

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No 2005/31

21 March 2005

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 18 March 2005 in Paris with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Budget of the Assembly for 2006:*

a. following the proposal of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, proposed to the Assembly to hold the debate on the budgetary reports (on the budget of the Council of Europe as a whole and on that of the Assembly) in the Assembly after the Third Summit of the Council of Europe taking into account the Summit's decisions;

b. invited this Committee to consider the question of the Assembly's budget in the context of the Council of Europe's budget as a whole, taking into account the institutional balance, the statutory role of the Assembly within the Organisation and the cost effectiveness;

c. in this context, was informed by the President of the Assembly that the Secretary General of the Assembly has been asked by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to make, by 31 March 2005, a proposal for the Assembly's budget for 2006 foreseeing efficiency savings of 2% in comparison to 2005 budget;

d. declared that it was against any reduction in the Assembly's 2006 budget and instructed the Secretary General of the Assembly to inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe accordingly;

- *Timetable for the election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:*

a. was informed by Ambassador Landman about the Chairman's summing up following the discussion on "Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights – Procedure for election" at the 919th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies and held an exchange of views on this issue;

b. regretting that the Committee of Ministers was unable to respect the required deadline for the submission of candidates to the Assembly, proposed to the Assembly to hold this election during the October 2005 part-session;

c. asked the Committee of Ministers to open the procedure for election without further delay;

d. recalling that the current Commissioner, upon his election by the Assembly on 21 September 1999, was declared elected for a term of office which will last for six years from 1 January 2000, proposed to the Assembly that, in order to allow the newly elected Commissioner sufficient time to take up his/her functions, the term of office should start on 1 January 2006;

e. decided to ask the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to organise the interviews of candidates in September 2005;

- *Information:* took note of the information by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the Assembly;

- *Standing Committee (Paris, 18 March 2005 at 11 am):*

a. Request for an urgent debate:

. took note of the request by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to hold an urgent debate on the "Draft Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings", recommended to the Standing Committee to hold this urgent debate and refer this matter to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report;

b. took note of the updated draft agenda;

- *2nd part of the 2005 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 25-29 April 2005):*

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

b. proposed the following subjects for the Joint Committee to take place on Thursday 28 April at 6.30 pm.:

. Third Summit of the Council of Europe;

. Budget of the Council of Europe and of the Assembly for 2006;

. Timetable for the election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;

. Council of Europe draft Conventions under preparation (draft convention on action against trafficking in human beings and the draft convention on the prevention of terrorism);

- *Follow-up to the 1st Part of the 2005 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 24-28 January 2005):*

a. Addresses of Mr Viktor Yuschenko, President of Ukraine, Mr Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia and Mr Michel Barnier, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France:

. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and approved the proposals contained therein, in particular:

i. Address of President Yuschenko:

. welcomed the decision of the Presidential Committee to visit Kyiv, possibly at the beginning of July 2005;

. decided, in principle, to set up a broadly based ad hoc committee to observe the parliamentary elections in Ukraine in March 2006;

. invited the Assembly's committees to organise conferences and seminars, within their areas of competence and within the limits of the available budgetary resources, on the priority matters indicated by President Yuschenko in his address;

. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to examine the possibility of organising training seminars in the framework of the parliamentary co-operation programme;

ii. Address of President Saakashvili:

. took note of the intention of the President of the Assembly to meet with the heads of the Russian and Georgian parliamentary delegations during the April 2005 part-session in order to help strengthen the bilateral parliamentary dialogue;

. invited the Political Affairs Committee to consider organising a round table with the Georgian authorities and other parties concerned to discuss President's Saakashvili peace initiative announced in Strasbourg;

iii. Address of Mr Barnier, Foreign Minister of France:

. took note of the action being taken by the President of the Assembly with a view to strengthening relations with the European Union;

. agreed to invite Mr Barroso, President of the European Commission, as well as other members of the European Commission, to address the Assembly;

- asked the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities to make a proposal for the inclusion in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure of a new rule on the cooperation with the European Parliament;

- invited the Political Affairs Committee to consider organising a colloquy on the Council of Europe's contribution to the European Union's new neighbourhood policy in the framework of the preparation of the report on the external relations of the Council of Europe;

b. Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference:

. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of paragraph 5 of this Resolution;

. established an Ad Hoc Committee on the implementation of the paragraph 5 of this Resolution as specified in the memorandum;

. decided to come back to this matter at its next meeting with a view to approving the composition of this Ad Hoc Committee and appointing its Chairperson;

c. Resolution 1420 (2005) on prospects for peace in the Middle East:

. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly on the implementation of paragraph 12 and 13 of this Resolution;

. invited the Assembly committees, except the Monitoring Committee, to consider the possibility of organising in their respective fields of action activities on issues of specific interest to representatives of the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council;

. invited the Political Affairs Committee to submit to it a proposal on the composition, programme and working methods of a tripartite forum under the aegis of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East involving an equal number of representatives from the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council;

. noted that the President of the Palestinian Authority has been invited to address the Assembly's April 2005 part-session;

. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to consider, in close co-operation with his Palestinian counterpart, the possibility of organising training seminars for parliamentarians and staff members from the Palestinian Legislative Council;

- *European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments in 2006:*

a. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;

b. noted that, as a result of the consultations between the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretaries General of the parliaments of the countries from which formal invitations had been received, it was announced already by Mr Schieder, former President of the Assembly, that the next Conference of Presidents of Parliaments will be held in Tallinn from 30 to 31 May 2006;

c. welcomed the invitation from the Speaker of the Parliament of Finland to the participants at this Speaker's Conference to take part in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first parliamentary session of the Finnish parliament, which will take place on 1st June 2006 in Helsinki;

d. agreed to the topic proposed by the President for this Conference, i.e. "Bridge-building through Parliamentary Diplomacy" and asked the President to transmit this proposal to the President of the Parliament of Estonia for consideration;

- *Dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein:*

- a. following a decision of the Monitoring Committee, appointed Mr Glesener member of the Ad Hoc Committee for the dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein in replacement of Mr Van den Brande;
- b. appointed Mr Glesener Chairman of this Ad Hoc Committee;
- c. asked the President of the Assembly to write to the newly elected Speaker of the Parliament of Liechtenstein with a view to agreeing, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau, on the exact date for the start of this dialogue;

- *Observation of elections:*

- a. Parliamentary elections in Moldova (6 March 2005): approved and declassified the report of the Ad Hoc Committee which observed the election;
- b. Opinions of the Venice Commission following election observation by the Parliamentary Assembly: took note of the exchange of letters between Mr Jurgens, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, and the President of the Assembly, and stated that in conformity with the cooperation agreement between the Assembly and the Venice Commission, the Bureau can ask the Venice Commission for opinions on specific problems concerning the election legislation which were highlighted by the Assembly election observation mission;
- c. Questionnaire for Assembly election observation missions: took note of the exchange of letters between Mr Jurgens, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, and the President of the Assembly and agreed to consider this matter in the wider context of the guidelines for election observation, which should be revised and presented to the Bureau at a next meeting;

- *Conference dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition in World War II (St. Petersburg, 15 April 2005):*

- a. approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee to participate in this Conference;
- b. took note of the draft programme of the conference and agreed to propose that Mr Ates chair Panel 1, Mr Iwinski co-chair Panel 2 and Mr Van den Brande co-chair Panel 3;
- c. approved the amended version of the draft declaration to be transmitted by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to the Secretary General of the CIS IPA;
- d. authorized the President of the Assembly to finalise the draft declaration with the President of the CIS IPA without making any substantial modifications to the text approved by the Bureau;

- *Timetable for the election of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:* took note of the memorandum by the Secretary General of the Assembly and approved the proposed timetable to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers;

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):*

- a. examined the list of candidates to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers in respect of Albania;
- b. following the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, drew up the list of candidates in the following order: 1. Mrs Mandra 2. Mr Braka 3. Mr Selmany;

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

a. references:

1. Doc. 10436

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Severin and others

The Council of Europe and the promotion of democracy, to Political Affairs Committee, *for report on the external relations of the Council of Europe*

2. Doc. 10441

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others

The situation of the inhabitants of the Sovereign British Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekilia, to Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report at the Standing Committee*

3. Doc. 10443

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Goerens and others

Implications for Europe of the economic rise of China, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, *for report*

4. Doc. 10448

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wilkinson and others

The creation of transit centres outside the European Union, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for opinion*

5. Doc. 10459

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gubert and others

Responsible foodstuffs consumption, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, *for information*

6. **Doc. 10460**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lengagne and others

50th Anniversary of the Europe Prize – Stocktaking and outlook, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, *for report at the Standing Committee*

7. **Doc. 10464**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Pericleous-Papadopoulos and others

The need to reconcile work and family life, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for report*

8. **Doc. 10466**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Cliveti and others

The international day of equal opportunities for women and men, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for information*

9. **Doc. 10468**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Toshev and others

European year of citizenship through education and its follow-up, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, *for information*

10. **Doc. 10469**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bindig and others

Establishment of a European remembrance centre for victims of forced population movements and ethnic cleansing, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for report on establishment of a European remembrance centre for victims of forced population movements;*

11. **Doc. 10471**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others

Improving CPT selection procedures, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*, and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for opinion*

12. Doc. 10473

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bruce and others

Follow-up to Resolution 1359 (2004) on political prisoners in Azerbaijan, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*

b. modification of references:

1. Doc. 9712

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cekuolis and others

Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states

Ref. 2814 of 31 March 2003 – Validity: 31 March 2005, extended until 30 April 2005.

2. Doc. 9700

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Goulet and others

Reducing sea pollution

Ref. 2804 of 31 March 2003 – Validity: 31 March 2005, extended until 31 May 2005.

c. **Others:**

1. Draft motion for a resolution presented by Mr Christodoulides and others Holding plenary debates on the annual report of the European Court of Human Rights:

took note that the President, following consultation of the Bureau, considered this motion out of order and invited its authors to reformulate it;

2. Doc. 10444

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others

Evaluating the role of the Council of Europe during the presidential elections in Ukraine, transmitted this motion to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for report to the Bureau of the Assembly*

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*

a. authorised the following meetings:

. Sub-Committee on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee), St.Petersburg (Federation of Russia), 14 April 2005;

- . Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, Budapest (Hungary) 20 May 2005;
- . Sub-Committee on Migration (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population), Rome (Italy), 23-24 May 2005;
- . Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, Santiago de Compostela (Spain), 1-2 July 2005;
- b. Sub-Committee on Refugees (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population), Baku (Azerbaijan), 1 July 2005: postponed its decision until 2005 April part-session;
- *Visits of rapporteurs*: following a request by the Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee, authorised a fact-finding visit of Mr Margelov, rapporteur on the Middle East, to Israel, Jordan and Syria in April 2005;
- *50th anniversary of the Europe Prize (2005)*: following a request by the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs; decided to include the ceremony of the 50th anniversary of the Europe Prize on the draft order of business of the 2005 June-part session;
- *Composition of the Ad Hoc Committee to participate in the conference on "Public even to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" organised by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 21 March 2005)*: approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee;
- *Reports of Assembly representatives for official activities*:
 - a. Fourth Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (Napflion, Greece, 6 and 8 February 2005): took note of a written report by Mr Azzolini;
 - b. 4th Fourth annual winter meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (Vienna, 24-25 February 2005): took note of a written report by Mr Gardetto;
- *Date and place of the next meetings*: decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 25 April 2005 at 8.30 am
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 29 April 2005 at 8.30 am.

Petr Sich/Alexandra Alléon

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- 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