity and unity, based on shared fundamental values, respect for our common heritage and cultural diversity. We are resolved to ensure that our diversity becomes a source of mutual enrichment, *inter alia*, by fostering political, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. We will continue our work on national minorities, thus contributing to the development of democratic stability. In order to develop understanding and trust among Europeans, we will promote human contacts and exchange good practices regarding free movement of persons on the continent, with the aim of building a Europe without dividing lines.

7. We are determined to build cohesive societies by ensuring fair access to social rights, fighting exclusion and protecting vulnerable social groups. We acknowledge the importance of the European Social Charter in this area and support current efforts to increase its impact on the framing of our social policies. We are resolved to strengthen the cohesion of our societies in its social, educational, health and cultural dimensions.

8. We are determined to ensure security for our citizens in the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and our other relevant international obligations. The Council of Europe will continue to play an active role in combating terrorism, which is a major threat to democratic societies and is unjustifiable under any circumstances and in any culture. It will also further develop its activities in combating corruption, organised crime – including money laundering and financial crime – trafficking in human beings, cybercrime, and the challenges attendant on scientific and technical progress. We shall promote measures consistent with our values to counter those threats.

9. We strongly condemn all forms of intolerance and discrimination, in particular those based on sex, race and religion, including antisemitism and islamophobia. We affirm our determination to further develop, within the Council of Europe, rules and effective machinery to prevent and eradicate them. We will also further implement equal opportunity policies in our member states and we will step up

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our efforts to achieve real equality between women and men in all spheres of our societies. We are committed to eradicating violence against women and children, including domestic violence.

10. We are determined to ensure complementarity of the Council of Europe and the other organisations involved in building a democratic and secure Europe:

- We are resolved to create a new framework for enhanced co-operation and interaction between the Council of Europe and the European Union in areas of common concern, in particular human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- We entrust our colleague, Jean-Claude Juncker, to prepare, in his personal capacity, a report on the relationship between the Council of Europe and the European Union, on the basis of the decisions taken at the Summit and taking into account the importance of the human dimension of European construction.
- We are also resolved to secure improved practical co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE and welcome the prospect of enhanced synergy opened up by the joint declaration endorsed at this Summit.
- We express our commitment to fostering co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations, and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Europe.

* * *

To launch the Organisation on this new course, we adopt the attached action plan.

We commit our states to promoting the tasks and objectives reflected in the decisions of this Summit, both within the Council of Europe and in other international forums and organisations of which we are members.

As we conclude this Summit in Poland, we pay tribute to the memory of Pope John Paul II.

We call on Europeans everywhere to share the values which lie at the heart of the Council of Europe's mission – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – and to join us in turning Europe into a

creative community, open to knowledge and to diverse cultures, a civic and cohesive community.

b. Action plan

We, Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe, meeting in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005, have outlined the following action plan laying down the principal tasks of the Council of Europe in the coming years.

I. Promoting common fundamental values: human rights, rule of law and democracy

1. Ensuring the continued effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights

We shall ensure the long-term effectiveness of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by all appropriate means. To this end we shall provide the European Court of Human Rights with the necessary support and implement all the reform measures adopted at the 114th Session of the Committee of Ministers in May 2004, in accordance with all the modalities foreseen. This includes, as envisaged, the ratification of Protocol No. 14 to the Convention, which is essential for the future effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights.

At national level, we shall ensure that:

- there are appropriate and effective mechanisms in all member states for verifying the compatibility of legislation and administrative practice with the Convention;
- effective domestic remedies exist for anyone with an arguable complaint of a Convention violation;
- adequate training in Convention standards is fully integrated in university education and professional training; therefore, we decide to launch a European programme for human rights education for legal professionals and call on member states to contribute to its implementation.

The Committee of Ministers shall review implementation of these measures on a regular and transparent basis.

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We establish a group of wise persons to consider the issue of the long-term effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) control mechanism, including the initial effects of Protocol No. 14 and the other decisions taken in May 2004. We ask them to submit, as soon as possible, proposals which go beyond these measures, while preserving the basic philosophy underlying the ECHR.

We underline that all member states must accelerate and fully execute the judgments of the Court. We instruct the Committee of Ministers to elaborate and implement all the necessary measures to achieve this, notably with regard to judgments revealing structural problems including those of a repetitive nature.

2. Protecting and promoting human rights through the other Council of Europe institutions and mechanisms

As the primary forum for the protection and promotion of human rights in Europe, the Council of Europe shall – through its various mechanisms and institutions – play a dynamic role in protecting the rights of individuals and promoting the invaluable engagement of non-governmental organisations, to actively defend human rights.

We undertake to strengthen the institution of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, which has proven its effectiveness, by providing the necessary means for the Commissioner to fulfil his/her functions, particularly in the light of the entry into force of Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

We shall continue to support the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) and the unique role it plays, through its visits to places of detention, in improving the conditions of detained persons. We also ask for regular updates of the European Prison Rules as the basis for the setting-up of standards in prisons. The Council of Europe will assist member states to ensure their implementation.

We will intensify the fight against racism, discrimination and every form of intolerance, as well as attempts to vindicate Nazism. We shall therefore give the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) the means to carry out its work, in close co-operation with national authorities and institutions as well as civil society in member states. We welcome ECRI's role in identifying good practices as well as its general policy recommendations, and we decide to disseminate them widely. We will ensure co-ordination of its activities with equivalent ones in the European Union and the OSCE and other relevant international bodies.

We recall the decision taken at the Strasbourg Summit "to step up co-operation in respect of the protection of all persons belonging to national minorities". Europe's chequered history has shown that the protection of national minorities is essential for the maintenance of peace and the development of democratic stability. A society that considers itself pluralist must allow the identities of its minorities, which are a source of enrichment for our societies, to be preserved and to flourish. We therefore encourage the Council of Europe to continue its activities to protect minorities, particularly through the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and to protect regional languages through the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

3. Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states

We will strive for our common goal of promoting democracy and good governance of the highest quality, nationally, regionally and locally for all our citizens and pursue our ongoing fight against all forms of totalitarianism.

We decide, within the existing structures of the Organisation as a whole, to:

- establish a Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy to strengthen democracy, political freedoms and citizens' participation, keeping in mind, *inter alia*, the conclusions of the Barcelona Conference on 17 to 19 November 2004. It shall be open to all member states and

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civil society, represented by policy makers, officials, practitioners or academics. It shall enable the exchange of ideas, information and examples of best practices, as well as discussions on possible future action. The Forum will act in close co-operation with the Venice Commission and other relevant Council of Europe bodies with a view to enhancing, through its reflection and proposals, the Organisation's work in the field of democracy;

- pursue, in partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, intergovernmental co-operation on democracy and good governance at all levels;
- develop further transfrontier co-operation, as necessary, and standards of democracy and good governance, including proper functioning of our civil services;
- take the necessary steps, including through the establishment within the secretariat of a centre of expertise on local government reform, to implement the Agenda for delivering good local and regional governance, adopted at the 14th Session of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for local and regional government (Budapest, 24-25 February 2005), by promoting standards and good practices and by assisting member states with capacity-building at the local and regional level, in close co-operation with the Congress;
- enhance the participation of NGOs in Council of Europe activities as an essential element of civil society's contribution to the transparency and accountability of democratic government.

We reiterate our commitment to guarantee and promote freedom of expression and information and freedom of the media as a core element of our democracies. We therefore attach particular importance to the work carried out by the Council of Europe in this area and we fully support the declaration and action plan adopted at the 7th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy (Kiev, 10-11 March 2005). We encourage co-

operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE in this area.

Equal participation of both women and men is a crucial element of democracy. We therefore confirm our commitment to achieving real equality between women and men. We will strengthen gender mainstreaming in national policies, elaborate guidelines and methods for further progress in equality between women and men, promote the setting-up of national equality mechanisms, and enhance the implementation of the United Nations' Beijing Platform for Action.

We call on member states to make use of the advice and assistance of the European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") for the further development of European standards in particular in the field of the functioning of the democratic institutions and electoral law. To ensure the implementation of European standards at national level it should step up its co-operation with constitutional courts and courts of equivalent jurisdiction which play a key role in this respect.

We will make full use of the Council of Europe's standard-setting potential and promote implementation and further development of the Organisation's legal instruments and mechanisms of legal co-operation, keeping in mind the conclusions of the 26th Conference of European Ministers of Justice (Helsinki, 7-8 April 2005).

We decide to develop the evaluation and assistance functions of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and to make proper use of the opinions given by the Consultative Council of Judges of Europe (CCJE) in order to help member states to deliver justice fairly and rapidly and to develop alternative means for the settlement of disputes.

Nationality law in all its aspects, including the promotion of acquisition of citizenship, as well as family law are focus points of the Council of Europe. The Council, as the suitable international organisation, will continue to develop its action in these fields of law.

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4. Ensuring compliance of the commitments made by member states and promoting political dialogue

The Council of Europe is a Europe-wide political forum which brings together member states committed to promoting democratic debate and the rule of law.

We will continue our common efforts to ensure strict compliance with the commitments of member states to the common standards to which they have subscribed. Standard-setting in the field of justice and other relevant areas of law as well as non-discriminatory monitoring processes should continue to be used to help member states address the problems and develop their legal systems. Monitoring must, as necessary, be accompanied by Council of Europe assistance and technical support. In this context, we encourage continued co-operation in the training of judges and law enforcement officials.

The Council of Europe should continue to foster a fruitful dialogue in its Committee of Ministers and Parliamentary Assembly. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe must continue to promote local democracy and decentralisation, taking into account the internal organisation of the countries concerned, so as to reach all levels of European society. The political dialogue should exploit the potential of the Organisation in promoting mutual understanding among member states, thus strengthening the unity in Europe and contributing to the commitment of building Europe without dividing lines.

To this end, the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Union, will continue to promote the exchange of good practices as far as free movement of persons is concerned, with a view to further improving contacts and exchanges between Europeans throughout the continent.

5. Broadening the role of the Council of Europe Development Bank

We request the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), while confirming its traditional role on behalf of populations in distress and of social cohe-

sion, also to facilitate, through its own means of action, the implementation of policies which aim at the consolidation of democracy, the promotion of the rule of law and respect for human rights, notably in the field of training of magistrates, civil servants and other participants in public life, as well as in the organisation, operation and infrastructure of administrative and judicial public services.

II. Strengthening the security of European citizens

1. Combating terrorism

We strongly condemn terrorism, which constitutes a threat and major challenge to our societies. It requires a firm, united response from Europe, as an integral part of the worldwide anti-terrorist efforts under the leadership of the United Nations. We welcome the new Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism opened for signature during the Summit and draw attention to other instruments and documents that the Council of Europe has drawn up so far to combat terrorism. We call on all member states to respect human rights and to protect victims when combating this scourge, in accordance with the guidelines drawn up by the Council of Europe in 2002 and 2005 respectively.

We will identify other targeted measures to combat terrorism and ensure close co-operation and co-ordination of common anti-terrorist efforts with other international organisations, in particular the United Nations.

2. Combating corruption and organised crime

The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has proved its effectiveness. Accordingly, we urge those member states that have not already joined it to do so as soon as possible and to ratify the criminal and civil law conventions on corruption. Since corruption is a worldwide phenomenon, the Council of Europe will step up its co-operation with the OECD and the United Nations to combat it on a global level. An increase in the membership of GRECO and its further enlargement to non-member states of the Council of Europe would help achieve this goal.

We also commend the work undertaken by MONEYVAL for monitoring anti-money-laundering

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measures, including the financing of terrorism. MONEYVAL should continue to strengthen its ties with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) under the aegis of the OECD.

We welcome the revision of the 1990 Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and the opening for signature of the revised convention at the Summit. We call for its signature and ratification.

The Council of Europe will continue to implement its technical assistance programmes for interested member states. It will also support strengthened international co-operation in the fight against transnational organised crime and drug trafficking.

3. Combating trafficking in human beings

We firmly condemn trafficking in human beings which undermines the enjoyment of human rights and is an offence to the dignity and integrity of the human being. We welcome the opening for signature at the Summit of the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings and call for its widest possible ratification and swift entry into force. This is a major step in the fight against trafficking. It will strengthen the prevention of trafficking, the effective prosecution of its perpetrators and the protection of the human rights of the victims. The independent monitoring mechanism set up by the convention will ensure its effective implementation by the parties. We will ensure close co-operation between the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the European Union and the OSCE in this field.

4. Combating violence against women

The Council of Europe will take measures to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. It will set up a task force to evaluate progress at national level and establish instruments for quantifying developments at pan-European level with a view to drawing up proposals for action. A pan-European campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, will be prepared and conducted in close co-operation with other European and national actors, including NGOs.

5. Combating cybercrime and strengthening human rights in the Information Society

We confirm the importance of respect for human rights in the Information Society, in particular, freedom of expression and information and the right to respect for private life.

The Council of Europe shall further elaborate principles and guidelines to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law in the Information Society. It will address challenges created by the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) with a view to protecting human rights against violations stemming from the abuse of ICT.

We will also take initiatives so that our member states make use of the opportunities provided by the Information Society. In this connection the Council of Europe will examine how ICT can facilitate democratic reform and practice. The Council of Europe shall also continue its work on children in the Information Society, in particular as regards developing their media literacy skills and ensuring their protection against harmful content.

We condemn all forms of ICT use in furthering criminal activity. We therefore urge all member states to sign and ratify the Convention on Cybercrime and to consider signature of its Additional Protocol concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems, the first binding international instruments on the subject.

6. Promoting ethics in biomedicine

The Council of Europe shall continue its standard-setting work on bioethics. We encourage the signing of the Protocol on Transplantation, the adoption of provisions corresponding to the recommendations on xenotransplantation and further work on the use of genetic testing outside the medical field, entailing discrimination in access to employment and insurance.

7. Promoting sustainable development

We are committed to improving the quality of life for citizens. The Council of Europe shall therefore,

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on the basis of the existing instruments, further develop and support integrated policies in the fields of environment, landscape, spatial planning and prevention and management of natural disasters, in a sustainable development perspective.

III. Building a more humane and inclusive Europe

We are convinced that social cohesion, as well as education and culture, are essential enabling factors for effective implementation of Council of Europe core values in our societies and for the long-term security of Europeans. The Council of Europe will therefore promote a model of democratic culture, underpinning law and institutions and actively involving civil society and citizens.

1. Ensuring social cohesion

The Council of Europe will step up its work in the social policy field on the basis of the European Social Charter and other relevant instruments. The central task is to jointly define remedies and solutions which could be effective in fighting poverty and exclusion, ensuring equitable access to social rights and protecting vulnerable groups. The Council of Europe, acting as a forum for pan-European co-operation in the social field, will work out recommendations and promote exchange of best practices in these areas as well as strengthen assistance to member states.

We instruct the Committee of Ministers to appoint a high-level task force to review the Council of Europe strategy to promote social cohesion in the 21st century, in the light of the Organisation's achievements in this field. Policies to promote social cohesion must take account of the challenges posed by ageing and other social and economic developments.

We agree that protection of health as a social human right is an essential condition for social cohesion and economic stability. We support the implementation of a strategic integrated approach to health and health-related activities. In particular, the work on equity of access to care of appropriate quality and services which meet the needs of the population of our member states will be intensified. Identifying standards for patient-oriented care will be a key component of this activity.

We confirm our commitment to combat all kinds of exclusion and insecurity of the Roma communities in Europe and to promote their full and effective equality. We expect that the European Roma and Travellers' Forum will allow Roma and Travellers to express themselves with the active support of the Council of Europe. Steps will be made to establish co-operation among the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE in this field.

We will consolidate the Council of Europe's work on disability issues and support the adoption and implementation of a ten-year action plan designed to make decisive progress in ensuring equal rights for people with disabilities.

2. Building a Europe for children

We are determined to effectively promote the rights of the child and to fully comply with the obligations of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. A child rights perspective will be implemented throughout the activities of the Council of Europe and effective co-ordination of child-related activities must be ensured within the Organisation.

We will take specific action to eradicate all forms of violence against children. We therefore decide to launch a three-year programme of action to address social, legal, health and educational dimensions of the various forms of violence against children. We shall also elaborate measures to stop sexual exploitation of children, including legal instruments if appropriate, and involve civil society in this process. Co-ordination with the United Nations in this field is essential, particularly in connection with follow-up to the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

3. Education: promoting democratic citizenship in Europe

The tasks of building a knowledge-based society and promoting a democratic culture among our citizens require increased efforts of the Council of Europe in the field of education aimed at ensuring access to education for all young people across Europe, improving its quality and promoting, *inter alia*, comprehensive human rights education.

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We will make full use of the opportunity to raise public awareness of European standards and values provided by the "European Year of Citizenship through Education". The Council of Europe shall build on its work on language-learning and recognition of diplomas and qualifications. It shall continue to play an important role in the Bologna Process aimed at the creation of European higher education area by 2010. It will actively promote co-operation and networking in the field of education and student exchanges at all levels.

The Council of Europe will enhance all opportunities for the training of educators, in the fields of education for democratic citizenship, human rights, history and intercultural education. It will promote relevant intercultural programmes and exchanges at secondary school level, both within Europe and with neighbouring countries.

The Council of Europe will also further develop its network of schools of political studies with a view to promoting European core values among the new generations.

4. Developing youth co-operation

We will intensify our efforts to empower young people to actively participate in democratic processes so that they can contribute to the promotion of our core values. The Council of Europe Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation are important instruments to this effect. We will integrate a youth perspective in all Council of Europe activities. To promote diversity, inclusion and participation in society, we decide to launch a Europe-wide youth campaign, in the spirit of the "European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance" (1995).

The Council of Europe will further develop its unique position in the youth field. It will continue to assist member states in developing national and local policy instruments and actively promote youth exchanges and youth mobility in Europe.

5. Protecting and promoting cultural diversity

Respect for, and promotion of, cultural diversity on the basis of Council of Europe values are essential conditions for the development of societies based

on solidarity. The Council of Europe will therefore develop strategies to manage and promote cultural diversity while ensuring the cohesion of societies. We support the adoption by Unesco of a convention on cultural diversity.

We will foster dialogue on the role of culture in contemporary Europe and define ways to support diversity and artistic creativity, defending culture as a purveyor of values. Steps will be taken to enhance access to cultural achievements and heritage by promoting cultural activities and exchanges.

6. Fostering intercultural dialogue

We shall systematically encourage intercultural and interfaith dialogue, based on universal human rights, as a means of promoting awareness, understanding, reconciliation and tolerance, as well as preventing conflicts and ensuring integration and the cohesion of society. The active involvement of civil society in this dialogue, in which both men and women should be able to participate on an equal basis, must be ensured. Issues faced by cultural and religious minorities can often be best addressed at the local level. Therefore, we ask the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to be actively involved in these issues and promote best practices.

We will strengthen co-operation and co-ordination both within the Council of Europe and with other regional and international institutions. To this effect, a co-ordinator for intercultural dialogue shall be appointed within the Council of Europe to monitor in co-operation with existing structures the implementation of the Organisation's practical programmes and ensure co-ordination with other institutions.

Convinced that dialogue between cultures is also fostered by accurate understanding of history, we endorse the Council of Europe's work in history teaching and related projects, and decide to intensify our efforts in this direction. We encourage more active involvement of civil society in this work.

We are committed to a new dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring regions – the southern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central

Asia – based on the above-mentioned principles. We recognise the role of the North-South Centre in promoting this dialogue, as well as its mission of fostering European awareness of intercultural and development issues.

7. Promoting sport

We attach great importance to the effective operation of the Anti-Doping Convention and the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, which are reference texts in international law. In line with the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation No. Rec (99) 9 on the role of sport in furthering social cohesion, we recommend the continuation of Council of Europe activities which serve as references in the field of sport.

8. Managing migration

We are aware of the importance of population movements within Europe and from other continents to Europe. Management of this migration is a major challenge to 21st-century Europe. We therefore consider that the Council of Europe should pursue its activities in this sector, in co-operation with the European Union, to contribute to a more balanced management of migration Europe-wide.

IV. Fostering co-operation with other international and European organisations and institutions

We are strongly committed to ensure close co-operation and co-ordination in international action, in particular on the European scene. The Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE will therefore work in enhanced synergy and complementarity based on their respective competency and expertise.

1. Relations with the European Union

Considering the important contribution of the Council of Europe to democracy, cohesion and stability in Europe, we call on the Council of Europe to:

- strengthen its relations with the European Union so that the Council of Europe's and the

European Union's achievements and future standard-setting work are taken into account, as appropriate, in each other's activities;

- strengthen co-operation with the European Union in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the promotion of pluralistic democracy and the rule of law;
- strengthen co-operation with the European Union in areas of common interest, in particular in the legal, cultural, youth and social fields, including through joint programmes and co-operation with specialised Council of Europe bodies, such as the Venice Commission, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the Group of States against Corruption, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice.

Based on the appended guidelines, a memorandum of understanding will be drafted between the Council of Europe and the European Union to create a new framework of enhanced co-operation and political dialogue. Particular focus should be put on how the European Union and its member states could make better use of available Council of Europe instruments and institutions, and on how all Council of Europe members could benefit from closer links with the European Union.

2. Relations with the OSCE

We encourage the Council of Europe to step up and rationalise co-operation with the OSCE, on the basis of their specific tasks and comparative advantages, while avoiding duplication of effort. In particular, we call for closer co-operation with the OSCE in the priority fields identified by the co-ordinating group and subsequently adopted by the governing bodies of the two organisations, starting with the fight against terrorism, the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, action against trafficking in human beings and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination.

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In this connection, we welcome the appended joint declaration on enhanced co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

3. Relations with the United Nations

We encourage the Council of Europe to step up co-operation with the United Nations and its specialised agencies, in order both to promote the universal values shared by the member states of the Council of Europe in the human rights field and to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in Europe, including, in particular, everyone's entitlement to live in a balanced, healthy environment.

V. Implementing the action plan: a transparent and efficient Council of Europe

We instruct the Committee of Ministers to take steps to ensure that this action plan is rapidly implemented by the various Council of Europe bodies, in conjunction where applicable with other European or international organisations.

As an urgent priority, we task the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General, assisted by independent expertise, to give fresh impetus to the reform process of the Council of Europe's organisational structures and working methods. Building on efforts already in hand, the process shall aim at an efficient functioning of the Organisation according to its objectives and keeping fully in mind the need for budgetary restraints. Special attention should be paid to initiatives that will further secure transparency, cost-efficiency as well as internal co-operation and knowledge sharing.

This reform process will be subject to regular progress reports to the Committee of Ministers. It will be discussed at the ministerial meeting in May 2006.

Appendix 1

Guidelines on the relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union

1. The Council of Europe and the European Union base their relationship on all matters of common interest, in particular the promotion and protection of

pluralistic democracy, the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, political and legal co-operation, social cohesion, and cultural interchange. These common values form the foundation of democratic stability and security to which our societies and citizens aspire, and help bring greater cohesion to Europe and further overall unity.

2. Enhanced partnership and complementarity should govern the future relationship between the Council of Europe and the European Union, in order to strengthen practical co-operation in all areas of common interest.

3. The common objective of a Europe without new dividing lines can best be served by making appropriate use of the norms and standards, as well as the experience and expertise developed in the Council of Europe over half a century.

4. Early accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights would strongly contribute to ensuring coherence in the field of human rights in Europe. The preparatory work should be accelerated so that this accession could take place as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Constitutional Treaty. Taking into account the competences of the European Community, accession to other Council of Europe conventions and involvement of Council of Europe mechanisms should be considered on the basis of a detailed review.

5. Legal co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union should continue and be further developed as useful and appropriate for the benefit of all European citizens, including by aiming for greater complementarity between European Union and Council of Europe legal texts. The European Union shall strive to transpose those aspects of Council of Europe conventions within its competence into European Union law.

6. The Council of Europe will, on the basis of its expertise and through its various organs, continue to provide support and advice to the European Union in particular in the fields of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

7. Co-operation between the European Union and specialised Council of Europe bodies should be reinforced. The European Union shall in particular, make full use of Council of Europe expertise in areas such as human rights, information, cyber-crime, bioethics, trafficking and organised crime, where action is required within its competence.

8. The future Human Rights Agency of the European Union, once established, should constitute an opportunity to further increase co-operation with the Council of Europe, and contribute to greater coherence and enhanced complementarity.

9. Bearing in mind the common aim of strengthening democratic stability in Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Union should increase their common efforts towards enhanced pan-European relations, including further co-operation in the countries participating in the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy and the stabilisation and association processes.

10. In order to achieve a qualitative improvement in the relationship, both organisations should work towards joint activities, when they add value to their respective endeavours. The European Union and the Council of Europe should consult regularly at all appropriate levels, including the political level, to make better use of each other's relevant expertise. Such consultations would better co-ordinate policy and action, and further monitor ongoing co-operation. Additionally, the European Union's presence should be strengthened by establishing as soon as possible a permanent office to the Council of Europe.

Appendix 2

Declaration on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The member states of the Council of Europe and the participating states of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Recalling the decisions taken in December 2004 by the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe (No. CM/865/01122004) and the

Permanent Council of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (No. 637);

Recognising the need to adapt relations between the two organisations to the evolving international environment, with due respect for the aims and principles enshrined in the Council of Europe's Statute and the OSCE's Charter for European Security and other agreed documents and decisions of both organisations;

Resolved to strive for a whole and free Europe without dividing lines based on shared values and a common commitment to democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, comprehensive security, social justice and market economy;

Convinced that, to achieve this objective, the two organisations need to work more closely together in identifying effective co-ordinated responses to the threats and challenges of the 21st century, on the basis of the principles of complementarity, transparency and democratic accountability, while respecting the autonomy, different membership and distinctive tasks of each organisation;

Determined to base this enhanced co-operation on the existing legal acquis of the Council of Europe and the OSCE's political commitments;

Welcoming the work initiated by the co-ordination group established in December 2004, which illustrates the commitment of member and participating states to enhanced co-operation between both organisations,

Call on the co-ordination group to give priority in its work to the formulation of concrete recommendations on how to foster co-ordination and co-operation between the two organisations in areas of common interest, taking into account their respective work in the field, and starting with questions concerning the fight against terrorism, the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, combating trafficking in human beings, as well as promoting tolerance and non-discrimination;

Agree that, to this end, various forms of co-operation between the two organisations should be

explored, such as joint meetings and joint activities, with more active involvement of the member and participating states, in order to produce synergies and avoid unnecessary duplication, giving the fullest account however to the different nature and membership of the two organisations, and make best use of their comparative advantages;

Call for better co-ordination within the national administrations of the member and participating states in order to ensure that the above principles are effectively implemented;

Decide to bring this declaration to the attention of both the Council of Europe and the OSCE Parliamentary Assemblies and would welcome their intention to enhance co-operation between the two Assemblies.

2. 115th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg 16–17 November 2005)

a. Communiqué

On the occasion of its 115th Session held in Strasbourg, under the chairmanship of Mr Freitas do Amaral, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, the Committee of Ministers reviewed the implementation of all the decisions adopted by the heads of state and government of the Council of Europe at the Warsaw Summit on 16 and 17 May 2005. Underlining that the Summit constituted a significant step towards building a Europe without dividing lines centred on the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, it expressed the hope that all the European countries without exception would come together around these values. Following the Warsaw Declaration, the Ministers confirmed that they looked forward to the day when Belarus is ready to join the Council of Europe. Wishing to give concrete effect to the political impetus of the Summit as rapidly as possible, they focused on the following political priorities.

I. Strengthening the Council of Europe's system of human rights protection

The Ministers reaffirmed that guaranteeing the effectiveness of the unique human rights protection system provided by the European Convention on Human Rights was a priority objective. They welcomed the prompt setting up of the group of wise persons, composed of 11 eminent personalities, which was to make recommendations on the measures to be taken in the longer term for this purpose. They asked the group to present them with an interim report for their next session in May 2006.

For the present, the Ministers reaffirmed that it was essential that decisions taken at the 114th Session on guaranteeing the effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights should be fully implemented within the agreed time-frame. This applied particularly to the ratification by all member states of Protocol No. 14 to the Convention. They welcomed the ratifications of the Protocol which took place during the ministerial session. They recalled the commitment to obtain within the next months the last ratifications which were indispensable to the entry into force of Protocol No. 14. The Ministers also stressed the particular importance of the other decisions taken at the 114th Session and instructed their Deputies to prepare, in advance of the 116th Session, a full report on the implementation of all the measures decided upon in May 2004, including those which were to be taken at national level.

Lastly, anxious to rapidly implement the Summit decision to reinforce the means available to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, the Ministers underlined that the Commissioner must be given the means allowing him to develop his action as from 2006 in order to fully discharge his mandate, having regard in particular to the entry into force of Protocol No. 14. They took this opportunity to commend the work done by the first Commissioner, Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles, to make his function renowned and gave their full support for the new Commissioner-elect, Mr Thomas Hammarberg.

II. Stepping up Council of Europe action to promote democracy

The Ministers stressed that the correct functioning of democracy remained the cornerstone for the building of advanced societies upholding human rights and the rule of law. They welcomed the fact that the process of reflection initiated in this regard at the Summit had been taken forward by the meeting to launch the Forum for the Future of Democracy held in Warsaw on 3 and 4 November at the invitation of the Polish authorities on the theme of "civic participation". They called upon the Council of Europe to take resolute action to identify and propose innovative measures capable of promoting good governance, energising democracy and reinforcing the citizens' confidence in it, while encouraging the participation of all actors of democratic life. In particular, they requested that the Council of Europe review experiences at national, regional or local level relating to civic participation in order to promote best practices in this area. The role of young people in the achievement of these objectives was specifically emphasised, and the Ministers called for the rapid launch of the European youth campaign decided on at the Summit. Furthermore, regarding the local level as the one where this could best be expressed, they supported the establishment of a Centre of Expertise on local government reform, due to start on 1 January 2006 for a trial period of three years, taking into account the opinions expressed by the competent bodies.

The Ministers reiterated the need to firmly combat the scourge of terrorism and the various forms of crime, including corruption and cybercrime, which pose a threat to democracy. They gave instructions on reinforcing the Council of Europe's efforts in the fight against these threats and called on those member states which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the three conventions approved at the Summit on the prevention of terrorism, the fight against trafficking of human beings and money laundering and the financing of terrorism as soon as possible.

III. Building a more humane Europe

European construction is only meaningful if its

action centres on the progress of society as a whole and if this progress benefits everyone. In this respect, the Ministers urged their Deputies to set up as soon as possible the high-level task force agreed at the Warsaw Summit to review the Council of Europe's social cohesion strategy. They also called for the continuation of work on equitable access to social rights, including health, and to the adoption, as soon as possible, of a ten-year action plan aimed at securing equal rights for people with disabilities. Finally, the Ministers underlined the importance of the European Social Charter and other relevant instruments, in particular in the fields of education, culture and health, for building cohesive societies.

The Ministers also affirmed the need to achieve genuine equality between women and men in all spheres of society. They emphasised the urgency of implementing the pan-European campaign agreed on at the Summit to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, by appointing a task force to formulate targeted measures as from 2006. They took concrete measures to ensure the implementation in 2006 of the action programme on promoting children's rights, starting with those belonging to the most vulnerable groups, and the protection of children against all forms of violence, including sexual exploitation.

The Ministers welcomed the strategy to promote intercultural dialogue in European societies which was adopted at the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Culture in Faro on 27 and 28 October 2005. This also translates into practical measures the desire for openness towards the rest of the world which was expressed at the Warsaw Summit. The White Paper to be drawn up by the Council of Europe on integrated policies for the management of cultural diversity through intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention, and the Faro Platform for promoting co-operation between institutions towards intercultural dialogue, constitute advances on this front. The Ministers asked that these be effectively followed-up. The Ministers strongly encouraged the member states and the competent bodies of the Council of Europe

to contribute actively to the pursuit of these initiatives. These activities will have to be co-ordinated with those of Unesco and aim to promote, in particular, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

IV. Strengthening co-operation between the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations

The scope of the challenges but also the expectations of the peoples make it necessary for the organisations which are active throughout the continent to continue efforts to pool their energies. The effectiveness of their action and their credibility, which are essential conditions for the support of public opinion, depend on it. From that standpoint, the Ministers welcomed the progress achieved in strengthening co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE in the priority fields of co-operation which are the fight against terrorism, safeguarding the rights of members of national minorities, the prevention of trafficking in human beings, and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. They asked for this process to be intensified by launching joint operational projects as of 2006, with due regard to each organisation's specific features.

Given the community of values between the Council of Europe and the European Union, the Ministers expressed their support for the establishment of a genuine partnership between the two institutions. On that subject, the Ministers welcomed the constructive nature of the informal exchange of views which they had on 16 November with Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, to whom the Warsaw Summit had assigned, in his personal capacity, the task of drawing up a report on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

In that context, the Ministers expected that the forthcoming opening of negotiations with the European Union would lead to the conclusion, by the end of 2006, of a memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union, on the basis of the guidelines

agreed in Warsaw. They recalled that this process is to lay the foundations for enhanced co-operation and political dialogue between the two institutions, also taking into account the proposals which will be made in the Juncker report. They agreed to evaluate the progress made in this direction at their next session.

The Ministers underlined the potential benefits of closer co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations. In this respect, they noted the participation of the Secretary General in a meeting of the United Nations Security Council held on 17 October 2005, under the chairmanship of Romania, on "co-operation between the United Nations and regional organisations in maintaining international peace and security".

V. Implementation of Chapter V of the action plan: enhancing transparency and efficiency

The Ministers noted that the implementation of Chapter V of the action plan of the Warsaw Summit regarding the reform process of the Council of Europe's organisational structures and working methods was proceeding. They reaffirmed the importance they attach to this process. Regular reports will be presented to the Committee of Ministers by the Secretary General on this matter, and a progress report will be submitted to their next session. These reports will focus on progress made in strengthening the Council of Europe's operational capacity and improving the transparency of its activities and the evaluation of their results.

b. Conclusions of the chair

Under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Mr Diogo Freitas do Amaral, the 115th Session of the Committee of Ministers, six months on from Warsaw, had followed-up to the 3rd Council of Europe Summit as its central theme.

In considering the question on the basis of a report prepared by their Deputies, the Ministers concentrated on the following four political priorities:

- consolidating the Council of Europe human rights protection system;

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- reinforcing Council of Europe action on behalf of democracy;
- building a more humane Europe;
- intensifying co-operation between the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE.

They also discussed prospects for implementing Chapter V of the action plan, on the process of Council of Europe structural reform, concerning which a detailed report will be submitted to them at their next session, in May 2006.

The Ministers' decisions and conclusions on these matters are reproduced in the session Communiqué.

The question of relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union was prominent in the discussions. The exchange of views with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, at the informal ministerial meeting that same evening, advanced the process launched at the Warsaw Summit of achieving closer co-operation and more intensive political dialogue between the Council of Europe and the European Union. The Ministers noted that the opening of the negotiations for the future memorandum of understanding between the two organisations might take place before the end of the year, on the basis of the guidelines agreed in Warsaw. They noted that the European Union would shortly be submitting proposals in this connection.

Just before the session, in the afternoon of 16 November, a ceremony was held to launch the joint Council of Europe and European Union campaign commemorating the 50th anniversary of the European flag. It was attended, on the European Union side, by the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso, and the President of the European Parliament, Mr Borell, and on the Council of Europe side by the Secretary General, Mr Davis, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr van der Linden, and the Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, Ambassador Duarte. The aim of this campaign is to draw public attention to the progress made in building a united, peaceful and prosperous Europe, symbolised by the flag which was designed in 1955 by the Council of Europe (and adopted in 1986 by the European Union).

Another question of major importance was the future of the system of human rights protection in Europe as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition to the work by the group of wise persons responsible for considering the long-term future of the Convention, a crucial issue in this connection is speedy, effective implementation of the reforms approved in May 2004, in particular bringing Protocol No.14 to the Convention into force in the next six months. On the occasion of the 115th Session, three additional member states ratified the Protocol, bringing the total number of ratifications to 20. Twenty-five member states have signed the Protocol but not yet ratified it. A report on implementation of all the decisions taken at the 114th Session, including measures to be taken at national level, will be drawn up for the 116th Committee of Ministers' session (May 2006).

In this context the Ministers stressed the individual and collective responsibility of the Council of Europe member states for guaranteeing full execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, which is an indispensable prerequisite for the credibility of the system of Convention supervision. They referred in particular to the two interim resolutions which the Committee of Ministers had adopted, on 22 April and 13 July 2005, concerning the case *Ilaşcu and Others v. Moldova and Russia*.

The Ministers likewise reviewed signatures and ratifications to date of the three conventions opened for signature at Warsaw:

- the Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism;
- the revised Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism;
- the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Six, three and seven new signatures were registered respectively. This brings the number of signatures to 26 in the case of the Convention for the Prevention of Terrorism, 16 in the case of the revised Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, and 23 in the case of

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the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Ministers reasserted these conventions' importance in international action to combat terrorism and trafficking in human beings. They pointed out that such action was more relevant than ever in view of the attacks which had again struck a number of Council of Europe member countries, in particular the bombings in London in July and the attacks at Naltchik in October. They consequently encouraged member states which had not yet signed or ratified the conventions to do so as soon as possible.

Another legal instrument highlighted during the session was the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, opened for signature at the Conference of European Ministers of Culture at Faro on 27 and 28 October. In this connection the Ministers stressed the importance which they attached to speedily and effectively implementing the Council of Europe strategy on development of intercultural dialogue, as adopted at Faro, in the interests both of increased cohesiveness in European societies and of greater mutual understanding, dialogue and co-operation between Europe and the rest of the world. They noted with satisfaction that specific instruments had been set up for this purpose, in particular the multi-institutional platform between the Council of Europe and Unesco, which is open to other international and regional partners.

Another question in which great interest was taken was the situation regarding democracy in Europe, and the Council of Europe contribution to action in that connection at international, national and local level. The Ministers were informed by their Polish colleague of the conclusions of the meeting to launch the Forum on the Future of Democracy, at Warsaw on 3 and 4 November. They noted with interest that a consolidated document on civic participation in Europe was to be produced with a view to putting forward proposals for reinforcing such participation by means of various joint action by the four types of democratic actor – governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society.

In this context, the Ministers also paid special attention to the situation in the Caucasus further to the general election in Azerbaijan on 6 November and with an eye to the referendum in Armenia and the parliamentary elections in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, scheduled for late November. They joined the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers' appeal, made in his declaration on 10 October 2005, calling upon the Armenians to participate in the referendum on the draft constitution which should allow the latter to be brought into conformity with European norms. Furthermore, they noted with concern that according to the preliminary conclusions of the international observation mission, the 6 November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan did not meet a number of OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards for democratic elections, despite some improvements. The Ministers recalled that the holding of regular and fully democratic elections is a basic condition of Council of Europe membership for each member state. They noted that the Azerbaijani authorities declared that they would take all necessary measures to remedy the violations which have occurred during the elections. This will be closely followed by the Committee of Ministers.

Several Ministers expressed their deep concern regarding the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Belarus. The chair is convinced that Belarus has a rightful place in the construction of Europe and therefore calls on the authorities of Belarus to take all measures to comply with international human rights instruments and to secure the full enjoyment of rights and freedoms. It expects that the Presidential elections, due to take place in Belarus in 2006, will be free and democratic and that the Council of Europe will continue to assist civil society and the independent media in that country.

Several Ministers also invited the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Union, to implement the provisions of the Summit action plan which aim to promote the exchange of good practices as far as free movement of persons is concerned, with a view to further improving con-

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tacts and exchanges between Europeans throughout the continent.

The chair noted the decision of the Libyan Supreme Court on 15 November to delay its ruling on the death sentences on the Bulgarian and Palestinian medical staff in Libya. It remains concerned about the plight of the medical staff, and expresses sympathy for the Libyan families involved in this humanitarian tragedy. The chair urges efforts to continue to find a solution which is satisfactory to all parties.

During their discussions the Ministers noted with interest the position and intentions of the Committee of Ministers' institutional partners within the Council of Europe, particularly the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, concerning follow-up to the summit. On the last occasion on which he will attend a ministerial session, they paid tribute to the work done by the Council of Europe's first Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles, who in the previous six years had won wide recognition of the post's importance. They gave their full support to the new elected Commissioner, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, who would be taking up the post in 2006.

Lastly, the Ministers welcomed the emphasis which the Portuguese chairmanship had placed in the last six months on legal co-operation, social cohesion and cultural dimension. In particular, in addition to the Faro conference, they noted with satisfaction the results of the seminar on protecting the rights of the child, the workshop on balanced participation of women and men in political and economic decision-making, and the conference on the 20th anniversary of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Lisbon, 1-2 June, 16-17 June and 8 July respectively), together with the conclusions of the conference at Cascais on 30 September on combating economic crime, which was part of the Council of Europe-European Commission joint programme on combating corruption and organised crime in transition countries (Octopus).

At the close of the session the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, Mr Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu, presented to his colleagues the priorities of the

new Romanian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers for the six months to come. Mr Freitas do Amaral officially handed over to Mr Ungureanu immediately afterwards.

The 116th Committee of Ministers' session will be held in Strasbourg on 18 and 19 May 2006.

3. Declarations

Declaration on freedom of expression and information in the media in the context of the fight against terrorism, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 March 2005

Presidential pardon concerning political prisoners in Azerbaijan, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 23 March 2005

Statement by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers on the situation in Belarus, made on 14 May 2005

Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on human rights and the rule of law in the Information Society, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 May 2005

4. Conventions

Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research (CETS No. 195) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 January 2005

Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 May 2005

Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 May 2005

Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 May 2005
Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (CETS No. 199) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 October 2005

5. Recommendations

Rec(2005)1

on the financial resources of local and regional authorities

Rec(2005)2

on good practices in and reducing obstacles to transfrontier and interterritorial co-operation between territorial communities or authorities

Rec(2005)3

on teaching neighbouring languages in border regions

Rec(2005)4

on improving the housing conditions of Roma and Travellers in Europe

Rec(2005)5

on the rights of children living in residential institutions

Rec(2005)6

on exclusion from refugee status in the context of Article 1.F of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951

Rec(2005)7

concerning identity and travel documents and the fight against terrorism

Rec(2005)8

on the principles of good governance in sport

Rec(2005)9

on the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice

Rec(2005)10

on "special investigation techniques" in relation to serious crimes including acts of terrorism

Rec(2005)11

on the role and training of professionals responsible for organ donation (transplant "donor coordinators")

Rec(2005)12

containing an application form for legal aid abroad for use under the European Agreement on the transmission of applications for legal aid (CETS No. 092) and its Additional Protocol (CETS No. 179)

Rec(2005)13

on the governance and management of university heritage

Recommendations relating to the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages (RecChL)

RecChL(2005)1

on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Austria

RecChL(2005)2

on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Croatia

RecChL(2005)3

on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Spain

Recommendation relating to the European Social Charter (RecChS)

RecChS(2005)1

on the application of the European Social Charter by the United Kingdom during the period 2001-2002 (17th supervision cycle – part I, "hard core" provisions of the Charter)

6. Resolutions

The Resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers relating to certain specific areas of the Council of Europe's work are organised into several different types:

- resolutions pertaining to the Partial Agreement in the Social and Health Field (ResAP);
- resolutions pertaining to the European Social Charter (ResChS);
- resolutions on the European Diploma for Protected Areas (ResDip);
- resolutions on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ResCMN);
- resolutions pertaining to judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ResDH);
- resolutions on the European Committee for the Prevention of Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ResCPT).

For a complete list of Resolutions adopted in 2005, please consult the Committee of Ministers' website at: www.coe.int/T/CM/adoptedTexts_en.asp/.

Appendix B – Texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly

First part-session (24–28 January 2005)

Recommendations

Recommendation 1690

The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

Recommendation 1691

Protection of human rights in Kosovo

Recommendation 1692

The circumstances surrounding the arrest and prosecution of leading Yukos executives

Recommendation 1693

The 3rd Summit

Recommendation 1694

Relations between Europe and the United States

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Resolution 1415

Honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia

Resolution 1416

The conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

Resolution 1417

Protection of human rights in Kosovo

Resolution 1418

The circumstances surrounding the arrest and prosecution of leading Yukos executives

Resolution 1419

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Resolution 1420

Prospects for peace in the Middle East

Resolution 1421

Relations between Europe and the United States

Resolution 1422

Europe and the Tsunami Disaster

Resolution 1423

What solutions to Europe's unemployment?

Resolution 1424

Boosting social cohesion and employment: more and better jobs

Resolution 1425

Revision of the terms of reference of Assembly committees

Opinions

Opinion No. 253

Draft Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings

Opinion No. 254

Draft convention on laundering, the financing of terrorism, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime

Opinion No. 255

Draft convention on the prevention of terrorism

Second part-session (25–29 April 2005)

Recommendations

Recommendation 1698

The rights of children in institutions: follow-up to Recommendation 1601 (2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly

Recommendation 1699

Lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay

Recommendation 1700

Discrimination against women in the workforce and the workplace

Recommendation 1701

Discrimination against women and girls in sport

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Recommendation 1702

Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones

Recommendation 1703

Protection and assistance for separated children seeking asylum

Recommendation 1704

Referendums: towards good practices in Europe

Resolutions

Resolution 1433

Lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay

Resolution 1434

Europe's growing energy vulnerability

Resolution 1435

Energy systems and the environment

Resolution 1436

Iran's nuclear programme: need for international response

Resolution 1437

Migration and integration: a challenge and an opportunity for Europe

Resolution 1438

Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones

Resolution 1439

Sea pollution

Recommendation 1709

Disappearance and murder of a great number of women and girls in Mexico

Recommendation 1710

Honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation

Recommendation 1711

Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan

Recommendation 1712

Follow-up to the 3rd Summit

Recommendation 1713

Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states

Recommendation 1714

Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote

Recommendation 1715

Improving the response to mental health needs in Europe

Resolutions

Resolution 1449

The environment and the Millennium Development Goals

Resolution 1450

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals

Resolution 1451

Contribution of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to economic development in central and eastern Europe

Resolution 1452

Situation in the Middle East

Resolution 1453

Current situation in Kosovo

Resolution 1454

Disappearance and murder of a great number of women and girls in Mexico

Resolution 1455

Honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation

Third part-session (20–24 June 2005)

Recommendations

Recommendation 1706

Media and terrorism

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Situation in the Middle East

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Current situation in Kosovo

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Functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan

Resolution 1457

Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan

Resolution 1458

Constitutional reform process in Armenia

Resolution 1459

Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote

Resolution 1460

Improving the response to mental health needs in Europe

Fourth part-session (3–8 October 2005)

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Recommendation 1718

Co-development policy as a positive measure to regulate migratory flows

Recommendation 1719

Enforced disappearances

Recommendation 1720

Education and religion

Recommendation 1721

Functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova

Recommendation 1722

Honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine

Recommendation 1723

Forced marriages and child marriages

Recommendation 1724

The Council of Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union

Recommendation 1725

Europe and bird flu – preventive measures in the health field

Recommendation 1726

Serious human rights violations in Libya – inhuman treatment of Bulgarian medical staff

Recommendation 1727

Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member states

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Resolution 1462

Co-development policy as a positive measure to regulate migratory flows

Resolution 1463

Enforced disappearances

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Women and religion in Europe

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Functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova

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Honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine

Resolution 1467

The OECD and the world economy

Resolution 1468

Forced marriages and child marriages

Resolution 1469

Language problems in access to public health care in the Brussels-Capital region in Belgium

Resolution 1470

The costs of the Common Agricultural Policy

Resolution 1471

Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member states

Standing Committee (Paris, 18 March 2005)

Recommendations

Recommendation 1695

Draft Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings

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Recommendation 1696

Plans to set up a Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union

Recommendation 1697

European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS): request for consultative status with the Council of Europe

Resolutions

Resolution 1426

Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights

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Plans to set up a Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union

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The situation of the deported Meskhetian population

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Asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Turkey

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Industrial hazards

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Initiation of a monitoring procedure and post-monitoring dialogue

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Procedure for elections held by the Parliamentary Assembly other than those of its President and Vice-Presidents

Standing Committee (Lisbon, 6 June 2005)

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Recommendation 1705

Recent political developments in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in the context of regional stability

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Resolution 1440

Recent political developments in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" in the context of regional stability

Resolution 1441

Development challenges in Europe's islands

Resolution 1442

The right to strike in essential services: economic implications

Resolution 1443

Challenge of credentials of individual members of a national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly on substantive grounds

Resolution 1444

Protection of European deltas

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Increase of the number of seats of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to 83

Resolution 1446

Co-operation and sustainable development in the Adriatic basin

Resolution 1447

Requests for current affairs and urgent debates (Rules 50.2 and 52.2 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure)

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Deadline for tabling amendments

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Opinion No. 256

Budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial year 2006

Opinion No. 257

Expenditure of the Assembly for the financial year 2006

Standing Committee (Monaco, 1 September 2005)

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Recommendation 1716

Promoting a United Nations 5th World Conference on Women

Recommendation 1717

Education for leisure activities

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Resolution 1461

The Curonian Spit, oil and the environment

Standing Committee (Bucharest, 25 November 2005)

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Recommendation 1728

Budgetary powers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Recommendation 1729

Activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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The private management of cultural property

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Resolution 1472

Abolishing the last piece of Iron Curtain in central Europe

Resolution 1473

European waterways: focus on the Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal project

Resolution 1474

Activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Resolution 1475

50th anniversary of the Europe Prize – stocktaking and prospects

Appendix C – Texts adopted by the Congress

Spring Session (16–18 March 2005)

Recommendations

Recommendation 160
on coastal management and local and regional authority policy in Europe

Recommendation 161
on local and regional authorities and renewable energy sources

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Resolution 192
on coastal management and local and regional authority policy in Europe

Resolution 193
on local and regional authorities and renewable energy sources

12th Session (31 May–2 June 2005)

Recommendations

Recommendation 162
on the revision of the Charter of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Recommendation 163
on local and regional democracy in Sweden

Recommendation 164
on local and regional democracy in Denmark

Recommendation 165
on the fight against trafficking in human beings and their sexual exploitation: the role of cities and regions

Recommendation 166
on the regeneration of mining and industrial areas

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Appendix D – Budgets and post breakdown in 2005

1. Budgets of the Council of Europe in 2005

Ordinary budget

Total member states contributions.....	186 012 700
VOTE I:	
General services.....	17 215 200
<i>Private Office of the Secretary General</i>	2 228 900
<i>Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers</i>	2 802 200
<i>Political Affairs</i>	3 120 500
<i>Legal Advice – Treaty Office</i>	853 200
<i>Communication and Research</i>	6 995 700
<i>Protocol</i>	656 800
<i>Internal Audit</i>	557 900
VOTE II:	
Programme of activities.....	70 226 400
VOTE III:	
Parliamentary Assembly.....	15 090 600
VOTE IV:	
European Court of Human Rights.....	41 739 900
VOTE V:	
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.....	5 978 000
VOTE VI:	
Administrative and logistical support.....	38 529 800
VOTE VII:	
Other expenditure.....	49 000
VOTE VIII:	
Investment expenditure.....	4 558 000
VOTE IX:	
Receipts.....	- 7 374 200

Partial agreements

Social and Public Health Field.....	1 691 700
European Pharmacopoeia.....	11 646 400
Council of Europe Development Bank.....	1 337 800
Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group).....	1 842 100
Co-operation Group for the Prevention of, Protection against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Distasters.....	1 294 300
European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works (Eurimages).....	21 116 900
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).....	2 977 500
Youth Card.....	214 600
European Centre for Modern Languages.....	1 618 000

2. Table of permanent posts by directorate and department as at 1 January 2005

Service	A7	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	L5	L4	L3	L2	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	C6	C5	C4	C3	C2	TOTAL
Services of the Secretary General		5	4	9	16						2	12	20	24	32			1	5		130
Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers	1	1	1	2	5							2	5	8	3			1			29
Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly	1	2	11	10	19						2	5	16	12	8			1			87
Directorate General of Political Affairs	1	2	3	5	9							4	3	10	9						46
Directorate General I: Legal Affairs	1	2	6	7	30							8	7	13	28						102
Directorate General II: Human Rights	1	2	5	13	49						1	9	10	14	24						128
Directorate General III: Social Cohesion	1	2	2	5	12							4	5	6	7						42
Directorate General IV: Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport	1	3	4	13	25	3					1	16	10	20	29			1	4	1	132
Directorate General of Administration and Logistics	1	3	3	13	21		3	22	16	16	9	22	62	49	39	3	11	36	36	39	404
Registry of the European Court of Human Rights	1	7	8	25	90			4	12		2	5	41	132	71			1	7	5	412
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe	1	1	2	2	5							3	5	5	9						33
Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights	1	1	1	1	2								2	2							8
TOTAL	10	29	49	105	283	3	3	26	28	16	17	90	184	295	261	3	13	41	52	45	1553

Partial agreements	A7	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	L5	L4	L3	L2	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	C6	C5	C4	C3	C2	TOTAL
DGAP - Lisbon Centre			1		3							1	2	1	1						9
DGI - PA Venice Commission		1	1	3	4								2	5	1						17
DGI - PA GRECO			1		3								1	1	2						8
European Audiovisual Observatory			1	1	1							4	2	4	1						14
DGIII - PA Pampidou Group			1	1	3							1	3	2	2						13
DGIII - PA Social and Public Health Field			1	1	3							2	2	3							12
DGIII - PA Secretariat of the Development Bank	1	1	1	1	3								1	2	2						11
DGIII - European Pharmacopoeia		1	4	6	30	2			3		1	4	14	15	11			2	5		99
DGIV - Centre for Modern Languages (Graz)				1	2								2	1	2						8
DGIV - PA Eurimages			1	1	5							1	3	2	2						15
DGIV - PA EUR-OPA			1		1							1	1	1	1						5
DGIV - Youth Card														1							1
TOTAL Partial agreements	0	3	13	15	58	2	0	0	3	0	1	14	30	37	28	0	1	2	5	0	212
TOTAL Council of Europe	10	32	62	120	341	5	3	26	31	16	18	104	214	332	289	3	14	43	57	45	1765

Of which posts until end of 2008	A7	A6	A5	A4	A2/3	A2	L5	L4	L3	L2	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	C6	C5	C4	C3	C2	TOTAL
Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers					1										1						1
Directorate General II: Human Rights					7										1						8
Registry of the European Court of Human Rights					26							1	85	21					5		138
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	85	22	0	0	0	5	0	147

3. Secretariat General

Mr Terry Davis,
Secretary General

Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio,
Deputy Secretary General

Mr Bruno Haller,
Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Guy De Vel,
Director General of Legal Affairs

Mr Pierre-Henri Imbert,
Director General of Human Rights

Mr Leonard Davies,
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers

Mr Michel de Salvia,
Jurisconsult, Registry of the European Court
of Human Rights (until 31 may 2005)

Mr Klaus Schumann,
Director General of Political Affairs
(until 30/9/05)

Mr Jean-Louis Laurens,
Director General of Political Affairs
(as from 1/10/05)

Mr Paul Mahoney,
Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights
(until 16/11/05)

Mr Erik Friberg,
Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights
(as from 10/11/05)

Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni,
Director General of Education, Culture and
Heritage, Youth and Sport

Mr Mateo Sorinas,
Director General, Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Mário Martins,
Director General of Administration and Logistics

Mr Ulrich Bohner,
Chief Executive of the Congress of Local and
Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr Jean-Louis Laurens,
Director of Strategic Planning, Director of the
Private Office of the Secretary General and of the
Deputy Secretary General (until 30/9/05)

Mrs Marja Ruotanen,
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary
General and of the Deputy Secretary General
(as from 1/9/05)

Mr Paul Ernst,
Internal Auditor

Mr Muammer Topaloğlu,
Director of Protocol

Mr Alexander Vladychenko,
Director General *ad interim* of Social Cohesion

Mr Manuel Lezertua,
Director of the Office of the Commissioner of
Human Rights

Mr Jean-Philippe Bozouls,
Director *ad interim* of Communication and
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Mrs Seda Pumpyanskaya,
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