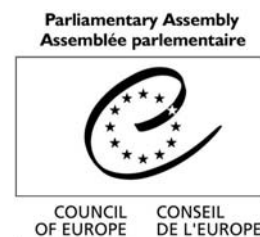


Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2004/028
2 February 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Friday 30 January 2004 at 12.00 noon, with Mr Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Chair, as regards:

- *Belarus: special guest status:*
 - a. considered the request by the Belarus Parliament to restore the special guest status and rejected this request;
 - b. expressed the willingness to observe the autumn 2004 legislative elections in Belarus and to send a pre-electoral mission shortly before these elections;
 - c. authorised the Sub-Committee on Belarus (of the Political Affairs Committee) to visit Belarus after the April 2004 Assembly part-session;
 - d. confirmed its willingness to continue a dialogue with all political forces in Belarus;
- *1st Part of the 2004 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 26-30 January 2004):*
 - a. Liechtenstein:
 - . took note of the approval by the Assembly of the Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly containing the Bureau's decision to "reject the proposal of the Monitoring Committee to initiate a monitoring procedure with regard to Liechtenstein and to start a dialogue with the authorities of Liechtenstein";
 - . took note that the President of the Parliament of Liechtenstein expressed the wish to meet the Assembly President and postponed the decision on the modalities of a dialogue until its next meeting;
 - b. election of a judge to the European Court on Human Rights with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina: took note of a letter of Mr Muratovic, Chairman of the Bosnia and Herzegovina parliamentary delegation, and of the oral reply of the President;
 - c. Latvia:
 - . took note that the Monitoring Committee has not yet appointed the two co-rapporteurs to prepare a written opinion for the Bureau concerning the proposal to initiate a monitoring procedure, in accordance with Resolution 1115 (1997);

. took note of the President's decision to appoint Mr Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC) as his special envoy and to invite Mrs Durrieu, Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee, to join him on a visit to Latvia, with a view to reporting back to the Bureau at its next meeting on the situation concerning the planned adoption of the draft Law on Education;

d. follow-up to the texts adopted:

. Resolution 1358 (2004) "Functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan" and Resolution 1361 (2004) "Honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia": took note of the intention of the President to organise a meeting of the Speakers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia Parliaments on the occasion of the Conference of Presidents of European Parliamentary Assemblies (18-19 May 2004, Strasbourg);

. Resolution 1363 (2004) "Functioning of democratic institutions in Georgia":

. concerning the assistance to the Georgian Parliament to revise its rules of procedure and to restructure and reorganise the work of its committees, took note that the President would raise this matter during his meeting with Mrs Burdjanadze, Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, and inform the Bureau about proposals in this respect;

. asked the Monitoring Committee to present to the Bureau proposals for new deadlines under which the new authorities will be obliged to fulfil the commitments which Georgia undertook upon its accession to the Council of Europe;

- *Invitation to Mr Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan*: agreed that Mr Aliyev address the Assembly as soon as possible and decided to examine at its next meeting the proposal to invite him to the 2nd part of the 2004 Assembly session (26-30 April 2004);

- *Motion for a resolution on "serious human rights violations in Libya – inhuman treatment of Bulgarian medical staff (Doc. 10057)*: agreed with the proposal of the President that a fact-finding mission to Libya should take place as soon as possible with a report back to the Bureau;

- *Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly*:

a. appointed the following representatives for 2004:

- European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission : the President of the Assembly and Mr Jurgens ;
- Council on Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission): members: Mrs Severinsen (LDR, Political Affairs Committee), Mr Jurgens (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Van den Brande (EPP, Monitoring Committee) ; and as substitutes: Mr Elo (SOC, Political Affairs Committee), Mr Pourgourides (EPP, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Kvakkestad (EDG, Monitoring Committee)
- European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre : the President of the Assembly and Mr Sasi (EPP, Committee on Economic Affairs and Development); as substitute: Mr Braga (SOC, Committee on Culture, Science and Education);
- European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – ECRI : Mr McNamara (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mrs Jaatteenmaki (LDR, Political Affairs Committee);
- Council of Europe Committee for Works of Art : Mr de Puig (SOC, Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and Mr O'Hara (SOC, Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) ;
- Pan-European Federation for Heritage – Europa Nostra: Mr Legendre (EDG, Committee on Culture, Science and Education)and Mr O'Hara, SOC (Committee on Culture, Science and Education);

- European Cultural Foundation: Mr de Puig (SOC, Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education), ex-officio member of the Board of Governors;
- b. took note that the President of the Assembly, as regards:
- International Institute for Democracy: decided to postpone the appointments until the next Bureau meeting;
 - European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) and Associates of the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) : decided, at this stage, not to appoint a representative;
 - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ): decided to postpone his decision until its next meeting as to whether a representative be appointed;
- *Meeting of the Standing Committee in Paris (2 March 2004)*: took note of the draft agenda;
 - *Assembly Meetings in Istanbul (6-7 April 2004)*: took note of the draft schedule of meetings;
 - *Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)*: held an exchange of views and took note of the information by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on cooperation in the Chechen Republic;
 - *Observation of elections*:
 - a. Presidential election in the Russian Federation (14 March 2004): approved the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee and appointed Mr Bindig (Germany, SOC) Chairperson and rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee;
 - b. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (28 March 2004): approved the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee and of the pre-electoral mission (25-28 February 2004) and appointed Mr Eörsi (Hungary, LDR) Chairperson and rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee;
 - c. consideration of the revised guidelines for the observation of elections: postponed this item until its next meeting;
 - *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)*: drew up the list of candidates as follows:
 - a. candidates in respect of Andorra: 1. Mr Vidal Vidal, 2. Mr Rascagneres Llagostera, 3. Ms Vives Armengol;
 - b. candidates in respect of Malta: 1. Mr Felice, 2. Ms Agius, 3. Mr Testa;
 - *Composition of the Monitoring Committee*: approved the list of members as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Standing Committee on 2 March 2004;
 - *Ad Hoc Committee of Chairpersons of political Groups (Presidential Committee) of the Bureau* : re-constituted this Ad Hoc Committee;
 - *References and transmissions to committees*: approved the following proposals:
 - a. References:
 - 1. **Doc. 10052**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Eörsi and others
Tilos Radio – an independent, alternative community radio station – in Hungary, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, *for information*

2. **Doc. 10053**
Motion for a resolution presented by M. Elo and others
The state of democracy, to the Political Affairs Committee, *for information* to be taken into account in the preparation of its current report on “New methodological concepts of democracy to evaluate its implementation”
 3. **Doc. 10054**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Azevedo and others
Social rehabilitation of prisoners, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for report at the Standing Committee*, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for opinion*
 4. **Doc. 10055**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Korobeynikov and others
European education and harmonious development of students, for consultation to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education on the follow-up to be given
 5. **Doc. 10059**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Shybko and others
Working migration from the countries of Eastern and Central Europe: present state and perspectives, for consultation to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population on the follow-up to be given
- *Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:*
 - a. 110th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Mexico City, 18-23 April 2004): Mr Wilkinson (United Kingdom, EDG), without cost to the Assembly;
 - b. 56th Rose-Roth Seminar (Sarajevo, 18-20 March 2004): Mr Muratovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD);
 - c. Conference on “The Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation: experience of the decade, outcome and prospects” (19 February 2004, Moscow): Mr van der Brande (Belgium; EPP/CD);
 - *Meeting between members of the “UN High-Level Panel on global threats, challenges and Change” and a delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly (16 February 2004, Paris):* approved the list of members of the Assembly delegation proposed by the President of the Assembly;
 - *Bureau meeting at the end of part-sessions:* decided to hold this meeting before the last sitting of a part-session;
 - *Date and place of the next meetings:* decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Paris (Paris office), Monday 1st March 2004 at 3.00 pm
 - . Istanbul, Tuesday 6 April 2004 at 9.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 26 April 2004 at 8.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 30 April 2004, 8.30 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