

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2004/88
28 June 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on Friday 25 June 2004 at 8.30 am with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly in the Chair, as regards:

- *3rd part of the 2004 Ordinary session (21-25 June 2004) - follow-up to be given:*

a. Resolution 1379 (2004) on the composition of the Bureau of the Assembly:

. took note of the decision of the Assembly to add Chairpersons (or their representatives) of the Assembly's general committees to the Bureau members as from the moment of the adoption of this Resolution and to increase the number of Assembly Vice-Presidents from 19 to 20 as from the opening of the January 2005 part-session;

. agreed that Vice-Chairpersons could attend Bureau meetings in case the Chairpersons were not available and, also, that Committees could appoint a Vice-Chairperson or another Committee member as their representative to attend Bureau meetings on a permanent basis during the whole Assembly session provided that this were notified in writing to the President of the Assembly;

. agreed that these rules concerning attendance and representation at Bureau meetings would also apply to the Assembly Political Groups;

. agreed to come back to the possible harmonisation of the rules concerning attendance and representation at Standing Committee and Bureau meetings at one of its forthcoming meetings;

b. Monopolisation of the electronic media and possible abuse of power in Italy (Resolution 1387 (2004): took note of the President's reasons for declaring out of order an amendment tabled by Mr Gross and others concerning the initiation of the monitoring procedure and decided to refer this issue to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities for an opinion;

c. Resolution 1386 (2004) on the Council of Europe's contribution to the settlement of the situation in Iraq: asked the Political Affairs Committee to make concrete proposals to the Bureau as regards the implementation of paragraph 12, in which the Assembly offers its assistance and expertise in building democracy in Iraq;

d. Joint Committee – accession of Monaco: acknowledged that the Joint Committee had noted on Thursday 24 June that the requirement concerning the access of Monegasque citizens to senior governmental and public posts, contained in paragraph 15 of Opinion N° 250 (2004) on the Principality of Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe, had been fulfilled and that it was now up to the Committee of Ministers to take a decision on inviting Monaco to become member of the Council of Europe;

- *Meeting of the Standing Committee in Oslo (7 September 2004):*

- a. took note of the draft agenda of the Standing Committee;
 - b. decided to refer paragraph 7 of the draft resolution contained in “2003 Annual Progress Report of the Monitoring Committee” to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities for opinion on the conformity of this paragraph with the Rules of Procedure and for a possible report on this matter;
- *International Institute for Democracy:*
- a. held an exchange of views with Lord Russell-Johnston, Chairman of the Governing Board;
 - b. agreed to take a decision on a possible increase of the grant to the Institute for 2004 to the level of the last year’s contribution in the light of a report on the Institute’s accounts which should be prepared as soon as possible;
 - c. authorised the Assembly’s President to decide on this possible increase before the meeting of the Bureau on 7 September 2004, if he received the above-mentioned report with satisfactory conclusions before this meeting as well as a projection of the Institute’s expenditure until the end of the year;
- *Latvia:* took note of a memorandum adopted by the Monitoring Committee on the post-monitoring dialogue with Latvia;
- *Meeting of the President of the Assembly and the Presidents of Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Strasbourg, 17 May 2004):*
- a. took note of an information document on this meeting and of the preliminary conclusions presented by the Assembly President;
 - b. took note that, as a follow-up to this meeting, the Secretary General of the Assembly would visit Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on 30 June – 5 July 2004 with a view to discussing with the Parliaments of these countries possibilities of concrete assistance programmes and a possible regional dimension of an inter-parliamentary cooperation;
- *European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission):*
- a. approved a draft co-operation agreement between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Venice Commission;
 - b. agreed that this agreement would be signed during the October 2004 part-session of the Assembly and that, on this occasion, Mr La Pergola, President of the Venice Commission, would address the Assembly;
- References and transmissions to committees: approved the following proposals:
- a. References
 - 1. Doc. 10181
Motion for a recommendation presented 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, 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 annual Progress Report for 2004 or 2005.

2. Doc. 10194
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Meale and others
Protection of European deltas, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, *for report at the Standing Committee*.
 3. Doc. 10226
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Cliveti and others
Establishment of a European Adoption Agency/Monitoring Centre, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for report*
 4. Doc. 10227
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Frunda and others
Electoral rules and affirmative action for national minorities' participation in the decision-making in the European countries, to the Venice Commission for consultation
 5. Doc. 10229
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others
Procedure for the post-monitoring dialogue? to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, to be taken into account in the preparation of its ongoing report on "Terms of reference of Assembly committees".
- b. requests to modify references
1. Doc. 9971, Ref. No 2896
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Frey and others
Initiation of a monitoring procedure, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, *for report*, and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for opinion*.
 2. Doc. 10169, Ref. 2966
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lengagne and others
Student disaffection for scientific studies, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*.
- *Motion for a recommendation on the Holy See and respect for human rights presented by Mrs Hägg and others (Doc. 10193)*: took note of the President's decision that, in accordance with Rule 23.3, this motion was not in order;
 - *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris*: authorised the following meetings:
 - a. Sub-Committee on Violence against Women (of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men), Antwerp (Belgium), 18 October 2004;
 - b. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Geneva (Switzerland), 4-5 November 2004;
 - *Visits of rapporteurs*: authorised Mr Margelov, rapporteur on the Middle East of the Political Affairs Committee, to carry out a fact-finding visit to the region in September 2004;
 - *Immunity of Senator Iannuzzi, member of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly*: took note of the request by Senator Iannuzzi to defend his immunity and privileges and proposed to refer this matter to the Committee on the Rules Procedure and Immunities;

- *Invitation to hold meetings of the Standing Committee, of the Bureau and of the Joint Committee in Baku in 2005:* thanked the Azerbaijani authorities for this invitation and decided to come back to it at one of the forthcoming meetings;

- *Chechen Republic:*

a. Presidential election in the Chechen Republic on 29 August 2004: took note of the invitation to observe this election, recalled that the Assembly only observed elections at federal level and agreed that the rapporteurs of the Committees, which were currently preparing reports concerning the Chechen Republic, i.e. the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, could possibly visit the region in connection with this election in the framework of the preparation of their respective reports;

b. adopted a declaration condemning rebel attacks in the North Caucasus and appealing to stop further escalation of violence;

- *Meeting of women members of the Assembly during the October 2004 part-session:* agreed to the proposal of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to organise such a meeting on Tuesday 5 October 2004 at the end of the Assembly sitting;

- *Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly for the period between 25 June–4 October 2004:* appointed Mr Van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD) as rapporteur;

- *Composition of the Monitoring Committee:* approved the proposal by the EPP/CD Group to nominate Mr Matusic (Croatia) as member, subject to ratification by the Assembly;

- *New constitutional amendments in Ukraine:*

a. took note of the information by Mrs Severinsen, co-rapporteur of the Monitoring Committee on Ukraine, who considered that the procedure followed by the Ukrainian Parliament was unconstitutional;

b. took note that the Assembly President would address a letter to the President of the Ukrainian Parliament in this respect;

- *Date and place of the next meetings: agreed to hold the following meetings:*

. Oslo, Tuesday 7 September 2004 at 8.30 am.

. Strasbourg, 4 October 2004 at 8.30 am

. Strasbourg, 8 October 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