

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No. 2004/64

25 May 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Paris on Monday 24 May 2004 at 3 pm, with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Chair, as regards:

- *Election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe*: interviewed the candidates - Mr Terry Davis, Ms Kristiina Ojuland and Mr Walter Schwimmer (by order of submission of candidatures by the Committee of Ministers);

- *3rd part of the 2004 Ordinary session (21-25 June 2004)*:

a. adopted the agenda and drew up the draft order of business;

b. following a proposal by the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, decided to invite Mr Jacques Diouf, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, to take part in the debate on the reports presented by this Committee on Friday 25 June 2004;

c. asked the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities to give an opinion regarding the procedure followed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the report on "European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS) (request for consultative status with the Council of Europe)" and decided not to include this report on the draft order of business of this part-session;

d. *Joint Committee (Thursday 24 June)*: agreed to discuss a draft agenda at its next meeting in the light of possible proposals from the Ministers' Deputies;

e. *Election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe*: authorised the presence of one observer for each political group at the ballot counting;

- *Libya*: took note that Mr Eörsi had to postpone his visit to Libya originally planned at the beginning of May 2004 and decided to come back to this matter at its next meeting;

- *Petitions*:

a. Human rights of linguistic minorities in the canton of Zurich: following an opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights concluding that the Assembly lacked a "legitimate interest in its areas of competence" in treating this petition, declared this petition inadmissible;

b. Effects of the non-ratification by Belgium of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the protection of national minorities: asked the Secretariat to verify whether an identical

petition has been already submitted to the Assembly and decided to come back to this matter at its next meeting;

- *Observation of elections*: approved the revised guidelines for the observation of elections;

- *European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments (17-19 May 2004)*:

a. approved the conclusions presented by the President of the Assembly;

b. agreed to consider at one of its next meetings concrete proposals for a follow-up to this Conference to be communicated to the Presidents of Parliaments before the end of the year;

- *Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2003*: took note of a communication prepared by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development;

- *Working breakfast between the Presidential Committee and the Bureau of the Committee of Ministers (13 May 2004)*: took note of the information by the President and agreed that if such a meeting was to be held in the future, it should take place in the formal framework of a mixed working party to be set up by the Bureau and the Committee of Ministers according to Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;

- *Meeting of the President of the Assembly and Presidents of Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia*: took note that the President would present proposals to the Bureau for a follow-up to this meeting during the June Part-Session;

- *Annual Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (25-27 May 2004)*: took note that the President of the Assembly would address the Congress on 25 May 2004 and agreed to invite its new President to address the Assembly at a forthcoming part-session;

- *Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Braun and others on the Law on local elections in Romania, (Doc. 10160)*: invited the Venice Commission to give an opinion on the conformity of the principles set by the Law with the basic Council of Europe legal instruments like the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Local Self-Government

- *References and transmissions to committees*: approved the following proposals:

a. References

1. **Doc. 10174 rev.**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Blankenborg and others

The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations, to the Political Affairs Committee, *for report*

2. **Doc. 10175**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Toshev and others

The establishment of a stability pact on the Caucasian region, to the Political Affairs Committee, *for report*

3. **Doc. 10176**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Olteanu and others
Harmonisation of the penal law in Europe – a civil imperative, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*
 4. **Doc. 10177**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Herczog and others
Use of national symbols with respect to others, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to be taken into account in the preparation of its report on “the concept of 'nation'”
 5. **Doc. 10178**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr McNamara and others
Legality of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*
 6. **Doc. 10180**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Holovaty and others
The principle of the rule of law, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for information*
 7. **Doc. 10181**
Motion for a recommendation by Mr Bindig and others
Annual Report on all procedures for the monitoring of compliance with commitments in the framework of the Council of Europe, postponed its decision
- b. request to extend references
1. **Doc. 9354, Ref. No 2739, Validity: 29 May 2004**
Motion for an order presented by Mr Jurgens and others
Political prisoners in Europe, extended until 29 May 2005
 2. **Doc. 9510, Ref. No 2755, validity: 3 September 2004**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Čilevics and others
Plight of the deported Meskhetian population, extended until 31 December 2004
- c. requests to modify references
1. **Doc. 10110 Ref. No 2948**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
The follow-up to Recommendation 1570 (2002) on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report* (originally transmitted to this Committee for information)
 2. **Doc. 10113 Ref. No 2950**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Goris and others
Protection of foreign investments in Moldova, to the the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*, in addition to the decision to send this text to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) to be taken into account in the preparation of its report on the honouring of commitments by Moldova

3. Doc. 10086 Ref. No 2934

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others

The case of Igor Sutiagin, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* (originally transmitted to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*)

d. follow-up after consultation:

1. Doc. 9602

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr van der Linden and others

Council of Europe activities, following the consultation of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities on the possible follow-up to this motion, decided to refer this text to this committee so that it can be taken into account in the preparation of its report on Greater transparency of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers” which has already been referred to it (Doc. 9297 Ref. No 2915 of 26 January 2004).

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris*: authorised the following meetings:
 - . Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, Tbilisi (Georgia), 20-21 September 2004;
 - . Sub-Committee on Migration (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population), Istanbul (Turkey), 30 September – 1 October 2004.
- *Visits of rapporteurs*: took note of the request by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to authorise Lord Russell-Johnston, Committee rapporteur on “the cultural situation of the Kurds” to visit Dohuk (Iraq) and considered that it was not possible to authorise the visit to Iraq given that the Council of Europe’s insurance does not cover missions to this country;
- *Meeting of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the neighbouring countries of Iraq convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Amman, Jordan, on 12 and 13 May 2004*: took note of the statement by the Speakers;
- *4th Meeting of the Presidents and Speakers of the Parliaments of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (Portoroz, 10 May 2004)*: took note of the final document;
- *Date and place of the next meetings*: agreed to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 21 June 2004 at 8.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 25 June 2004 at 8.30 am
 - . Oslo, Tuesday 7 September 2004 at 8.30 am.

Petr Sich/Alexandra Alleon

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