

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2004/76
21 June 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Monday 21 June 2004 at 8.30 am with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Chair, as regards:

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

a. Urgent debates:

. recommended that the Assembly hold an urgent debate on the “Situation in Iraq”, refer this matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion, agreed to invite Mr Zebari, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, to take part in this debate, and proposed that the debate take place on Thursday 24 June at 10 am;

. recommended that the Assembly does not hold an urgent debate on the “Political, humanitarian, human rights and security situation in the Chechen Republic”;

. recommended that the Assembly does not hold an urgent debate on “The Council of Europe on the eve of the third Summit: new challenges on the consolidating Europe”;

b. Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights (Luxembourg and Portugal):

. took note that the Sub-committee on the election of judges would interview the candidates for these two countries on Monday 21 June (Portugal at 2 pm and Luxembourg at 7.30 pm) and would draft a report containing its recommendations;

. agreed to carry out a written consultation of the Bureau members on this report with a view to its declassification and distribution to Assembly members;

c. updated the draft order of business and proposed the following:

Tuesday 22 June:

. at 12 noon: Communication from the Committee of Ministers to the Parliamentary Assembly presented by Mr Jan Petersen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers;

. at 3 pm: vote on the resolutions and the recommendation on “Honouring of obligations and commitments by Turkey” and the “Implementation of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights by Turkey”;

Wednesday 23 June:

. from 3 pm to 6 pm: election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Luxembourg and Portugal;

. last debate in the afternoon (point 4): report on “Europe-wide ban on corporal punishment of children” instead of Thursday 24 June;

. at 7 pm: end of the sitting;

Thursday 24 June:

. at 10 am: urgent debate on the “Situation in Iraq”;

. from 3 pm to 6 pm: possible 2nd round of the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Luxembourg and Portugal;

. in the afternoon: separate debates and votes on the reports on the “Monopolisation of the electronic media and possible abuse of power in Italy” (point 2) and on the “Italian law on legitimate suspicion” (point 3);

. at 6 pm: end of the sitting and meeting of the Joint Committee;

d. decided to limit the speaking time on Tuesday 22 June and during the proposed urgent debate on the situation in Iraq on Thursday 24 June to 4 minutes;

e. Joint Committee: agreed to include on the draft agenda of the Joint Committee the items on Monaco and on co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe;

f. election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe: took note of the appointment of one member of each political group to observe voting and counting and drew attention to the rules governing the replacement of members by substitutes for Assembly sittings;

- *Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Standing Committee (30 April – 21 June 2004)* (Rapporteur: Mr Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EDG): approved the progress report;

- *Cyprus - implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 1376 (2004) on Cyprus:*

a. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly on this issue;

b. took note of the letters sent to the President of the Assembly by Mr Christofias, Speaker of the Parliament of Cyprus, and Mr Nami, representative of the Turkish Cypriot community;

c. decided to postpone its decision on this matter until the Bureau meeting on Monday 4 October 2004;

Libya:

. took note of the information from Mr Eörsi on the latest developments concerning the situation of the Bulgarian medical staff and of his intention to visit Libya again;

. supported the proposal of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to ask member states to give all possible support in providing medical treatment to the Libyan children infected by the HIV virus;

- *Petition on the effects of the non-ratification by Belgium of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities:*

a. took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat noting that two similar petitions had already been declared admissible and referred to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for report;

b. concluded that these petitions were similar but not identical and decided to consult the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the appropriate follow-up to this petition;

- *Observation of elections - Presidential election in Ukraine (31 October 2004):*

a. decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe this election composed of 30 members (repartition among political groups according to d'Hondt system: SOC: 11; EPP/CD: 9; LDR:5; EDG:4; UEL:1);

b. decided that a pre-electoral mission composed of 5 members should take place at the latest one month before the election (composed of one member from each political group who are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee);

- *Composition of the Monitoring Committee:*

a. approved the following proposal by the Socialist group for a new member of this committee, subject to ratification by the Assembly: Ms Saks (Estonia, SOC) to replace Mr Yanez-Barnuevo (Spain, SOC);

b. took note that the EPP/CD Group and the LDR Group would each have one vacant seat on this Committee following the changes in the composition of the national delegations of Georgia and Spain;

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

. 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