

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2004/10
26 January 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 26 January 2004 at 8.30 a.m. with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *1st Part of the 2004 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 26-30 January 2004):*
 - a. decided to recommend to the Assembly to refer the urgent debate on “Terrorism: a threat to democracies” to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;
 - b. updated the draft order of business, in particular:
 - . took note of the letter of the Chairperson of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and decided not to propose to the Assembly to include the report on “Euthanasia” on the draft order of business;
 - . Thursday 29 January 2004: decided to propose to the Assembly holding the debate on “Access to assistance and protection for asylum seekers at European seaports and coastal areas” as a second debate in the morning and the debate under urgent procedure on “the constitutional crisis in Ukraine” as the last debate in the afternoon;
 - c. took note of the revised draft agenda of the Joint Committee (28 January 2004, 6pm);
- *Progress Report of the Bureau (2 October 2003-26 January 2004) (Rapporteur: Mr Cekuolis, Lithuania, LDR)* : approved the 2nd part of the Progress Report covering the period from 12 to 26 January 2004;
- *Observation of elections:*
 - a. Parliamentary elections in Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) (28 December 2003): approved and declassified the draft report;
 - b. Presidential election in Georgia (4 January 2004): approved and declassified the draft report;
 - c. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (28 March 2004), took note that the pre-electoral mission would take place on 25-28 February 2004;
- *Composition of the Monitoring Committee*: approved the list of members as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Assembly and invited those political groups, which have not completed yet their appointments to do so in time for the ratification by the Standing Committee on 2 March 2004;

- *Organising Assembly activities on the dates of major religious holidays*: decided to put this matter on the agenda of one of its next meetings;
- *Gender balance in national delegations*: took note that the national delegations of Ireland, Malta and Slovenia have not included representatives of both sexes, as required by Rule 7.1.b of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
- *Meeting with the “UN High-Level Panel to study global security threats”*: took note that this meeting would take place on 16 February 2004 in Paris and decided to appoint at its next meeting an Assembly delegation for this meeting;
- *“3+3” High-Level OSCE-CoE meeting*: took note that this meeting would take place on 23 February 2004 in Brussels;
- *Written questions to the Committee of Ministers*: took note of the letter by the Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies informing the President that no consensus had been reached on replies to five written question tabled before December 2003, considered this practice unacceptable and approved the President’s proposal to address a letter to the Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies stating that the Assembly expects receiving replies to written questions;
- *Principality of Monaco’s request for membership of the Council of Europe*: took note of the information by the Secretary General of the Assembly that, in accordance with the decisions of the Bureau taken on 12 January 2004, he would meet with government experts of Monaco on 12-13 February 2004 in Strasbourg;
- *Invitation to Mrs Ebadi, Nobel Prize Winner*: was informed by the Secretary General of the Assembly that Mrs Ebadi was not in a position to accept invitation to the Standing Committee on 2 March 2004 or to the April 2004 part-session and invited him to continue contacts with a view to inviting her to the June 2004 part-session;
- *Request by the Belarus National Assembly for the restoration of the Special Guest Status with the Parliamentary Assembly*: took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly with a view to discussing this matter at its next meeting;
- *Chechen Republic*: expressed its concerns following the decision of Mr Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to abolish the post of his Special Representative for Human Rights in the Chechen Republic and decided to come back to this matter at its next meeting;
- *References and transmissions to committees*: approved the following proposals:
 - a. reference:

Doc. 10031
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Čurdová and others
Gender budgeting, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for report at the Standing Committee*
 - b. change of reference

Doc. 9945 Ref. No 2880 of 25 November 2003
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 Culture, Science and Education *for opinion*.

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris*: authorised the meeting of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on 24-25 May 2004 in Prague;
- *Budget of the Council of Europe*: took note of the document on “the Council of Europe 2004 budget”, prepared by the Administration, and of the chart of voluntary contributions, and asked the Secretary General of the CoE to provide the Bureau with more information on voluntary contributions by non-member states and other partners:
- *Date and place of the next meetings*: confirmed the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 30 January 2004 at 12 noon (at the end of the Part-Session);
 - . Paris, Monday 1st March 2004 at 3.00 pm.

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
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