

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No. 2003/33

12 March 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Paris on Monday 10 March 2003 with Mr Peter Schieder in the Chair, as regards:

- *2nd Part of the 2003 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 31 March-4 April 2003):*
 - a. adopted the draft agenda and drew up the draft order of business;
 - b. decided, following a request by the Political Affairs Committee, to recommend to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on “Europe and the crisis in Iraq” and to invite a representative of the United States Congress to take part in this debate;
 - c. approved the distribution to the members of the Assembly of the report on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Sweden;
 - d. decided to invite to this part session a delegation of two members of the Belarus Parliament representing respectively the majority and the opposition and agreed that the political groups could invite representatives of other political forces, and decided to come back to this matter before the 3rd part of the 2003 session;
- *Progress Report of the Bureau (31 January-31 March 2003) (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR):* approved the part of the Progress Report covering the period from 31 January-9 March 2003;
- *Situation in Chechnya:*
 - a. Referendum on the draft Chechen Constitution and draft election laws (23 March 2003): considered developments since the last meeting of the Bureau and confirmed its decision of 31 January 2003 not to send a delegation to be present during this referendum;
 - b. took note of the draft opinion on the draft constitution of the Chechen Republic prepared by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (“Venice Commission”);
 - c. Joint Working Group on Chechnya between the Parliamentary Assembly and the State Duma: took note of the exchange of letters between the Secretary General of the Assembly and the Chairman of the Russian parliamentary delegation and decided to come back to this matter after the above-mentioned referendum;

- *Observation of elections:*
 - a. Parliamentary elections in Monaco (9 February 2003): approved and declassified the draft report by the ad hoc committee;
 - b. Presidential elections in Armenia (19 February 2003): approved and declassified the draft report by the ad hoc committee, to which the part covering the 2nd round of the elections will be appended;
- *Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the EU Convention for the future of Europe:*
 - a. heard a statement by the President on the meeting held on 3 March 2003 in Paris;
 - b. appointed Mr Kacin (Slovenia, LDR) as member, invited the EDG Group to submit candidates for the three vacant seats falling to this group and decided to add as members of the Ad Hoc Committee those Assembly members who are simultaneously members of the EU Convention, in case that all seats with respect to their political group are already filled in with EU Convention members;
- *References and transmissions to committees:* agreed to the following proposals to be submitted to the Assembly:
 - a. References:
 - 1. Doc. 9695
Motion for a resolution
Status of animals in the 21st century society to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs
 - 2. Doc. 9697
Motion for a recommendation
Protection and assistance for separated children seeking asylum, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography
 - 3. Doc. 9699
Motion for a recommendation
Equal opportunities and nationality rights, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men
 - 4. Doc. 9700
Motion for a recommendation
Reducing sea pollution, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs
 - 5. Doc. 9701
Motion for a resolution
Need for an integrated policy for the development of islands in Council of Europe member states, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development
 - 6. Doc. 9703
Motion for an order
New Bulgarian law on religion known as the Confessions Act 2002, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
 - 7. Doc. 9704
Motion for a recommendation
Education for Europe, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education

8. Doc. 9705
Motion for a recommendation
The expansion of foreign military presence in the Republic of Armenia and the danger of the violation of balance of power in the South Caucasian region, to the Political Affairs Committee, *for information*
9. Doc. 9706
Motion for a recommendation
Industrial hazards, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs
10. Doc. 9707
Motion for a resolution
Europe's economic challenge in ensuring a successful and smooth European Union enlargement starting with 2004, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development
11. Doc. 9708
Motion for a recommendation
Strengthening the response to mental health needs in Europe, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee
12. Doc. 9709
Motion for a recommendation
Hazardous impact on the clean waters of Azerbaijan through transboundary watercourses, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, *for information*
13. Doc 9710
Motion for an order
The problem of 30 million Azerbaijanis living in Iran (Southern Azerbaijan) to get access to education in their mother tongue, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, *for information*
14. Doc. 9712
Motion for a recommendation
Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states, to the Political Affairs Committee
15. Doc. 9715
Motion for a recommendation
Social and health issues related to surrogate motherhood, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee
16. Doc. 9716
Motion for a recommendation
A Europe-wide ban on the corporal punishment of children, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee
17. Doc. 9717
Motion for a recommendation
Comparison of environmental risks of different energy systems, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

18. Doc. 9727
Motion for a recommendation
Forced return of Roma from the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, to Serbia and Montenegro from Council of Europe member states, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography
 19. Doc. 9728
Motion for a resolution
Political prisoners in Azerbaijan, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
 20. Doc. 9729
Motion for a recommendation
Situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
- b. Change of references:
- Doc. 9591
Motion for a recommendation
Council of Europe contribution to the Higher Education Area to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education.
- c. Extension of references:
- Doc. 8966
Motion for a recommendation
Trafficking in organs in Eastern Europe
Ref. No 2579 - Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee
(Expires on 13 March 2003): to extend the reference until 13 March 2004.
- Doc. 8328
Motion for a recommendation
The role of the public prosecutor's office in a democratic society governed by the rule of law
Ref. 2367 – Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
(expires on 30 March 2003): to extend the reference until 30 April 2003.
- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*
- a. authorised the following meetings:
 - . Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), Springfield & Washington (USA), 8-10 April 2003;
 - . Sub-Committee on Migration (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography), Valletta, 10-11 April 2003;
 - . Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, Budapest, 5-6 May 2003;
 - . Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, Budapest, 6-7 May 2003;
 - b. authorised the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, to set up ad hoc sub-committees (each composed of four members) to participate in the meeting concerning freedom of the electronic media and their regulation in Ukraine, Kyiv, March-April 2003;
- *Council for democratic elections (follow-up to Resolution 1320 (2003) on the code of good practice in electoral matters):* decided that the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Monitoring Committee should appoint one member each to represent the Assembly in this Council;

- *confirmed the dates and places of its forthcoming meetings:*
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 31 March 2003 at 8.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 4 April 2003 at 12 noon (at the end of the Part-Session)
 - . Berlin, Monday 28 April 2003 at 3 pm
 - . Chisinau, Tuesday 27 May 2003 at 8.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 23 June 2003 at 8.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 27 June 2003 at 12 noon (at the end of the Part-Session)
 - . Naples, Monday 8 September 2003 at 9 am.

Petr Sich/Agnès Nollinger

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Special guests and observers to the Assembly

Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe