

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2003/139
7 November 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Paris on Thursday 6 November 2003 at 3.00 pm, with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly (2nd October 2003-26 January 2004)*: appointed Mr Lloyd (United Kingdom, SOC) as rapporteur;

- *Joint meeting with the Committee Chairpersons (Paris, 6 November 2003, 9.30 am)*:

a. approved the proposals concerning the role of the Committees in the external relations of the Assembly;

b. asked Mr Cekuolis, rapporteur of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities on the composition of the Bureau, to take into consideration the opinions expressed during the exchange of view on the composition of the Bureau of the Assembly when preparing a report on this matter;

- *Liechtenstein*:

a. given the absence of the rapporteurs and the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee, postponed the exchange of views with them until the Bureau meeting in Maastricht (25 November 2003):

b. took note of the adoption, on 23 October 2003, of a Resolution by the Parliament of Liechtenstein and of Declarations by two parliamentary groups of this Parliament;

- *Procedure for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe*: decided to propose to the Assembly to include the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the draft agenda and the draft order of business of the June 2004 part-session;

- *Meetings of the Bureau and the Standing Committee in Maastricht (25 November 2003)*:

a. following requests by the Political Affairs Committee and the Russian parliamentary delegation, took note of the decision of the President to withdraw the report on "Consequences of the European Union enlargement for freedom of movement between the Council of Europe member states" from the draft agenda;

b. took note that the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights would not present an opinion to the report on "Lesbians and gays in sport";

c. following a request by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to write to Mr Pasko to confirm that he can attend the meeting of the Standing Committee, which is open to public;

- *1st part-Session of the 2004 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 26-30 January 2004)*: considered the draft agenda;

- *Meetings of the Bureau and committees in Turkey (Istanbul, 6-7 April 2004)*: authorised the Monitoring Committee and the Sub-Committee on the Middle East (of the Political Affairs Committee) to hold their meetings in Istanbul in connection with the Bureau meeting on 6-7 April 2004 (on the basis on their annual tickets) and asked other committees, which had received invitations to meet in Turkey in 2004, to postpone their meetings to a later date;

- *Conference of Speakers and Presidents of the European Parliamentary Assemblies (Strasbourg, 17-19 May 2004)*: drew up the draft provisional agenda of the Conference;

- *Observation of elections*:

a. Presidential election in Azerbaijan (15 October 2003):

. took note of the oral report of Mr Gross, considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, which observed the election, and did not declassify it;

. decided to send a post-electoral mission to Azerbaijan before the next Bureau meeting on 25 November 2003 in Maastricht, composed of Mr Martinez Casan and Mr Gross, rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee on Azerbaijan, and Mr Goulet, rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the election, and authorised the President to appoint alternates if necessary;

. decided to invite Mr Goulet and Mr Martinez Casan to its meeting in Maastricht;

. asked the post-electoral mission to discuss with the authorities the measures, which they have taken and intend to take in response to the reported incidents during and after the election and to report to the Bureau in Maastricht;

b. legislative elections in Georgia (2 November 2003): took note of the press release issued after the elections and authorised a small delegation of the ad-hoc committee of the Bureau to observe the second round of these elections on 16 November 2003 (composed of a maximum of 3 members, who observed the first round of the elections and, preferably, took part in the pre-electoral mission);

c. legislative elections in the Russian Federation (7 December 2003): took note of the statement issued by the delegation, which carried-out a pre-electoral mission to Moscow on 28 October-1st November 2003;

- *References and transmissions to committees*: postponed this item until its next meeting;

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris*: authorised the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs to meet in Budapest on 11-12 December 2003 (EYC);

- *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities*:

a. Council of Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission: on the proposal of the Political Affairs Committee, appointed Mrs Severinsen;

b. World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 10-12 December 2003): asked the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to propose a representative;

c. 22nd Session of the Baltic Assembly and the 9th Baltic Council (27-29 November 2003, Vilnius): appointed Mr Cekuolis;

d. Integrated Project "Making democratic institutions work" - Assembly's participation in the Group of Eminent Persons: took note that the President would appoint Mr Wielowieyski and Mr Gross (and, if one of them would not be available, Mr Elo) to represent the Assembly in this Group, and that the President would take part in the first meeting of the Group on 21-22 November 2003 in Florence;

- *Parliamentary "troika" on Belarus*: agreed that the parliamentary "troika" between the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament resumes its cooperation with a view to contributing to the conduct of free and fair parliamentary elections next autumn in Belarus and appointed Mr Cekuolis (alternate: Mr Goris) as its representative in this "troika";

- *International Parliamentary Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Population and Development*:

a. agreed to host the next meeting of the International Parliamentary Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Population and Development (adopted in Cairo in 1994), tentatively in October 2004, being understood that the Assembly's material involvement would consist in providing a meeting room and interpretation into English, French and Russian;

b. asked the Sub-Committee on Population (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population) and the Sub-Committee on Health (of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee) to follow the preparations of this Conference;

- *European Population Conference (spring 2005)*: asked the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population to follow, in the framework of its normal mandate and with no supplementary costs to the Assembly, the preparations of this Conference to be organised by the European Population Committee (CAHP) and to keep the Bureau informed;

- *Date and place of the next meetings*:

. Maastricht, Tuesday 25 November 2003 at 8.30 am,

. Paris, Wednesday 10 December 2003 at 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

