

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No 2006/01

10 January 2006

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 9 January 2006 in Paris with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***1st Part of the 2006 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23-27 January 2006):***

i. Requests for debates under urgent procedure:

a. *Current situation in Belarus:*

. recommended to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure; proposed to change the title to "Situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential election"; and recommended to refer it to the Political Affairs Committee for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights as well as the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for opinion;

. decided to invite representatives of the opposition and the authorities of Belarus to take part in this debate;

b. *Alleged secret detentions in Council of Europe member States:*

. recommended to the Assembly not to hold this debate under urgent procedure but as a current affairs debate being understood that a report on this matter will be presented at a future part-session;

. asked Mr Marty, rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to open the debate;

. decided to invite representatives of the US Congress and of the European Parliament, Mrs Rice, US Secretary of State, and Mr Frattini, EU Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security to take part in this debate;

c. *Freedom of the media in Russia:* recommended to the Assembly not to hold this debate under urgent procedure and proposed to refer the matter to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report;

d. *Riots in European cities: lessons and Council of Europe response:* recommended to the Assembly not to hold this debate under urgent procedure and proposed to refer the matter to the Committee on Social Health and Family Affairs for report and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for opinion;

e. took note of the information by Mr Eörsi that a request concerning the “use of energy supplies as a political tool” is under preparation;

ii. up-dated the draft order of business;

iii. took note that the President would hold a meeting with the Chairpersons of the parliamentary national delegations on Tuesday 24 January from 6 pm to 7.30 pm;

- ***Post-monitoring dialogue with Slovakia and Latvia:***

i. took note and declassify the memoranda approved by the Monitoring Committee;

ii. with regard to Slovakia: decided to recommend to the Assembly to conclude the post-monitoring dialogue and to append the memorandum to the Progress Report of the Bureau;

iii. with regard to Latvia:

a. asked the President to write a letter to the Chairman of the parliamentary delegation of Latvia asking him to inform the Bureau, before the June part-session 2006 at the latest, about actions to be taken by the Latvian authorities on the specific recommendations contained in paragraphs 54 to 57 of the memorandum;

b. agreed to come back to this matter in the light of this reply;

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

1. **Doc. 10536**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Torosyan and others

Imvros and Tenedos, resume consideration of this motion on 23 January 2006 on the basis of a proposal by the Chairpersons of the Greek and the Turkish parliamentary delegations;

2. **Doc. 10538**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Petrova-Mitevaska and others

The provisional name of the Republic of Macedonia in the Council of Europe, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* taking into account the ongoing negotiations on the issue in the United Nations;

3. **Doc. 10596**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Margelov and others

Political and statutory role of the Parliamentary Assembly within the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities to take it into account in the preparation of the report on " The institutional balance at the Council of Europe";

4. **Doc. 10768**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Kosachev and others

Implementation of the decisions of the Third Summit of the Council of Europe, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*;

5. **Doc. 10769**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Meale and others

Protection of the environment in the Arctic region, postponed to end of January 2006;

6. **Doc. 10773**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Marquet and others
Child and teenage suicide in Europe: a serious public health issue, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*;
 7. **Doc. 10775**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Rigoni and others
Palliative care, postponed to end of January 2006
 8. **Doc. 10781**
Letter from Mrs Bargholtz and Mr Lindblad
Freedom of the media in Russia, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*
 9. **Doc. 10782**
Letter from Mr Mercan
Riots in European Cities: lessons and Council of Europe response, to the Committee on Social Health and Family Affairs *for report* and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for opinion*
 10. **Doc. 10783**
Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities (Rule 65.2 of the Rules of Procedure)
Procedure for decisions by committees relating to candidates eligible for election by the Assembly, to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for report*
- ***Priorities for the work of the committees for 2006:***
- i. took note of the committee's replies to the President's letter of 13 October 2005 and of the preliminary analysis of the replies by the President;
 - ii. asked the Secretariat to prepare a detailed analysis of these replies and decided to come back to this matter at its meeting on 27 January 2006;
- ***Elections:***
- i. Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (6 November 2005)
 - a. took note of the letters from the President to the President of Azerbaijan and the Speaker of the Parliament;
 - b. took note of the letter from the Speaker of the Parliament concerning the new composition of the delegation of Azerbaijan to the Assembly;
 - c. took note of the letter from the Deputy Chairman and executive secretary of the New Azerbaijan Party transmitting a declaration of 724 candidates taking part in the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan;
 - d. was informed by Mr Gross that the members of the delegation which carried-out the post-election visit in Azerbaijan last December, were in favour of challenging the credentials of the delegation of Azerbaijan;

- ii. Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (25 January 2006)
 - a. Pre-electoral mission:
 - . agreed with the proposal of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee suggesting that instead of a pre-electoral mission, the ad hoc committee could start its work a day earlier to allow for a more in depth fact-finding and briefing period before the elections;
 - . decided that the observation mission will take place from 21 to 26 January 2006;
 - b. approved the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee;
- iii. Presidential election in Belarus (19 March 2006):
 - a. took note that the presidential election in Belarus will take place on 19 March 2006;
 - b. took note of the letter from Mr Lebedko, Chairman of the United civil party, Mr Vecherko, Chairman of the BFP Party, and Mr Kaljakin, First Secretary of the Central Committee of PKB of Belarus, asking the President to address the Venice Commission with the request to give an opinion about the illegality (or legality) of Mr Lukashenko's participation in the next presidential election;
 - c. was informed by the President about his proposal to hold a conference in Prague, possibly in February 2006;
- **Budgetary questions:**
 - i. Budget of the Assembly for 2006: took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat;
 - ii. Proposal for the apportionment of the allocation to the political groups for 2006: took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat and approved the apportionment of the allocation to the political groups for 2006;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** approved the following proposals:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Violence against Women of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men: Stockholm (Sweden), 30 March 2006;
 - ii. Committee on Economic Affairs and Development: Moscow and Irkutsk (Russian Federation), 22-24 May 2006;
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:**
 - i. Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:
 - a. Unite against racism conference organised by the UEFA, Barcelona, 1 February 2006: Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC);
 - b. Parliamentary meeting organised by the European Parliament on « national parliaments on the way to Lisbon », Brussels, 31 January-1 February 2006: Mr Kirilov (Bulgaria, SOC);

- ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation at official activities:
 - a. took note of the following reports:
 - . report by Mr Dick Dees, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Health on his participation in the Second Arab Parliamentary Symposium on Disability Legislation in Beirut on 1-2 December 2005;
 - . report by Mr Sasi on his participation in the meeting of the Executive Council of Europe's North-South Centre in Lisbon on 20 November 2005;
 - b. decided to transmit these reports to the competent committees for a follow-up;
 - **Standing Committee (Paris, 17 March 2006):** agreed to hold an exchange of views with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Junker;
 - **Mr Junker's report on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union:** took note of the reply of Mr Alexander, UK Minister for Europe, and agreed that the President should ask the Chairman-in-office of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to transmit to the Assembly the draft memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union prepared by the UK Foreign Office;
 - **Alleged secret detentions in Council of Europe member States:** on the President's proposals, invited the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to organise a hearing on this matter with those who can provide useful information (in particular NGO's representatives, journalists, witnesses...) during the January part-session 2006 and to inform the Bureau on its action;
 - **Hearing on the cultural situation of the Kurds in Iran, Iraq, Syria and the diaspora (18 January 2006):** was informed by the Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education that the three persons proposed by the Chairman of the Turkish delegation will be invited in the hearing;
 - **Communications:** took note of the communications of the President, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 23 January 2006 at 8.30 am;
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 27 January 2006 at 8.30 am;
 - . Paris, Thursday 16 March 2006 at 3 pm.

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
 - Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe