

Parliamentary **Assembly** **Assemblée** parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No. 2003/71

2 June 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Chişinău (Moldova) on Tuesday 27 May 2003, with Mr Schieder in the Chair, as regards,

- *3rd part of the 2003 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23-27 June 2003):*
 - a. decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on “the Convention on the future of Europe and the Council of Europe” and to refer this matter for report to the Political Affairs Committee and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for an oral opinion* and to invite Mr Vitorino, European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, to take part in this debate;
 - b. adopted the agenda and drew up the draft order of business;
 - c. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly 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 September part-session on the basis on a more detailed information to be provided by the Secretariat;
- *Progress report of the Bureau (4 April-23 June 2003):* appointed Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC) as rapporteur;
- *Joint Working Group on Chechnya:* due to the absence of Mr Margelov and at his request, decided to postpone the consideration of the proposals prepared by the Secretariat until its next meeting;
- *Joint meeting with the European Parliament (25 September 2003):* took note of exchange of letters between the Secretary General of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the European Parliament and was informed about the meeting between the President of the Assembly and the President of the European Parliament, which will take place on 3 June 2003 in Strasbourg;
- *Forthcoming meetings of the Standing Committee:*
 - a. Naples (8 September 2003): confirmed that the Standing Committee would meet at 11 am and the Bureau at 9 am on Monday 8 September;
 - b. Maastricht (25 November 2003): took note of the letter from the Clerk for International Relations of the Dutch Parliament transmitting proposals of Mr van der Linden for this meeting and confirmed that the Standing Committee would meet at 11.00 am and the Bureau at 8.30 am on Tuesday 25 November 2003;

* as proposed by the Standing Committee on 27 May 2003 on behalf of the Bureau

- c. Oslo (7 September 2004): took note of the letter from the President of the Norwegian Parliament and agreed that the meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Bureau would take place on 7 September 2004;
- *Observation of elections:*
 - a. Parliamentary elections in Armenia (25 May 2003): took note of the press release issued by the Ad Hoc Committee and of the information provided by Mr Gross, member of the Ad Hoc Committee;
 - b. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (2nd November 2003): decided:
 - to set up an Ad Hoc Committee of 30 members to observe these elections with the repartition of seats among the political groups based on the d'Hondt system;
 - to send a pre-electoral mission to Georgia composed of 5 members (one from each political groups who will also be members of the Ad Hoc Committee), which should take place, in principle, one month before the elections at the latest;
 - c. Presidential elections in Azerbaijan (October 2003): on condition that an official invitation will be received, decided:
 - to set up an Ad Hoc Committee of 10 members to observe these elections with the repartition of seats among the political groups based on the d'Hondt system;
 - to send a pre-electoral mission to Azerbaijan composed of 5 members (one from each political groups who will also be members of the Ad Hoc Committee), which should take place, in principle, one month before the elections at the latest;
 - *International Institute for Democracy:*
 - a. took note of the activities report for 2002 and decided to allocate the grant for 2003;
 - b. decided to invite Lord Russell-Johnston, Chairman of the Governing Board, to one of its forthcoming meetings for an exchange of views;
 - *4th Parliamentary Conference on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe (Brussels, 21-22 May 2003):* took note of the information provided by the President of the Assembly and by Mr Davis and of the conclusions of the Presidency of the Conference;
 - *References and transmissions to committees:* approved the following proposals :
 - a. References to committees
 - Doc. 9802
Motion for a resolution
Regionalisation in Europe, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for report and to the Committee Political Affairs Committee for opinion;
 - Doc. 9803
Motion for a recommendation
Protection of the Environment at the Council of Europe after the Johannesburg Summit and the Kyiv Conference, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for report;

Doc. 9805

Motion for a recommendation

Population trends and their sensitivity to certain policy measures, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography for report and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for opinion;

Doc. 9810

Motion for a resolution

Ethical financing of projects, especially via the Council of Europe Development Bank, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report;

Doc. 9815

Motion for a resolution

The political situation in the Chechen Republic: measures to increase democratic stability in accordance with Council of Europe standards, to the Political Affairs Committee for report;

b. Request to modify a reference :

Doc. 9728

Motion for a resolution

Political prisoners in Azerbaijan, in addition to the Bureau's decision on 10 March 2003 to refer this text to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report, also to the Committee on Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) for oral opinion;

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*

a. authorised the following meetings:

- Ad Hoc Sub-Committee (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography), Athens (Greece), 9 June 2003;
- Sub-Committee on Refugees (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography), Istanbul (Turkey), 11-12 September 2003;
- Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Edinburgh (UK), 17-18 September 2003;
- Committee on Culture, Science and Education, Budapest (Hungary), 10 September 2003 (European Youth Centre);
- Committee on Culture, Science and Education, Liverpool (UK), 18-20 November 2003;

- Ad Hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development (composed of three members maximum, including a rapporteur): Seminar on "Strengthened parliamentary monitoring of the work of international economic organisations (Ottawa, autumn 2003);

b. St. Petersburg International Parliamentary Conference on pan-European Cooperation (16 June (evening) - 17 June 2003): decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in this Conference composed of one representative for each political group, to be Chaired by an Assembly Vice-Chairperson (in the order of seniority) if included in the delegation or by the representative of the Assembly largest political group;

- *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities :*

- Conference for the Promotion of Relations between UNESCO and Parliamentarians (Ottawa, Canada, 13-14 June 2003): Mr Josep Varela i Serra, without costs for the Assembly;

- Parliamentary Conference on the WTO - 4th Session of the Post-Doha Steering Committee (Geneva, 17 June 2003): Mr Evgeni Kirilov;
- 11th International Anti-Corruption Conference (Seoul, 25-28 May 2003) : Mrs Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, without costs for the Assembly;
- Conference on Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (Trento (Italy), 16-18 June 2003): took note that the President would ask Mrs Gisela Wurm (or, if not available, Mr Imrich Beres or Mr Younail Loutfi) to represent him;
- 7th Conference of European Health Ministers (Oslo, 12-13 June 2003): confirmed its previous decision that the Committee on the Social, Health and Family Affairs should appoint a representative;
- Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly - Council on Democratic elections: appointed Mr van der Brande as representative of the Monitoring Committee (instead of Mr Frunda);
- *Meeting with the European Court of Human Rights*: took note of the letter of Mr Wildhaber, President of the European Court of Human Rights, and agreed to set up a delegation for a meeting with members of the Court to take place on Monday 23 June 2003 at 1 pm (noon), composed of the Presidential Committee, the Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the election of judges (Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and the rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights;
- *Seminar with the Belarus Parliament*:
 - a. took note of the proposal of Mr Konoplev, Vice-Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Belarus Parliament, to hold a seminar with the participation of a delegation of the Assembly in September 2003 in Minsk;
 - b. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to clarify with the Belarus Parliament the exact dates and subjects of this Seminar and to make a proposal to the Bureau at its next meeting for the composition of an Ad Hoc Committee to participate in it;
- *Date and place of the next meetings*: confirmed the following meetings:
 - . 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.
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 26 September 2003 at 3.00 pm
 - . Strasbourg, Thursday 2 October 2003 at 5.00 pm (at the end of the part-session).
 - . Maastricht, 25 November 2003, at 8.30

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