

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2003/152
11 December 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Paris on 10 December 2003 at 9.30 am with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *1st part of the 2004 Ordinary Session (26-30 January 2004):*
 - a. adopted the draft agenda and drew up the draft order of business;
 - b. noted that the “3rd Summit of the Council of Europe” would be included on the draft agenda of the Joint Committee;
 - c. authorised the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to hold a colloquy on “the role played by women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation” at the end of the Assembly sitting on 27 or 28 January 2004;
- *Belarus:*
 - a. took note of the letter from the Speakers of both Chambers of the Belarus Parliament officially requesting the restoration of the special guest status to the Parliament;
 - b. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare a memorandum compiling relevant information which would enable the Bureau to consider whether the reasons which led to the withdrawal of the special guest status in January 1997 were still valid;
 - c. agreed to come back to this matter at its meeting to be held at the end of the January 2004 part-session;
- *Latvia:*
 - a. took note of the letter of Mr Rogozin, Chairman of the Russian parliamentary delegation, concerning the motion for a resolution on “reopening of monitoring procedure in respect to Latvia” (Doc 9501);
 - b. invited the Monitoring Committee to appoint two co-rapporteurs in conformity with Article 3 of the Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee (Resolution 1115 (1997)), with a view to preparing a written opinion in the light of which the Bureau would take a decision on whether to initiate a monitoring procedure;

- *Observation of elections:*

a. *Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (7 December 2003):* took note of the Joint Press Statement and of the oral report by Mr Atkinson (United Kingdom, EDG), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee which observed the elections;

b. *Parliamentary elections in Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) (28 December 2003):*

. took note of the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections and called on the EDG and UEL groups to appoint their representatives as soon as possible;

. appointed Mr Mercan (Turkey, EPP/CD) as Chairman and rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee;

c. *Presidential election in Georgia (4 January 2004):*

. took note of the list of members of the pre-electoral mission, which will take place on 16-19 December 2003;

. took note of the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections and called on the EDG and UEL groups to appoint their representatives as soon as possible;

. accepted the proposal by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to associate secretariat members and experts in the observer delegation, being understood that such an Enlarged Parliamentary Assembly Observation Mission will be under the Assembly's leadership;

- *Follow-up to the Standing Committee in Maastricht (25 November 2003):* referred the proposal to organise a Symposium on strengthening democratic institutions in 2004 to the Political Affairs Committee for consideration;

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):* invited the Parliaments of Iceland, the Czech Republic and Greece to put forward candidates;

- *References and transmissions to Committees:*

a. references to Committees: approved the following proposals:

1. Doc. 10005

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Melčák and others

The Integration of European waterways – Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, for report at the Standing Committee, and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, for opinion

2. Doc. 10006

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Kucheida and others

The future and the reconversion of mining areas in Europe, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, for report at the Standing Committee, and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, for opinion

b. requests to modify references:

1. Doc. 9867

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Flynn and others

Harm reduction and the health benefits of smokeless tobacco, refused the request by the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee to modify the reference;

2. Doc. 9950

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Smorawinski and others

Education for leisure activities, agreed to propose to modify this reference and to refer the motion to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report;

- *Appointment of Assembly representatives:*

a. appointed Mrs Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland, SOC) to represent the Assembly at the Second World Social Forum (WSF) to be held on 16 – 21 January 2004 in Mumbai, India (without costs for the Assembly);

b. asked the Committees to provide, when proposing appointments of representatives, sufficient background information on the event in question,

- *Meetings of the Standing Committee:*

a. at the invitation of the Polish Parliament, agreed to hold a Standing Committee meeting in Warsaw on 23 November 2004 in the framework of the Polish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers;

b. took note of the invitation to hold a meeting in Moscow and decided to consider it at one of its next meetings;

- *Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum:*

a. took note of the oral report by Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD) on his participation in the meeting held on 2-3 December 2003 in Naples and asked him to follow further this process;

b. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to contact the European Parliament in the matter of Assembly's participation in the meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly to be held in Malta in February 2004;

- *Date and place of the next meetings:* the Bureau confirmed the following meetings:

- . 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

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