

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2003/122
3 October 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 2 October 2003 with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Follow-up to the texts adopted during the 4th Part of the 2003 Assembly session:*

a. current affairs debate on the “current situation in Kosovo”: in accordance with Rule 52.5 of the Rules of Procedure, referred this matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report, taking into consideration that the human rights situation in Kosovo was being dealt with in a specific report by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

b. Resolution 1348 (2003) on “gender-balanced representation in the Parliamentary Assembly”: took note that the President would address letters to the Chairpersons of national delegations, political groups and committees drawing their attention to the Assembly’s decisions and recommendations in this matter;

c. Resolution 1349 (2003) on the “abolition of the death penalty in Council of Europe observer states”: took note that the President would transmit this text to the US and Japan Parliaments and instructed the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to make a proposal to the Bureau as soon as possible regarding the organisation of a “Parliamentary conference to be held in 2004 on effective criminal justice in a human rights framework” ;

d. Resolution 1351(2003) on the “role of the United Nations in Iraq”: took note that the President would transmit without delay this text to the Secretary General of the United Nations;

e. Opinion No 246 (2003) on “relations between the Council of Europe and non-governmental organisations”: took note that the President would submit a proposal to the Bureau at the forthcoming meeting on the possibility of creating a specific status based upon appropriate criteria for the NGO’s with the Parliamentary Assembly;

f. election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina: decided to include the 2nd round of this election on the draft order of business of the 1st part of 2004 Assembly session and took note of the intention of the President to obtain more information on the allegations which led to the postponement of the 2nd round of this election;

- *Follow-up to the Joint Committee (30 September 2003):*

a. Procedure for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe: postponed until its next meeting the decision on whether to include this item on the draft agenda of the April 2004 part-session or on that of the June 2004 part-session;

- b. Joint Committee: decided to include on the agenda of the next meeting the question of the “Council of Europe’s relations with the United Nations”;
 - c. 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe: took note of the memorandum presented by the Secretary General of the Assembly and proposed to the Committee of Ministers to set up, in accordance with Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure, a small “mixed working party” on the 3rd Summit, with equal participation from the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers and chaired by the President of the Assembly;
- *Meetings of the Bureau and the Standing Committee in Maastricht (25 November 2003)*: took note of the draft programme and approved the draft agenda;
 - *European Committee for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CPT)*:
- a. drew-up the list of candidates with regard to Poland to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers in the following order: Mr Laptas, Mrs Adamiak-Derendarz and Mr Holda;
 - b. took note that the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights would resume consideration of the list of candidates with regard to Albania at a future meeting in the presence of a member of the Albanian delegation;
 - c. took note of 13th General Report on the activities of the CPT and transmitted it to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- *Legislative elections in the Russian Federation (7 December 2003)*:
- a. approved the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections;
 - b. approved the list of members of the pre-electoral mission, composed of Mr Gross (SOC), Mr Letzgus (EPP/CD), Lord Russell-Johnston (LDR), Mr Kvakkestad (EDG), Mr Christodoulides (UEL) and took note that this mission would take place on 28 October – 1st November 2003;
- *Seminar with the Belarus Parliament (15 September 2003)*: took note of the memorandum presented by Mrs Wohlwend and transmitted it to the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for a possible follow-up;
 - *The Venice Commission*: took note of the President’s letter to the Chairman of the Venice Commission asking for an opinion on the incorporation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights into the EU Constitutional Treaty (follow-up to Resolution 1339 (2003));
- *References to committees: approved the following proposals*:
1. Doc. 9945
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Klich and others
Establishment of the Centre for European Nations’ Remembrance under the auspices of the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, for report.
 2. Doc. 9946
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Berceanu and others
Europe’s growing energy vulnerability, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report.

3. Doc. 9947
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Severinsen and others
Investigation of the possible monopolisation of the electronic media and abuse of power in Italy, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, for report, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, for opinion.
 4. Doc. 9948
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Branger and others
Integration difficulties of immigrants as a potential threat to the fundamental values of the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, for report.
 5. Doc. 9949
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Salles and others
Co-development policies as a positive measure to regulate migratory flows, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, for report.
 6. Doc. 9950
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Sorawiński and others
Education for leisure activities, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, for information.
 7. Current situation in Kosovo: to the Political Affairs Committee for report following the current affairs debate on 30 September 2003;
- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*
- a. approved the following meetings:
 - . Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education), Skopje & Stobi (Macedonia), 8-9 October 2003;
 - . Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations (of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development), Geneva (Switzerland), 21 November 2003 (to be confirmed);
 - . Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs), Klaipeda (Lithuania), 17-18 October 2003;
 - . Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, London (United Kingdom), 22-23 January 2004;
 - . Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, Mexico, 14-16 January 2004, being understood that the working meeting would only be held in a single place in order to reduce the costs of interpretation and that the staff would be reduced;
 - b. authorised the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to set up a sub-committee of 3 members to participate in the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education (Athens, 10-12 November 2003);
- *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities:*
- a. appointed the following representatives:
 - . Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in connection with the Conference on Religious Freedom and the Forum on the Mediterranean (9-11 October 2003, Rome): Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD);

. Conference: From Commitment to Action – Implementation of CEDAW in Central and Eastern Europe (25-26 October 2003, Dubrovnik): Mrs Err (Luxembourg, SOC);

. Seminar organised by the North-South Centre on “Women’s rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region: laws, religions and traditions (13-14 October 2003, Strasbourg): Mrs Damanaki (Greece, UEL);

b. took note that the President asked the following members to represent him at official activities:

. Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe Pompidou Group (Dublin, 16-17 October 2003): Mrs Belohorska (Slovakia, EDG);

. 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (Bangladesh, 4-12 October 2003): Mr Cox (United Kingdom, SOC) (without costs for the Assembly);

. International Exhibition on Alcide de Gasperi (14 October 2003, Rome): Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD);

- *Visits of rapporteurs:*

a. authorised Mr Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on the “persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus”, to visit Belarus;

b. did not authorise Mrs de Zulueta, rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on the “reinforcement of the United Nations”, to visit New York in connection with the IPU meeting of parliamentarians taking part in the UN General Assembly (27-28 October 2003), but proposed that Mrs de Zulueta could join the Sub-Committee on relations with non-member countries for its meeting to be held in New York in 2004 on the occasion of the next year UN General Assembly;

- *Presidential election in Serbia (17 November 2003):* took note of the invitation to observe this election and decided, in conformity with the position of the Assembly to observe elections at federal level only, not to observe it;

- *Replies from the Committee of Ministers to parliamentary questions:* took note of the letter of the Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs expressing the Committee’s dissatisfaction with the reply to a question on implementing the Kyoto protocol and of the President’s intention to address a letter to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers on this matter;

- *Cancun session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (Cancun, 9-12 September 2003):* following the participation of Mr Kirilov (Bulgaria, SOC), took note of the Declaration adopted at this Conference;

- *Date and place of the next meetings:* decided to hold the following meetings:

. 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, Wednesday 10 December 2003 at 9.30 am.

Petr Sích/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