

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**Secretariat of the Assembly**  
**Synopsis No. 2003/102**  
8 September 2003

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting in Naples on 8 September 2003, with Mr Peter Schieder in the Chair, as regards:

- *Standing Committee (Naples, 8 September 2003)*: took note of the changes in the draft agenda;
- *Conference of Speakers and Presidents of the European Parliamentary Assemblies*: took note of the letter of the President of the Assembly announcing that the conference would take place on 17-19 May 2004 in Strasbourg;
- *4th Part of the 2003 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 25 September-2 October 2003)*:
  - a. adopted the draft agenda and drew up the draft order of business;
  - b. took note of the exceptional measures relating to Assembly debates;
  - c. took note of the draft agenda of the Joint meeting with the European Parliament, of the organisational measures and of the draft joint presidential statement;
  - d. took note of the draft agenda of the Joint Committee;
  - e. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to invite 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;
  - f. took note of the exhibitions organised by Russia and Switzerland which will take place in the lobby of the Assembly during the Part-Session;
- *Progress Report of the Bureau (27 June-26 September 2003)*: appointed Mr Mercan (Turkey, EPP-CD) as rapporteur.
- *Presidential election in the Chechen Republic (5 October 2003)*: took note of the invitation letter from the Chechen Administration and decided to come back to this question at its next meeting, in particular in the light of the security situation;
- *Observation of elections*:
  - a. Azerbaijan: decided to increase the number of members of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections to 35 (repartition of seats among political groups based on d'Hondt system);

- b. Memorandum of understanding with the European Parliament and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: took note of the draft memorandum and asked the President to transmit it to the Presidents of the OSCE PA and of the European Parliament;
  - c. Legislative elections in the Russian Federation (7 December 2003): awaiting a formal invitation, decided to set up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members (d'Hondt system), and agreed that a pre-electoral mission, composed of one representative from each political group which are at the same time members of this ad hoc committee, should take place not later than one month before the elections;
- *Organisation of Assembly debates*: approved the proposals by the Committee on Rules and Procedure for changes in the rules concerning the organisation of Assembly debates and agreed to include them in the next Progress Report of the Bureau;
  - *Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocation for 2002*: approved the communication prepared by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development;
  - *References and transmissions to committees*: approved the following proposals:
    - a. references to Committees:
      1. **Doc. 9853**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**The costs of the Common Agricultural Policy**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for report.
      2. **Doc. 9854 rev.**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Realising Strasbourg's potential as a European capital**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report
      3. **Doc. 9855**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**The potential adverse consequences of the oil pool D-6 operation**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for report
      4. **Doc. 9856**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Women and religion in Europe**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report.
      5. **Doc. 9858 rev.**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**The composition of the Bureau of the Assembly**, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities for report.
      6. **Doc. 9859**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**The persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus**, to the Political Affairs Committee for report.

7. **Doc. 9860**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Reference date for determining the budgetary allocation to the Assembly's political groups and the allocation of Committee chairmanships, of seats on the Monitoring Committee and of speaking time in debates,** to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities for report.
8. **Doc. 9861**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**The European Convention on Human Rights and enhancing the effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights,** to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report.
9. **Doc. 9864**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Discrimination against women and girls in sport,** to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report.
10. **Doc. 9865**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Mechanisms to promote gender equality in practice,**  
and  
**Doc. 9866**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Women's participation in decision-making,** to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for one report*
11. **Doc. 9867**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Harm reduction and the health benefits of smokeless tobacco,** to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for information.
12. **Doc. 9868**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict,** to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for information.
13. **Doc. 9869**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Video surveillance of public areas,** to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report.
14. **Doc. 9871**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member States,** to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography for report.
15. **Doc. 9872**  
**Motion for a recommendation**  
**Mediterranean co-operation concerning the environment and local democracy,** to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for report.

16. **Doc. 9873**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**The reasons of the divisions of Europe**, to the Political Affairs Committee for information.
  17. **Doc. 9874**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Guidelines for good practices in the holding of referenda**, to the Political Affairs Committee for report.
  18. **Doc. 9876**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report.
  19. **Doc. 9891**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Membership of the immediate past President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Chairpersons of political groups in the Political Affairs Committee**, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities for report.
- b. Modification of references:
1. **Doc. 9363**  
**Motion for a resolution**  
**Abolishing the last piece of Iron Curtain in Central Europe**  
**Reference No. 2708 dated 26 March 2002**, to the Political Affairs Committee for report and transmission to the Monitoring Committee for information.
- c. extension of reference:
1. **Doc. 9273**  
**Motion for a Recommendation**  
**Diaspora Cultures**  
**Reference No. 2679 of 8 November 2001**, until 8 November 2004.
  2. **Doc. 9248**  
**Motion for Recommendation**  
**Genetically modified organisms**  
**Reference No. 2665 of 8 November 2001**, until 8 November 2004.
  3. **Doc. 8567**  
**Motion for a Recommendation**  
**Need to harmonise hunting so as to preserve Europe's environmental balance**  
**Reference No. 2452 of 4 November 1999**, until 4 November 2004.
  4. **Order 575/2001**  
**Domestic slavery**,  
Deadline for the presentation of the report extended until 15 April 2004.

- *Meetings outside Strasbourg and Paris:*
  - a. authorised the following meetings:
    - . Sub-Committee on the Media (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education): Bucharest (Romania), 19-20 September 2003;
    - . Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography : Brussels (Belgium), 6 October 2003;
    - . Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities: Bucharest (Romania), 27 October 2003;
    - . Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee: Florence (Italy), 12 December 2003
  - b. asked the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to present its request to meet in Turkey on the basis of its 2004 "annual ticket", possibly in connection with the Bureau meeting to be held in Istanbul 6-7 April 2004;
- *Seminar on "Frozen conflicts" organised by the Moldova Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (Chisinau, 11-12 September 2003):* took note that Mr Pourgourides (Greece, EPP-CD) would represent the President of the Assembly;
- *Mandate of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly:* took note of the mandate prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- *Working party to prepare the 3rd Summit of Heads of States (GT-SOM3) (Strasbourg, 17 September 2003):* took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly on the "Third Summit of the Council of Europe: position of the Parliamentary Assembly", which he would present at this meeting;
- *Seminar in the Belarus Parliament (Minsk, 15 September 2003):* took note of the draft programmes of the visit and of the Seminar;
- *5th meeting of the Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact:* was informed that Mr Schreiner (France, EDG) represented the Assembly at this meeting;
- *took note of the next meetings:*
  - . Strasbourg, Friday 26 September 2003 at 3.00 pm,
  - . Strasbourg, Thursday 2 October 2003 at 3.30 pm (at the end of the Part-Session),
  - . Paris, Thursday 6 November 2003 at 9.30 am (joint meeting with Committee Chairpersons),
  - . Paris, Thursday 6 November 2003 at 3 pm,
  - . Maastricht, Tuesday 25 November 2003 at 8.30 am,
  - . Paris, Monday 8 December 2003 at 9.30 am.

Petr Sich/Agnès Nollinger

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- 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