

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2003/93
30 June 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Friday 27 June 2003, with Mr Schieder in the Chair, as regards:

1. *follow-up to the 3rd part of the 2003 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23-27 June 2003):*
 - a. was informed by the President about the meeting held with the Committees' Chairpersons on Wednesday 25 June 2003 and agreed to invite them for an exchange of views to the Bureau meeting on 6 November 2003 in Paris;
 - b. took note of the President's intention to address a letter to the authorities of Azerbaijan asking them to enable all potential candidates to return to Azerbaijan and register for the forthcoming presidential elections to be held on 15 October 2003;
 - c. took note of the President's intention to address a letter to the United States Congress aimed at improving dialogue between the Assembly and the Congress;
 - d. took the following decisions with respect to the report of Mr Krüger, expert appointed by the Bureau, on the case of Mr Gongadze:
 - thanked Mr Krüger for his work and terminated his mandate;
 - declassified the report and decided to transmit it, together with an accompanying letter of the President of the Assembly, to the Ukrainian authorities;
 - decided to transmit the report and the President's letter to the Monitoring Committee to be taken into account in the framework of the monitoring procedure of Ukraine;
 - agreed to follow closely further developments in this case;
 - agreed to include the above decisions in the report;
 - e. In the framework of the follow-up to the Joint Committee meeting held on 26 June 2003, asked the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to provide supplementary information on the current discussions concerning the 2004 budget, supported his initiative to hold a meeting on this matter in July 2003 with the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom and with the participation of the President of the Assembly and agreed to include this item, if necessary, on the agenda of the Joint Committee meeting during the September 2003 part-session;
2. *Joint Working Group on Chechnya*: took note of the proposals prepared by the Secretariat and decided, taking into account the work currently under way in the competent

committees, to come back to this matter when these Committees or the Russian Parliament ask the Bureau to do so;

3. *Standing Committee meeting in Naples (8 September 2003)*: took note of the information on the state of preparation and noted that the draft agenda would be sent out in July 2003;

4. *4th Part of the 2003 Ordinary Session*: took note of Committees' proposals for reports, which could be included on the agenda of this Part-Session;

5. *Observation of elections*:

a. *Azerbaijan: Presidential elections (15 October 2003)*:

- took note that the pre-electoral mission would take place on 14-17 September 2003 and approved the list of members of the pre-electoral mission;

b. *Georgia: Parliamentary elections (2nd November 2003)*

- took note that the pre-electoral mission would take place on 7-11 October 2003 and approved the list of members of the pre-electoral mission;

c. *follow-up to the parliamentary elections in Armenia (25 May 2003)*: agreed not to join the visit of OSCE/ODIHR planned to take place on 21 and 22 July 2003;

6. *European Committee for the Prevention of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment (CPT)*: drew up the lists of candidates on behalf of Cyprus and Romania to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers and asked the Slovak parliamentary delegation to submit a new list of candidates;

7. *Meeting with the Bureau of the European Court of Human Rights (23 June 2003)*: was informed by the President about this meeting and took note that another meeting would take place during the 4th part of the 2003 session;

8. *Seminar with the Belarus Parliament (Minsk, 15 September 2003)*:

a. approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee to participate in this seminar and agreed that Mrs Wohlwend, senior Vice-President of the Assembly included in the Ad Hoc Committee, would chair the Ad Hoc Committee;

b. agreed that the issue of freedom of expression should be included among the subjects of this Seminar;

c. agreed that additional bilateral meetings could take place on 16 September 2003;

9. *Ad Hoc Committee on the EU Convention on the future of Europe*: took note of the report of Mr van der Linden on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee and terminated the mandate of this Ad Hoc Committee;

10. *References and transmissions to committees*:

a. took note of the opinion of the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee on a motion for a resolution on "organisation of a Parliamentary Assembly of Children from Council of Europe member states" (Doc. 9789) and decided to take no further action on this motion;

b. took note that the Committee on Rules and Procedure would prepare, on the basis of Order No.585 (2003), a report to the Standing Committee on “number of seats of the Monitoring Committee”;

c. referred the report on “Council of Europe’s North-South Centre and co-operation in the 21st century” to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for opinion, provided that it will be adopted in time for the Standing Committee meeting on 8 September 2003 in Naples (Committee on Economic Affairs and Development seized for report);

11. *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*

a. authorised the following meetings:

- Ad Hoc Committee on CEMAT composed of two members (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs) in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 15-17 September 2003;

- Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the 2003 International Year of Freshwater (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs) in Ohrid (FYROM) on 13-14 October 2003, on condition that costs of interpretation be reduced;

b. refused the request by the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs to meet in Geneva in permanent derogation from the relevant Assembly Ruling, but agreed, possibly, to come back to this matter when considering the issues of meetings outside Strasbourg and Paris and the terms of reference of Committees;

12. *Composition of the Monitoring Committee:* following the proposals of political groups, approved the following changes for ratification by the Assembly: EPP: Mr Sasi to replace M. Vella, LDR: Mr Clerfayt and Mr Skrabalo to replace Mr Haraldsson and Mr Jansson;

13. *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities:*

a. 55th Plenary session of the Nordic Council (Oslo, 27-29 October 2003): Mr Blankenberg (subject to his availability);

b. 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (Bangladesh, 4-12 October 2003): authorised the President to ask a member of the United Kingdom delegation, who will participate in the Conference in another capacity, to represent also the Assembly (without costs for the Assembly);

c. 12th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (Oulu, Finland, 8-9 September 2003): authorised the President to ask Assembly members, who will participate in the Conference in another capacity, to represent also the Assembly (without costs for the Assembly);

14. *Institutional representation of the Assembly:* appointed Mr O’Hara (Committee on Culture, Science and Education) to represent the Assembly on the Council of Europa Nostra (to replace Mrs Melandri);

15. *Fact-finding visits in European non-members states:* authorised Mr Pourgourides, rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on disappeared persons in Belarus, to visit Minsk before the next part-session;

16. *“Trans-Asian” Parliamentary Forum of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 6-8 June 2003):* took note of the information by Mr Atkinson;

17. *International Parliamentary Conference on Pan-European Co-operation (St. Petersburg, 16-17 June 2003)*: took note of the information by Mr Davis;
18. *Joint meeting between the Presidential Committee and the Enlarged Bureau of the Venice Commission*: took note of the memorandum submitted by the President of the Assembly;
19. *Invitation to hold meetings in Turkey (Spring 2004)*: took note of the invitation of Mr Mercan and agreed to hold a Bureau meeting and one Committee meeting (on the basis of its "annual ticket" for meetings outside Strasbourg and Paris) in Istanbul on 6-7 April 2004;
20. *Relations with the European Parliament*: took note of the letter of Mr Cox, President of the European Parliament, confirming the holding of the Joint meeting with the European Parliament on 25 September 2003 and agreeing to prepare a memorandum of understanding concerning the election observation missions in the "troika" format (Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament);
21. *Pan-African Parliament*: took note of the message by the President of the Assembly to African parliamentarians meeting to prepare the creation of the Pan-African Parliament (Cape Town, 30 June-1st July 2003);
22. *Bureau meetings in 2004*: took note of the preliminary proposals for the dates of meetings in 2004;
23. *Date and place of the next meetings*: confirmed the following meetings:
- . 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).
 - . Paris, 6 November 2003, 9.30 am
 - . Maastricht, 25 November 2003 at 8.30.
 - . Paris, 8 December 2003, 9.30 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