

**STANDING
COMMITTEE**

193 SC 06 E Rev. 1
Original: English



NATO Parliamentary Assembly

SUMMARY

of the Special Meeting of the Standing Committee
Palais d'Egmont, Brussels

Friday, 29 September 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Table of Contents</i>	i
<i>Attendance list</i>	ii
1. Opening of the proceedings	1
2. Adoption of the draft agenda [161 SC 06 E]	1
3. Adoption of the Summary of the Standing Committee meeting held in Paris, France on Monday, 29 May 2006 [128 SC 06 E]	1
4. Discussion of the Declaration for the NATO Summit to be held in Riga, Latvia on 28-29 November 2006 [159 SC 06 E] and letter and text from Assembly President, Pierre Lellouche [187 SC 06]	1
5. Involvement of delegates from Afghanistan and / or Iraq at Assembly Sessions	13
6. The Status of Serbia and Montenegro	14
7. Miscellaneous	14

ATTENDANCE LIST**Vice-Presidents**

Pierre Claude Nolin (Canada)
 Vahit Erdem (Turkey)
 Bert Koenders (Netherlands)
 José Lello (Portugal)

Secretary General

Simon Lunn

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Belgium	<i>Not represented</i>
Bulgaria	Nikolai Kamov
Canada	Jane Cordy
Czech Republic	<i>Not represented</i>
Denmark	Per Kaalund
Estonia	Sven Mikser
France	Paulette Brisepierre
Germany	Karl A. Lamers
	Markus Meckel
Greece	<i>Not represented</i>
Hungary	<i>Not represented</i>
Iceland	Ossur Skarphedinsson
Italy	<i>Not represented</i>
Latvia	Guntis Berzins
Lithuania	<i>Nor represented</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Not represented</i>
Netherlands	Bert Koenders
Norway	<i>Not represented</i>
Poland	Marian Pilka
Portugal	José Lello
	Rui Gomes da Silva
Romania	Mihail Lupoi
Slovakia	Ján Kovarcik
Slovenia	<i>Not represented</i>
Spain	Rafael Estrella
	Jordi Marsal
Turkey	Vahit Erdem
United Kingdom	Bruce George
United States	<i>Not represented</i>

COMMITTEE OFFICERS *(where not listed above)***Defence and Security**

Julio Miranda Calha (Portugal), *Rapporteur*

SECRETARIES OF DELEGATION

Belgium	Frans Van Melkebeke
Bulgaria	Borislav Penchev
Canada	Denis Robert
Czech Republic	Olga Bendíková
Denmark	<i>Not represented</i>

Estonia
France
Germany

Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Italy

Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States

Accompanying staff

Belgium

International Secretariat

Tanja Espe
Etienne Sallenave
Annemarie Bürsch
Rainer Büscher
Not represented
Károly Túzes
Stigur Stefánsson
Cristina de Cesare
Alessandra Lai
Sandra Paura
Snieguole Ziukaite
Not represented
Leo van Waasbergen
Marit Gjeltén
Natalia Jaskiewicz
Luisa Pinto Basto
Ioan Ilie
Jarmila Novakova
Not represented
Mercedes Araujo
Yesim Uslu
Libby Davidson
Not represented

Patrick Delodder

Eva Antunano
Isabelle Arcis
Andrius Avizius
Helen Cadwallender
Roberta Calorio
Andrea Cellino
Salima Chebrek
Paul Cook
Valérie Geffroy
Dominique Gins
Christine Heffinck
David Hobbs
Susan Millar
Reena Panchal
Jacqueline Pforr
Ruxandra Popa
Gill Rawling
Steffen Sachs
Zachary Selden
Claire Watkins

1. Opening of the proceedings

The meeting opened at 09:10 with Senator Pierre Claude Nolin (Canada) in the chair.

The Chairman welcomed members of the Standing Committee and thanked the Belgian delegation for hosting the lunch which would take place later that day. He announced the passing of Mr Jon Lilletun, the former deputy leader of the Norwegian delegation and called for a moment of silence in his memory. He then welcomed new members of the Standing Committee.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda [161 SC 06 E]

The Chairman asked for comments on the draft agenda. There were no comments and the agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the Summary of the Standing Committee meeting held in Paris, France, on Monday 29 May 2006 [128 SC 06 E]

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the French Delegation for hosting the last session and asked for any comments on the summary of the Standing Committee meeting held in Paris.

Mr Mikser (EE) noted that Vice-President Lello's name did not appear on the attendance list although he appeared as having spoken during the meeting.

The Chairman said that the summary would be amended accordingly.

4. Discussion of the Draft Declaration for the NATO Summit to be held in Riga, Latvia on 28-29 November 2006 [159 SC 06 E Rev. 1] and letter and text from Assembly President, Pierre Lellouche [187 SC 06 E]

The Chairman asked Secretary General Lunn to provide the context in which the Draft Resolution was prepared and presented.

The Secretary General explained the link between the Draft Declaration and the Riga Summit agenda. The idea was to present the Declaration to Summit negotiators before a final deal was hammered out. He noted that the Declaration would be distinct from any message that the NATO PA President delivered at the Riga Summit. He also noted that the Declaration would be presented for information at the Annual Session in Quebec, which will be held before the Riga summit. This would give the entire membership the opportunity to support the Declaration.

He concluded by thanking the Deputy Secretary General for his work preparing the meeting.

The Chairman noted that the NATO PA President Mr Lellouche had presented an alternative text. He asked the members whether this should be considered in its entirety as an alternative to the Draft Declaration or to include elements of it as Amendments to the Rapporteurs' draft. He asked Committee members to comment.

Mr George (UK) asked if the Rapporteurs might discuss incorporating elements of the President's alternative text into the Draft Declaration.

The Chairman noted that the Rapporteurs had already done this.

Mr Erdem (TK) thanked the Rapporteurs and asked if they could shorten the text.

Mr Lamers (DE) also thanked the Rapporteurs and argued that the draft text should be the basis of the declaration.

The Chairman said that the consensus of the meeting seemed to be that the Rapporteurs' draft should be the basis of the discussion and that several of Mr Lellouche's points should be considered as Amendments. **The Committee agreed.**

The Chairman pointed out that several Amendments dealt with paragraph ordering. He suggested that reordering be considered following consideration of all the other Amendments. He then invited the two Rapporteurs to present the text.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) and **Mr Koenders** (NL) presented the Draft Declaration.

The Chairman returned to Mr Erdem's point about the length of the text. He said any decision on the length was in the hands of the members.

The Secretary General said that the length partly reflected the process of soliciting input from all the Committees and from seeking to address the full spectrum of issues likely to feature in the Summit preparations.

The Chairman then moved Amendment 1¹ to paragraph 1.1 on behalf of Mr Hefley who was not in attendance.

Mr Kamov (BG) suggested the Amendments need not be presented if the Rapporteurs agreed to them.

The Chairman believed that members ought to have the opportunity to present their reasoning regardless.

Mr Lamers (DE) suggested that if the Amendment sponsors were not present, the Committee could simply vote on the item unless members felt a discussion was necessary.

The Chairman again moved Amendment 1.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) said that the Rapporteurs accepted Amendment 1.

The Committee adopted Amendment 1.

Mr Kamov (BG) moved Amendment 2²

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) said that the Rapporteurs accepted Amendment 2.

Amendment 2 was adopted.

¹ In paragraph 1.1, after the words "the continuing", replace the word "relevance" by the word "importance"

² In paragraph 1.1, after the words "global environment" add the word "risks and"

The Chairman moved Amendment 3³ on behalf of Mr Lellouche.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) said the Rapporteurs agreed to Amendment 3.

Mr Mikser (EE) noted an ordering problem in paragraph 1.1.

The Chairman replied that this would be reordered at the end of the Amendment process.

Mr Lello (PT) noted that Mr Lellouche's Amendments were making the text longer.

The Chairman asked for objections to Amendment 3. There were no objections.

Amendment 3 was adopted.

Mr Kamov (BG) moved Amendment 4⁴.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) accepted Amendment 4.

Mr Koenders (NL) indicated the need for small editorial change to the Amendment.

Mr Mikser (EE) suggested that if the list of items in the Amendment were adopted, then the "multiple origins" clause in Mr Lellouche's original draft ought to be adopted followed by the full list.

Mr Koenders (NL) indicated that the Rapporteurs would be happy to adopt that formulation.

The Chairman asked the Committee to give the Rapporteurs the authority to carry out this redrafting. This was agreed. He then asked the committee to adopt paragraph 1.1 as amended.

Paragraph 1.1 was adopted as amended with the agreement that necessary editing would be done by the Rapporteurs.

The Chairman said that there were no Amendments to paragraph 1.2 and asked the Committee to adopt it.

Paragraph 1.2 was adopted.

Mr Erdem (TK) moved Amendment 5.⁵

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) accepted the Amendment on behalf of the Rapporteurs, noting that it incorporated the central idea of Mr Lellouche.

Mr Estrella (ES) agreed with the Amendment. He also supported the idea that the Rapporteurs should reorder the points.

The Chairman asked for the Committee's agreement to the Amendment and to give permission to the Rapporteurs to reorder the points in the paragraph. **The members adopted Amendment 5** and

³ In paragraph 1.1, after the words "failed or failing states", insert the words, "underdevelopment, bad governance, demographic imbalances, religious radicalization, the resurgence of ideologies hostile to democracy, competition for natural resources and energy,"

⁴ In paragraph 1.1, after the words "failing states", insert the words "regional instability, transnational organised crime,"

⁵ In paragraph 1.3, after item a) insert a new item "Terrorism"

agreed to permit the Rapporteurs to edit the order of points, taking into account all the Amendments to this paragraph.

Mr Lamers (DE) moved Amendment 6⁶.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) accepted Amendment 6 on behalf of the Rapporteurs.

Amendment 6 was adopted.

The Chairman suggested that Amendments 7⁷, 8⁸, and 9⁹ be considered together.

Mr Lello (PT) suggested that item on shortfalls and deficiencies should be more explicit.

Mr Koenders (NL) agreed with the point and said that it was addressed later in the text.

Mr Estrella (ES) said that he shared Mr Lello's view and it was addressed in his Amendment to that section. He also wondered whether Amendments 7, 8 and 9 could be combined in some way.

Mr Koenders (NL) noted that elements from all three proposed Amendments should be combined in the final language of the text.

The Chairman asked each Amendment sponsor to comment.

Mr Meckel (DE) agreed to withdraw Amendment 7 as long as Kosovo were mentioned in the final text.

Mr Kamov (BG), **Mr Estrella** (ES) and **Mr Lupoi** (RO) spoke on how the Amendments might be combined.

Mr Koenders (NL) suggested language to combine Amendments 8 and 9.

The Chairman noted that the text of Amendments 8 and 9 would be combined. He asked for the view of the Committee. **The Committee agreed to Amendments 8 and 9** with language proposed by the Rapporteurs.

Mr Estrella (ES) moved Amendment 10¹⁰.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) accepted Amendment 10 on behalf of the Rapporteurs.

Amendment 10 was adopted.

The Chairman asked the Committee to adopt paragraph 1.3 as amended with the proviso that the Rapporteurs would reorder several points.

Paragraph 1.3 was adopted on that understanding.

⁶ In paragraph 1.3, in item d) after the word "membership" delete the words "and geographic limits"

⁷ In paragraph 1.3, in item i) after the word "Afghanistan" insert the words "and Kosovo."

⁸ In paragraph 1.3, insert the new following item "The stabilisation process in South East Europe, and in particular in Kosovo".

⁹ At the end of paragraph 1.3, add the following new item:

"The need for a regional approach to the Western Balkans including the Euro-Atlantic perspective for the countries of the region".

¹⁰ At the end of paragraph 1.3, insert the following new item:

"The further development of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue"

The Chairman turned to Paragraph 2.1.

Mr Lamers (DE) moved Amendment 11.¹¹

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) indicated that the Rapporteurs were not willing to accept the Amendment since it largely expressed sentiments that were incorporated elsewhere.

Mr Lamers (DE) withdrew the Amendment 11.

The Chairman turned to Amendment 12¹² and asked if any members wished to speak in favour of it.

Mr Lamers (DE) withdrew the Amendment 12.

The Chairman noted that Paragraph 2.1 was therefore unaltered and asked the Committee to vote to adopt it as presented.

The Committee adopted Paragraph 2.1.

Mr Estrella (ES) moved Amendment 13¹³.

Mrs. Cordy (CA) spoke on the Amendment and suggested alternative language: "Nations which have agreed to take part in missions must be willing to produce the capabilities required."

Mr Koenders (NL) supported Mrs Cordy's wording

Paragraph 2.2 was adopted with the wording proposed by Mrs Cordy.

Mr Erdem (TK) moved Amendment 14¹⁴.

Mrs. Cordy (CA) suggested that the wording in the Amendment could be improved although the idea behind the Amendment was sound.

Mr Koenders (NL) agreed that while he supported the sentiment of the Amendment, the specific language should be changed.

Mr Estrella (ES) asked that the Rapporteurs alter the language during the break.

The Chairman agreed on the need to revisit the language.

¹¹ In paragraph 2.1, after the words "political leaders", leave out the remainder of the paragraph and insert: "These exchanges of views shall promote a convergence of thinking within the Alliance. They can help identify future problems and potential crises that deserve common attention or preventive action but not necessarily by military means."

¹² After paragraph 2.1, add the following new paragraph:

"We must assess on a case-by-case basis where NATO's collective capabilities and experience can be utilized, either independently or in close cooperation with other international organizations."

¹³ In paragraph 2.2, replace the words "We cannot accept a situation the capabilities" by the words "We urge nations to provide the capabilities needed for the missions they have agreed upon".

¹⁴ After paragraph 2.2, add a new title "Terrorism" and insert the following new paragraph:

"Terrorism, which we categorically reject and condemn in all its forms and manifestations poses a grave and growing threat to Alliance populations, forces and territory, as well as to international security. This scourge must be combated for as long as necessary. To combat terrorism effectively, our response must be multi-faceted and comprehensive. We believe that the Alliance provides an essential transatlantic dimension to the response against terrorism, which requires the closest possible co-operation of North America and Europe"

Mr George (UK), **Mr Meckel** (DE), **Mr Estrella** (ES), and **Mr Mikser** (EE) made suggestions regarding the wording of the Amendment.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) suggested that Mr George should provide a written version of his suggested rewording of Amendment 14.

Mr George (UK) agreed.

Mr Koenders (NL) suggested that the Rapporteurs would work on appropriate language to convey the idea contained in Amendment 14 and present it to the Committee in the afternoon.

The Chairman asked if the committee supported adopting Amendment 14 with the proviso that the Rapporteurs would alter the language as suggested by Mr George. **The Committee adopted Amendment 14 with this proviso.**

The Chairman asked Mr Estrella to move Amendment 15¹⁵.

Mr Estrella (ES) moved Amendment 15.

Mr Koenders (NL) responded to the Amendment and defended the original language of the text.

Mr Estrella (ES) asked for slight revision in the language to indicate that the NATO Response Force was being cited as an example rather than the sole factor which should catalyze NATO's relationships with other organizations.

Mr Koenders (NL) replied that he was willing to look at the language along those lines.

The Chairman asked if the Committee would concede to a small change in the language agreed to by Mr Estrella and Mr Koenders.

The Committee agreed.

Paragraph 3.1 was adopted on the understanding that the language would be adjusted as discussed.

The Chairman then turned to Amendment 16¹⁶ and called on Mr Erdem to move it.

Mr Erdem (TK) moved Amendment 16.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) noted that the Rapporteurs rejected Amendment 16 and preferred the original text.

Mr Erdem (TK) spoke again on the Amendment.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) responded.

¹⁵ In paragraph 3.1, after the words "in a concrete manner" delete the remainder of the paragraph

¹⁶ Leave out paragraph 4.1, and insert the following new paragraph:

"The scale and scope of current security threats requires intensification of the NATO-EU strategic partnership in order to maximize the use of the assets of both organizations. In the context of the agreed framework, the Berlin+ arrangements have already demonstrated their success. A more systematic process of consultation and coordination, based on the agreed framework is necessary to ensure that resources are used effectively and that the plans and responses of NATO and the EU are better balanced and more harmonised".

Mrs. Cordy (CA) agreed with the Rapporteurs in defending the original language.

Mr Erdem (TK) responded.

Mr Meckel (DE) spoke in favor of the original language and suggested that Amendment 17¹⁷ might cover some of the concerns under discussion.

Mr Erdem (TK) responded.

Mr Koenders (NL) spoke on Amendment 16.

The Chairman noted that the Committee now had Amendments 16 and 17 before it and asked for a vote.

Mr George (UK) offered an oral Amendment that would incorporate elements of 16 along with Amendment 17.

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider Mr George's suggestion. The Committee accepted Amendment 17 with an oral Amendment to replace the word "prosperous" with the word "constructive".

Amendment 16 was rejected.

Amendment 17 with the change suggested by Mr George was adopted.

Paragraph 4.1 as amended was adopted.

The Chairman called on Mr Lamers (DE) to move Amendment 18¹⁸.

Mr Lamers (DE) moved Amendment 18.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) rejected the language of the Amendment.

Mr Lamers (DE) withdrew Amendment 18.

The Chairman noted the withdrawal of Amendment 18 and asked the Committee to vote on Paragraph 5.1 and 5.2.

The Committee adopted both Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2.

The Chairman suggested that Amendments 19¹⁹, 20²⁰, 21²¹ to paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 should be discussed together. He noted that Amendments 19 and 20 were presented as a package and if 20 were accepted then 21 would fall.

¹⁷ At the end of paragraph 4.1, add the following words "The summit provides a chance to overcome the stalemate in relations between the two organisations. A prosperous relationship between NATO and EU is a key component of a vibrant transatlantic relationship."

¹⁸ After title 5, "Partnerships", insert the following new paragraph:

"NATO seeks to promote security interests by engaging multiple partners. Co-operation has significantly broadened over the course of the last years, especially in the context of the fight against terrorism. NATO also represents a community of values. Thus, the closer the relationship gets the more demanding are the standards partners must meet regarding human rights protection, democracy and the rule of law."

¹⁹ In paragraph 5.3, after the words "remain a priority," leave out the remainder of the paragraph and insert:

"The Alliance should continue its partnership with countries of Central Asia."

²⁰ Delete paragraph 5.4

Mr Lamers (DE) noted that he would withdraw his Amendments 19 and 20 if the Committee felt this would improve the text.

Mr Koenders (NL) indicated that the Rapporteurs opposed all three Amendments.

Mr Estrella (ES) spoke on Amendment 21.

Mr Koenders (NL) agreed with Mr Estrella and suggested a wording change.

The Chairman asked the Committee to decide on this point.

Mr George (UK), **Mr Erdem** (TK), and **Mr Mikser** (EE) proposed changes in the wording.

Mr Koenders (NL) commented on these suggestions.

Mr George (UK) suggested that the specific wording could be left to the Rapporteurs since there was no disagreement on the substance of the suggested changes.

The Chairman asked if the Committee would agree to the paragraph and permit the Rapporteurs to adjust the language to take account of the suggestions made.

The Committee agreed.

Paragraph 5.3 was adopted.

Paragraph 5.4 was adopted on the understanding that the Rapporteurs would adjust the wording as discussed.

Mr Koenders (NL) moved Amendment 22²² which corrected a drafting error.

The Committee adopted Amendment 22.

Paragraph 5.5 as amended was adopted.

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider Amendment 23.

Mr Estrella (ES) spoke on Amendment 23²³.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) responded to Amendment 23.

The Chairman indicated that Amendment 24²⁴ was also relevant to the discussion as both dealt with parallel language changes.

Mr George (UK) spoke on the two Amendments.

²¹ In paragraph 5.4, after the words "but the Alliance should" leave out the remainder of the paragraph and insert: "also use the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council framework forum to urge all partners to fulfil their commitments to democratic standards".

²² In paragraph 5.5, delete the words "has grown"

²³ In title 6, replace the words "The Middle East and North Africa" by the words "The Mediterranean and the Middle East".

²⁴ In paragraph 6.1, after the words "existing programmes" replace the words "like in the Istanbul Co-operation Initiative and the Mediterranean Dialogue" by the words "like the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Co-operation Initiative"

Amendment 23 was rejected.

Amendment 24 and adopted.

Paragraph 6.1 as amended was adopted.

The Chairman moved Amendment 25²⁵ on behalf of Mr Lellouche.

Mrs. Cordy (CA) felt that the wording was insufficiently precise.

Mr Lupoi (RO), Mr Koenders (NL), Mr Berzins (LT), Mr Mikser (EE), Mr Lamers (DE), Mr George (UK), Mr Miranda Calha (PT) and the Secretary General spoke on the Amendment.

Mr Mikser (EE) suggested that inserting “energy security” as one of the subjects to be addressed with Russia would address everyone’s points concerning the wording.

Mr Koenders (NL) thanked members for their contribution to the discussion and indicated that he did not support any change to the text but it was for the Committee to decide.

The Chairman asked the Committee to vote on Amendment 25.

The Committee rejected Amendment 25.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

The meeting resumed at 14:35 with Senator Pierre Claude Nolin (CA) in the Chair.

The Chairman noted that he had not given the Committee the opportunity to consider the oral Amendment suggested by Mr Mikser to insert the words “energy security” after the words “human rights” in paragraph 7.1.

This oral Amendment was agreed by the Committee.

Paragraph 7.1 as amended was adopted.

The Chairman asked for comments on paragraph 8.1.

Mr Kamov (BG) asked for a clarification regarding the PFP Trust Fund.

The Deputy Secretary General provided the clarification.

The Chairman asked the Committee to agree to paragraph 8, 8.1 and 8.2.

The Committee adopted paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider paragraph 9.1.

Mr Kamov (BG) asked a question about the meaning of the term “more formal”.

²⁵ In paragraph 7.1, after the words, “suspicions and misperceptions”, insert the words:

“Many voices are calling for fresh scrutiny of this relationship in the light of the disturbing trends in the country, whether the rolling back of liberties domestically or its behaviour in the international arena (pressure on its neighbours, use of energy supply as a weapon).”

The **Secretary General** replied that the term was correct since the cooperation mechanisms referred to in the paragraph were currently only informal.

The **Chairman** asked if the Committee agreed to Paragraph 9.1.

The Committee adopted Paragraph 9.1.

The **Chairman** turned to paragraph 10.1.

Mr Lamers (DE) moved Amendment 26²⁶.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) indicated that the Rapporteurs did not support the Amendment.

Mr Lamers (DE), **Mr George** (UK) and **Mr Mikser** (EE) spoke on the Amendment.

Mr Lamers (DE) withdrew the Amendment.

The Committee adopted paragraph 10.1.

The **Chairman** noted that Paragraph 10.2 had two almost identical Amendments 27²⁷, and 28²⁸, and if one were adopted, the other would fail. He moved Amendment 28 on behalf of Mr Hefley.

Mr Meckel (DE) moved Amendment 27 and asked the Committee to choose whichever Amendment worked best in English.

Mr Koenders (NL) suggested that the original language reflected another NATO PA resolution therefore he would stand by the text as it stood.

The **Chairman** asked for a vote.

The Committee rejected Amendments 27 and 28.

The **Chairman** then asked the Committee to adopt paragraph 10.2.

The Committee adopted Paragraph 10.2.

The **Chairman** then asked the Committee to adopt paragraph 10.3.

Mr George (UK) and **Mr Koenders** (NL) spoke. It was suggested that the wording on launching Intensified Dialogue should be removed since this had recently already been agreed.

Paragraph 10.3 was adopted with that change.

Mr Lamers (DE) spoke on Amendment 29²⁹ to paragraph 10.4.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) indicated that the Rapporteurs were prepared to accept Amendment 29.

²⁶ In paragraph 10.1, after the words "common values of the Alliance", insert the words:

"in particular the protection of human rights, minority rights, democracy and the rule of law,"

²⁷ At the end of paragraph 10.2, replace the words "when they can expect invitations to join the Alliance" by the words: "how to meet the criteria for membership in order to receive an invitation to join the Alliance."

²⁸ At the end of paragraph 10.2, replace the words "when they can expect invitations to join the Alliance" by the words, "the steps still necessary for their eventual qualification for membership"

²⁹ In paragraph 10.4, after the word "enlargement" delete the remainder of the paragraph

The Committee adopted Amendment 29.

Paragraph 10.4 as amended was adopted.

Mr Erdem (TK) withdrew Amendment 30³⁰.

The Chairman asked if the Committee were prepared to adopt Paragraphs 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4.

Paragraphs 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4 were adopted.

The Chairman then asked the Committee first to consider Amendment 31³¹ and then proceed to 32³² and 33³³.

Mr Estrella (ES) moved Amendment 31.

The Chairman noted that the Rapporteurs agreed to the Amendment.

Amendment 31 was adopted.

The Chairman said that Amendments 32 and 33 should be discussed together. He explained that if Amendment 32 were adopted, Amendment 33 would fall.

Mr Lamers (DE) moved Amendment 32.

Mr Lello (PT) spoke on Amendment 32.

Mr Estrella (ES) withdrew Amendment 33.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) noted that the Rapporteurs were prepared to accept Amendment 32.

The Chairman asked the Committee to vote on Amendment 32.

Amendment 32 was adopted.

Paragraph 11.5, as amended, was adopted.

The Chairman turned to Paragraph 12.1.

Mr Estrella (ES) moved Amendment 34³⁴.

Mr Koenders (NL) asked for a clarification of the Amendment.

Mr Estrella (ES) explained the Amendment 34.

³⁰ After paragraph 10.4, insert the following new paragraph:

"The Alliance should convey an encouraging message to Ukraine regarding its membership aspirations."

³¹ In paragraph 11.5, after the words "heavy airlift by" replace the words "purchasing and operating" by the words "having available"

³² In paragraph 11.5, after the word "aircraft" delete the remainder of the paragraph

³³ At the end of the paragraph 11.5, after the words "AWACS fleet", add the following words "among other possible solutions".

³⁴ In paragraph 12.1, after the words "in an equitable manner", add the words, ", without affecting the present system of force generation and reserves."

Mr Koenders (NL) suggested that the Committee ought to decide the point.

Mrs. Cordy (CA) opposed the Amendment 34.

Mr Estrella (ES) withdrew Amendment 34.

The Chairman then asked the Committee to vote on Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

The Committee adopted paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

Mr Kamov (BG) moved Amendment 35³⁵ to paragraph 12.3.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) noted that the Rapporteurs were not prepared to accept Amendment 35.

The Committee rejected Amendment 35.

Paragraph 12.3 was adopted.

The Chairman then asked the member to consider Amendments 36³⁶, 37³⁷, 38³⁸, 39³⁹, 40⁴⁰, and 41⁴¹.

Mr Koenders (NL) indicated that the Rapporteurs were prepared to support Amendment 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 but not 36.

Mr Lupoi (Romania), and Mr George (UK) spoke on the paragraph and the Amendments.

The Chairman noted that the Rapporteurs were prepared to accept five out of the six proposed Amendments. He asked if this was acceptable to the Committee.

The Committee rejected Amendment 36.

The Committee agreed to Amendments 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41.

The Committee adopted Paragraph 13.1 as amended.

Paragraph 14.1 was adopted.

³⁵ In paragraph 12.3, after the words "stages of procurement" delete the remainder of the paragraph.

³⁶ At the start of paragraph 13.1, add the following words:

"The NATO Secretary General has said repeatedly, and appropriately, that the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan is NATO's most important mission."

³⁷ In paragraph 13.1, after the words "The situation in" delete the words "the southern part of"

³⁸ In paragraph 13.1, after the words "in recent months.", insert the words, "The increasing cost in human lives – and here we would wish to pay homage to the combatants who have fallen for the freedom of Afghanistan – demonstrates that this war is not yet won."

³⁹ In paragraph 13.1, after the words "new security order, replace the word "its" by the words "NATO's"

⁴⁰ In paragraph 13.1, after the words "reconstruction efforts in the country.", insert the words:

"More 'boots on the ground' are needed in the southern part of Afghanistan to provide sufficient stability for sustained reconstruction. The Alliance's leaders must stress the need for member states to demonstrate the flexibility and commitment to provide the manpower and material needed for this mission."

⁴¹ In paragraph 13.1, after the words "in the country" insert the words "More synergy among international Organisations is needed".

The Chairman moved Amendment 42⁴² on behalf of Mr Lellouche.

The Committee rejected Amendment 42.

The Chairman turned back to several points in the text in which the Rapporteurs had agreed to propose alternative language.

The Committee agreed to proposed language for Amendment 14 referring to paragraph 2.2.

The Committee agreed to proposed language for Amendment 20 referring to paragraph 5.4.

The Chairman asked for the Committee's agreement to allow the Rapporteurs, aided by the International Secretariat to ensure the reordering of the texts.

The Standing Committee agreed.

He then asked the Committee if it were prepared to accept the Draft Declaration as amended.

The Committee adopted the Draft Declaration on the Riga Summit as amended.

Mrs. Cordy (CA) thanked the Rapporteurs and **the Deputy Secretary General** for their hard work.

Mr Miranda Calha (PT) thanked Mrs. Cordy.

5. Involvement of delegates from Afghanistan and / or Iraq at Assembly Sessions

The Chairman explained that at the last meeting, it had been agreed to hold a discussion on whether to invite legislators from Afghanistan and Iraq to the Québec Session.

Mrs. Cordy (CA) suggested that this might pose problems for the coming session. Visas had to be granted, and there was no guarantee that these would be granted, particularly in a relatively short time.

The Chairman asked for other comments.

Mr Kaalund (DK) agreed with the position of Mrs. Cordy and felt that invitation should not be extended.

The Chairman suggested that the lack of further comments suggested agreement with the position of Mrs. Cordy. No invitations to an Afghan or Iraqi delegation would therefore be extended.

6. The Status of Serbia and Montenegro

The Chairman introduced the question of the status of Serbia and Montenegro in the Assembly. He noted that the two countries were now independent. The federal state of Serbia and Montenegro had enjoyed Parliamentary Observer status in the NATO PA. In view of the current deliberations on the

⁴² After paragraph 14.1, insert the following new paragraph:

“Given the scale of the current challenges, it is urgent and more necessary than ever to rebuild, together, a strong Alliance, capable of guaranteeing peace and of protecting the liberty of our peoples, on both sides of the Atlantic, for the years to come.”

status of Kosovo, it was important to retain links with the region, so it was proposed to invite parliamentary guest delegations from both Serbia and Montenegro to the Québec session. Longer term decisions on their status could take place later, but this would enable both delegations to participate in the Québec Session.

He also noted that the Standing Committee has previously authorized Kosovo Assembly members to participate in sessions and that they too would therefore be invited to Quebec. These would be *ad hoc* invitations.

He asked for comments from the Committee.

The Committee agreed to issue invitations to enable delegations from Serbia, Montenegro and the Kosovo Assembly to attend the Québec session.

7. Miscellaneous

The Chairman said that there were some other items to be considered.

The Deputy Secretary General reminded members of the forthcoming seminar in Lithuania on Belarus and encouraged member participation.

The Chairman noted that the Committee should receive an update on the American decision to close its airbase in Iceland. He asked Mr Skarphedinsson to take the floor.

Mr Skarphedinsson (IS) described the American decision to close the base in September, the American-Icelandic decision to carry out annual exercises on Iceland's territory and the potential consequences of the decision. He thanked members of the Committee for enabling this matter to be raised on several occasions within the Assembly.

The Chairman thanked Mr Skarphedinsson for the update and asked him to keep the Standing Committee informed of the situation.

The Chairman then thanked the members, the Secretariat and the Interpreters for their efforts and closed the meeting.
