

INFORMATION

(to the ECPRD Executive Committee meeting, Kiev, 30 March 2007)

Referring to our earlier contacts and talks regarding the *report on the rationalization of interparliamentary cooperation in Europe*, I would like to inform you that:

1. The idea to prepare the report comes from the conclusions of the ECPRD seminar - co-organized by the Chancellery of the Polish Senate - held on 8-9 May 2006 in Warsaw¹. It was also mentioned during the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, Copenhagen, 1 July 2006, in particular in the Presidency Conclusions from the Conference. Point no. 23 of the Conclusions reads: "The Speakers noted the work being carried out by the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) on the rationalization of interparliamentary cooperation in Europe, and looked forward to its conclusions". There is only one mistake in the resolution: it would be better to state "carried out under the auspices of" instead of "carried out by".
2. The Report should be based on the replies to the three questionnaires, two of them addressed to the ECPRD correspondents in the European national parliaments and one to the secretariats of the interparliamentary forums in which European parliaments / chambers participate.
3. The first two ECPRD questionnaires have been already sent: in September 2005 (no. 456) and in October 2006 (no. 642). The Report from the first survey (no. 456) was completed before and presented during the mentioned above ECPRD seminar in May 2006 in Warsaw. The compilation of the replies to second survey (no. 642) - with an introduction and preliminary summary, was completed and sent to the Slovak parliamentary Presidency before the meeting of Secretaries General of the EU Parliaments, which was held on 16 March 2007 in Bratislava. The compilation has been then sent out to the ECPRD correspondents. The correspondents who have had replied to the request were asked to complete it or supplement, if necessary. The correspondents who haven't replied to the request were asked to do it until the 6th of April 2006.
4. The questionnaire addressed to the secretariats of the interparliamentary forums in which European parliaments / chambers participate - which was prepared already in October 2006 - initially was ment to be distributed by the ECPRD, while making sure that the replies were sent only to the organizer of the survey (i.e. the Polish Senate). However, it did not work out and in February 2007 the question of how to provide the survey with institutional authority has appeared. At the moment the proposal of sending out the questionnaire by a member of the Presidium of the Polish Senate is being considered.

¹ See the enclosure: the Conclusions from the ECPRD seminar on *Supranational Parliamentary and Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies in 21st Century Europe*, Warsaw, 9 May 2006.

5. I believe it feasible to complete the report making stock of the national parliaments' replies by the end of May 2007, whereas the one summing up the replies from the European interparliamentary forums by the end of June (provided that the survey will be initiated without further delay). **Thus the *report on the rationalization of interparliamentary cooperation in Europe* could be eventually completed by the end of July 2007.**

/-/

Leszek Kieniewicz
Director
Office for International and EU Affairs
Chancellery of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

Warsaw, 29 March 2007 r.