

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No. 2003/59

29 April 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 28 April 2003 in Berlin with Mr Schieder in the Chair, as regards :

- *Relations with the United Nations* : took note of the meeting of the President with Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations and of his invitation to Mr Annan to address the Assembly at one of its forthcoming Part-Session;
- *Joint Working Group on Chechnya between the Parliamentary Assembly and the State Duma*: agreed to come back to this issue at its next meeting on the basis of concrete proposals to be prepared by the Secretariat for a new composition and mandate of this Group;
- *Follow-up by committees to Order No. 584 (2003) on Evaluation of the prospects for a political solution of the conflict in the Chechen Republic*: considered that this Order does not instruct the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography to present reports to the Assembly on this subject and that they can only do so on the basis of new references;
- *3^d part of the 2003 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23-27 June 2003)* : took note of a list of reports prepared by committees as of 12 April 2003, which could be included on the agenda of the June 2003 part-session;
- *Standing Committee in Moldova (27 May 2003)* : noted that the Parliament of Moldova will do its utmost to ensure that this meeting takes place in appropriate conditions, including the necessary interpretation arrangements and took note of the revised draft agenda ;
- *Joint meeting with the European Parliament (25 September 2003)*: took note of the letter by the Secretary General of the Assembly to the Secretary General of the European Parliament asking for the European Parliament's proposals for themes to be discussed at this joint meeting and transmitting some preliminary suggestions in this respect;
- *External relations of the Parliamentary Assembly* : approved the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and asked the Secretariat to prepare a document on the role of committees in the Assembly's external relations ;
- *Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly*:
 - a. approved the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat;

- b. appointed the following representatives for 2003:
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission : its President and Mr Jurgens ;
 - Council on Democratic Elections : Mr Clerfayt (Political Affairs Committee), Mr Jurgens (Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Frunda (Monitoring Committee) ;
 - European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre : Mr Frey (Committee on Economic Affairs and Development) and Mr Braga (Committee on Culture, Science and Education), being understood that these nominations are valid only until the re-election of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre;
 - European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – ECRI : Mrs Feric-Vac (Political Affairs Committee) and Mr McNamara (Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), being understood that the Committee on Culture, Science and Education can also propose a representative if it wishes so;
 - Council of Europe Committee for Works of Art : Mr de Puig (Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and the Museum Prize Rapporteur (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) ;
 - Pan-European Federation for Heritage – Europa Nostra: Mr Legendre and Mr Melandri (Committee on Culture, Science and Education);
- c. took note that the President of the Assembly, as regards:
 - International Institute for Democracy: appointed Lord Russell-Johnston, Mrs Ragnarsdottir and Rt. Hon. T. Davis as his representatives;
 - European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) and Associates of the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) : asked the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to propose a candidate to represent him :
 - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ): decided to report his decision as to whether he will participate or appoint a representative for the next meeting ;
- d. took note that Mr de Puig, Chairman of the Committee on Science, Culture and Education, is an ex-officio member of the Board of the European Cultural Foundation ;
- e. decided to come back to the question of the appointments at its meeting to be held in January 2004;
- *Observation of the parliamentary elections in Armenia (25 May 2003) :*
 - a. took note of the information by Mr Gross on the visit of the pre-electoral mission (22-25 April 2003) and the press release issued on this occasion ;
 - b. in the absence of further candidates from the LDR Group, decided to appoint Mrs Muttonen (Austria, SOC) and Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG) as members of the ad hoc Committee for the observation of these elections to fill in the two vacant seats falling to the LDR Group;
- *Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the EU Convention for the future of Europe :*
 - a. heard a report by Mr van der Linden on the informal meeting held on 24 April in Brussels and asked him to submit a written report in June on the activities of the ad hoc committee;

- b. took note that the Declaration prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee and signed by EU Convention members was registered by the Secretariat of the EU Convention;
- c. took note of the intention of the EPP Group to submit a request for an urgent debate on the results of the EU Convention during the June part-session;

- *References and transmissions to committees:*

- a. approved the following proposals :

Doc. 9773

Motion for a resolution

Content of written declarations, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and immunities, for report;

Doc. 9775

Motion for a resolution

Relations with Kazakhstan, to the Political Affairs Committee for a report on the situation in Kazakhstan;

Doc. 9779

Motion for a recommendation

Initiative to call a summit to solve urgent problems of the world order, to the Political Affairs Committee for information;

Doc. 9780

Motion for a resolution

Strengthening of the United Nations, to the Political Affairs Committee for report;

Doc. 9781 revised

Motion for a recommendation

Liechtenstein's membership of the Council of Europe, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe for information;

Doc. 9782

Motion for a recommendation

Prevention of abuses in the trade of vital human organs, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, for information, to take it into account in the preparation of the report on « trafficking in organs in Eastern Europe »;

Doc. 9783

Motion for a resolution

Disappeared persons in Belarus, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;

Doc. 9784

Motion for a resolution

Responsibility of the Council of Europe member states ignoring to honour the obligations on the abolition of the death penalty, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe for information;

Doc. 9785

Motion for a resolution

Reinforcement of the trans-Atlantic relations, to the Political Affairs Committee for information, to take it into account in the preparation of the report on the relations between Europe and the United States (Ref. 2780 of 18 November 2002);

Doc. 9786

Motion for a resolution

Threats to the international Criminal Court, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;

Doc. 9787

Motion for an order

The concept of « nation », considered this document as a motion for a recommendation and referred it to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report ;

Doc. 9788

Motion for a recommendation

The privatisation of cultural property, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report;

Doc. 9789

Motion for a resolution

Organisation of a parliamentary assembly of children from Council of Europe member states, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, for an opinion to the Bureau on the follow-up to the given;

Doc. 9790

Motion for a resolution

Discrimination of women in the workforce and the workplace, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report;

b. Request to modify a reference :

Doc. 9745

Motion for a resolution

Need to prevent present transatlantic disagreements over Iraq from negatively affecting vital transatlantic economic relations: took note of the letter of the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development and decided to maintain its earlier decision on this reference;

c. Request for opinion by the Committee of Ministers on the preliminary draft resolution on participatory status of international non-governmental organisations with the Council of Europe (doc. RAP-ONG (2003) 2 revised), the preliminary draft resolution on partnership between the Council of Europe and national non-governmental organisations (doc. RAP-ONG (2003) 3 revised 2) and the report on relations between the Council of Europe and NGOs (doc. RAP-ONG (2003) 6: to the Political Affairs Committee ;

- *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities :*

- Conference on « Women Parliamentarians of the South-eastern Europe Co-operation Process (SEEC) : From Victims to Agents of Change (9-11 May 2003, Budva, Serbia and Montenegro) : invited the Chairperson on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men to propose a candidate to the President of the Assembly;

- 7th Conference of European Health Ministers (Oslo, 12-13 June 2003) : invited the Committee on the Social, Health and Family Affairs to appoint a representative;

- The constitutional status of the regions in the Russian Federation and in other European countries – the role of the regional legislative bodies strengthening “Unity in Diversity” (11-12 July 2003, Kazan, Russian Federation) : Mr Gross, being understood that no costs will arise for the Assembly and that the report of Mr Gross

on Positive experiences concerning autonomous regions in Europe will be finalised in time to be presented to the Assembly June part-session ;

- *Petition by Messrs. André Monteyne, Ivo JD Peeters and Dr Guiu Sobiela-Caanitz concerning human rights of linguistic minorities in the Canton of Zurich* : decided to consult the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the admissibility of this petition ;
- *4th Stability Pact Parliamentary Conference of « a New European Union Policy for South Eastern Europe » (21-22 May 2003, Brussels)* : took note of the draft programme and of the intention of the President to participate in the opening session;
- *Meeting of the Presidential Committee in Venice (13-15 June 2003) on the occasion of the 55th Plenary session of the Venice Commission* : took note of the intention of the President to convene this meeting;
- *Change of the names of committees* : took note of the letter of Mr Holovaty, Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, confirmed the reference to this committee concerning the change of the name of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography and decided that in the future the change of committee names will be dealt with by the Bureau and its proposals will be submitted to the Assembly in the progress report of the Bureau;
- *Visit of Mrs Degn, Commissioner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on Democratic Development, during the Assembly 2003 September part-session* : invited the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to hold an exchange of views with Mrs Degn on this occasion;
- *Request by Monaco for the accession to the Council of Europe* : authorised Mr Slutsky, Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee, to visit Monaco in May 2003 or later, possibly together with Mr Manzella, Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- *Meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Bureau in Maastricht (Netherlands)* : took note of the oral information by Mr van der Linden that these meetings would take place on the 25 November 2003 and asked him to confirm this information in writing ;
- *Date and place of the next meetings* : confirmed the following meetings :
 - . 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