

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**Secretariat of the Assembly**  
**Synopsis No. 2003/146**  
27 November 2003

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting in Maastricht on 25 November 2003 at 8.30 am with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Liechtenstein:*

a. held an exchange of views with Mr Hancock (United Kingdom, LDR) and Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), rapporteurs, and Mrs Durrieu (France, SOC), Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee, on the opinion adopted by the Monitoring Committee;

b. rejected the proposal of the Monitoring Committee to initiate a monitoring procedure with regard to Liechtenstein and decided to start a dialogue with the authorities of Liechtenstein, being understood that this decision needs to be confirmed by the Assembly;

c. declassified the opinion of the Monitoring Committee and decided to include it in the Progress report of the Bureau;

- *Petition concerning the Dutch-speakers' rights to health-care in Brussels and the surrounding Dutch-speaking municipalities:*

a. took note of the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, which concluded that the matter raised in the petition was not without substance and that there was a legitimate Assembly interest in it;

b. following the recommendations by this Committee, proposed to refer this matter to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;

- *Belarus:* postponed the consideration of the request by the Belarus Parliament to restore Special Guest status until its next meeting;

- *Observation of elections:*

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

- heard Mr Goulet (France, LDR), rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee which observed this election;

- took note of the oral statements by Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) and Mr Cavusoglu (Turkey, EDG) on their post-electoral mission in Baku, which took place on 17-19 November 2003;

- approved and declassified the report of the ad hoc committee as amended by the rapporteur;
- b. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (2 November 2003):
- took note of the statement by Mr Kvakkestad (Norway, EDG) on the elections and the post-electoral visit to Tbilisi on 22-24 November 2003 carried out by Mr Eörsi, Mr Kirilov and himself;
  - approved and declassified the report of the ad hoc committee on the observation of the elections;
  - decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe the Presidential election to take place on 4 January 2004 composed of 20 members (d'Hondt system) and appointed Mr Eörsi (Hungary, LDR) as Chairman and rapporteur of this Ad Hoc Committee;
  - decided to send a pre-electoral mission to Tbilisi in December 2003 composed of 5 members (one for each political group, which are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee) and appointed Mr Eörsi as Chairman of the delegation;
- c. Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (7 December 2003):
- took note of the memorandum on the pre-electoral mission, which took place on 28 October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2003;
  - appointed Mr Atkinson (United Kingdom, EDG) as Chairman and rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections;
- d. Parliamentary elections in Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) (28 December 2003):
- decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee of 5 members (one for each political group) to observe these elections;
  - *References and transmissions to committees:*
- a. references to Committees: approved the following proposals:
1. Doc. 9959  
Motion for a resolution and a recommendation presented by M. Korobeynikov and others  
European education system as one of the risk factors to students' health, no further action
  2. Doc. 9960  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Hägg and others  
Genital mutilation of the bodies of deceased women, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, for information
  3. Doc. 9961  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Zwerver and others  
Migration, segregation and public policy: refugee reception and placement policies in the member states of the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, for information

4. Doc. 9962  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Crema and others  
The exercise of the right to strike in the sector of essential public services in the member states of the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report at the Standing Committee
5. Doc. 9964  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Martínez Casañ and others  
The promotion of local self-government along Council of Europe borders, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, for report at the Standing Committee
6. Doc. 9965  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Branger and others  
Asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Turkey; to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, for report at the Standing Committee
7. Doc. 9966  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bargholtz and others  
Forced marriages and child marriages, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, for report at the Standing Committee, and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, for opinion
8. Doc. 9967  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Prisacăru and others  
Situation of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), for information
9. Doc. 9968  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Sasi and others  
The lessons to be drawn from the failure of the WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report at the Standing Committee
10. Doc. 9969  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Colombier and others  
Developing work-linked training options, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for information
11. Doc. 9970  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bindig and others  
Human Rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Minister's responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, for report
12. Doc. 9971  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Frey and others  
Initiation of a monitoring procedure, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, for report, under Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure
13. Doc. 9972  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Elo and others  
European Charter of Autonomies, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, for report at the Standing Committee

14. Doc. 9973  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bruce and others  
Human Rights of mentally disabled people, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, for information
  15. Doc. 9974  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bruce and others  
Cross-border crime in Europe, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, for report
  16. Doc. 9975  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Högmark and others  
The need to find lasting solutions to reducing unemployment in Europe, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report, and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, for opinion
  17. Doc. 9976  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Melčák and others  
Risk of major blackouts of electricity power systems in Europe, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report at the Standing Committee
  18. Doc. 9993  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Nazaré Pereira and others  
Forest fires: the consequences for the environment and the effect of spatial planning policies, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, for report at the Standing Committee
  19. Doc. 9995  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Schneider and others  
The comparative study of religions and intercultural dialogue, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, for report
  20. Doc. 9998  
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Belohorská and others  
Boosting social cohesion and employment: more and better jobs, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, for report
  21. Doc. 9999  
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr van der Linden and others  
Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) – Future of the European Union, to the Political Affairs Committee, for report
  22. Petition concerning the Dutch-speakers' rights to health-care in Brussels and the surrounding Dutch-speaking municipalities, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for report, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, for opinion.
- b. requests to extend references
1. Doc. 9239  
Motion for a resolution  
Armenian-Azerbaijan (Mountainous Karabakh) conflict  
Reference No 2659 (valid until 31 January 2004)  
and

2. Doc. 9257  
Motion for a recommendation  
Renunciation of Azerbaijan's militaristic statements on solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by the use of force  
Reference No 2674 (valid until 31 January 2004), extended the references concerning these texts, which were merged into one report entitled "Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference of the OSCE", until the end of September 2004;

3. Doc. 9202  
Motion for a recommendation  
Presence of the Council of Europe in Northern Ireland  
Reference No 2653 (valid until 25 January 2004), extended this reference until June 2004

- *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities*: appointed Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP) to take part in the "Euro Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum" held on the occasion of the "Barcelona VI Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference" (2-3 December 2003, Naples) and asked him to report back to the Bureau on this process;

- *Visits of rapporteurs*:

a. authorised Mrs de Zulueta (Italy, SOC), rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on "the strengthening of United Nations" to visit the United Nations on 8 and 9 December 2003;

b. authorised Mr Baciú (Romania, SOC), rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education on "the persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus", to join Mr Pourgourides (Greece, EPP) on a fact-finding visit to Minsk on 1-2 December 2003;

- *Conference of the Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)*: took note of the proposals by Mr Azzolini concerning possible fields of cooperation with these bodies;

- *Humanitarian situation in Uganda*: took note of a letter of Mr Azzolini on the tragic humanitarian situation caused by the civil war, invited Mr Azzolini to table a written declaration on this matter and took note that the President would send a letter to the Pan-African Union;

- *International Day for the elimination of violence against women (25 November 2003)*: adopted a declaration on this occasion;

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

- . Paris, Wednesday 10 December 2003 at 9.30 am.
- . Paris, Monday 12 January 2004 at 9.30 am,
- . Strasbourg, Monday 26 January 2004 at 8.30 am,
- . Strasbourg, Friday 30 January 2004 (at the end of the Part-Session).

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