

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No 2006/17

30 January 2006

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 27 January 2006 in Strasbourg with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

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

i. *Resolution 1478 (2006) on "Integration of immigrant women in Europe"*: asked the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to present proposals to the Bureau for the follow-up to be given to paragraph 9 of this Resolution;

ii. *Recommendation 1734 (2006) on the "Situation in Belarus on the eve of the presidential election"*: in conformity with paragraph 19 of this Recommendation:

a. set-up an ad hoc Committee to take part in the Conference on Belarus to be co-organised by the Assembly and the Czech Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Prague on 22-23 February 2006 composed of the members of the Sub-committee on Belarus of the Political Affairs Committee as well as three members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and three members of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education;

b. took note of the draft programme of this Conference;

- ***Standing Committee (Paris, 17 March 2006)***: took note of the draft agenda;

- ***Priorities of the Assembly for 2006***: asked the Chairpersons of the political groups and the Chairpersons of the committees to discuss this matter on the basis of the memoranda prepared by the Secretariat with a view to taking a decision on this at its next meeting;

- References and transmissions to committees: approved the following proposals, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

1. Doc. 10536

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Torosyan and others

Invros and Tenedos, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;

2. **Doc. 10799**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Periclous Papadopoulos and others
The need to enhance European air safety, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for information;
 3. **Doc. 10800**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Cliveti and others
In favour of a Parliamentary Assembly “Equality Prize”, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report at the Standing Committee;
 4. **Doc. 10801**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Hägg and others
Sexuality education, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for information;
 5. **Doc. 10802**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Hägg and others
Abortion and its impact on women and girls in Europe, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs for opinion;
 6. **Doc. 10803**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Hägg and others
The spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic to women and girls in Europe, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for opinion;
 7. **Doc. 10808**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Olin and others
Sports and the integration of migrants, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for information;
 8. **Doc. 10809**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others
The activities of the International Organisation for Migration, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for report at the Standing Committee and to the Political Affairs Committee for opinion;
 9. **Doc. 10810**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Zapfl-Helbing and others
Securing Employment for Europe’s Youth: A Must for Our Common Future, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for information;
 10. **Doc. 10812**
Motion for a recommendation by Mr Randegger and others
The Precautionary Principle, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report;
- ***Application to initiate a monitoring procedure concerning the monopolisation of the electronic media and the possible abuse of power in Italy***: decided to postpone the consideration of the motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wodarg and others until after the parliamentary elections in Italy and took note that the Sub-Committee on the Media of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education in close co-operation with the Italian parliamentary delegation might organise a visit to Italy;

- **Observation of elections:**

i. Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (26 March 2006):

a. approved the composition of the ad hoc Committee which will observe these elections and appointed Mrs Wohwend (EPP/CD) as Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee;

b. decided to increase the number of members of the Ad hoc committee to 50 according to the D'Hondt system;

c. authorised a pre-election mission composed of five members, one from each political group, who are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee;

ii. Partial re-run of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaidjan (13 May 2006):

a. took note that the Ad Hoc Committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan was re-constituted during the part-session after a written consultation of the Bureau members and re-appointed Mr Platvoet (UEL) as Chairperson;

b. authorised a pre-election mission composed of five members, one from each political group, who are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee;

iii. Referendum in the Republic of Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro) (spring 2006): agreed to observe this referendum subject to a formal invitation;

- **Ad Hoc Committee on the implementation of paragraph 5 of Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference:** decided to postpone consideration of this matter to its next meeting;

- **Re-constitution of ad hoc Committees of the Bureau:**

i. Ad Hoc Committee of Chairpersons of Political Groups (Presidential Committee): re-constituted this Ad Hoc Committee;

ii. Ad Hoc Committee on the dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein: took note that the Ad Hoc Committee was re-constituted during the part-session after a written consultation of the Bureau members;

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

i. drew up the lists of candidates in respect of Estonia and Ireland in the following order of preference:

. With regard to Estonia:

- Mr Andres LEHMETS
- Mr Arno ADAMSOO
- Mrs Eve LIBLIK

. With regard to Ireland:

- Mr Tim DALTON
- Mr Michael J. MELLETT
- Mrs Valerie BRESNIHAN

- ii. With regard to France and Ukraine: decided to ask each parliamentary delegation to submit a new list of candidates including candidates of both genders;
 - iii. With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina: decided to ask the parliamentary delegation to submit a new list of candidates as none of the candidates fulfils the minimum requirements;
- ***Relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union***: endorsed the position paper prepared by the President on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union (contribution to the report by Mr Juncker);
 - ***Conference on European parliamentarism: History and the Present (held on the occasion of the centenary of the establishment of the Russian State Duma) (Saint Petersburg, 28 April 2006)***:
- i. authorised the Sub-Committee on external relations of the Political Affairs Committee to represent the Assembly at this conference;
 - ii. was informed that the President would send a joint invitation letter with Mr Mironov, President of the inter-parliamentary Assembly of the CIS;
- ***PACE 2005 Chairmanship of the Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe***: decided to postpone the consideration of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly on this matter;
 - ***Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2006***: appointed the following representatives for 2006 on the proposals of the President and the competent committees:
 - . European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission: Mr Schieder (SOC) and Mr Jurgens (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);
 - . Council on Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission): Mr Gross (SOC, Monitoring Committee), Mr Van den Brande (EPP/CD, Monitoring Committee) and Mrs Durrieu (SOC, Political Affairs Committee), and as substitutes: Ms Batet (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights); Ms Severinsen (ALDE, Political Affairs Committee) and Mr Zingeris (EDG, Monitoring Committee);
 - . European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre: Mr Schieder (SOC, Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and Mr Sasi (EPP/CD, Committee on Economic Affairs and Development);
 - . European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – ECRI: Mrs de Zulueta (SOC, Political Affairs Committee) and Mr Zingeris (EDG, Committee on Culture, Science and Education);
 - . Group of States against Corruption – GRECO: Mr. Bartumeu Cassany (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);
 - . European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice - CEPEJ: the President of the Assembly;
 - . Council of Europe Committee for Works of Art: Mr Legendre (EPP/CD, Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and Mr O'Hara (SOC, Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education);
 - . Pan-European Federation for Heritage – Europa Nostra: Mr Zingeris (EDG, Committee on Culture, Science and Education);

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:**

- i. approved new members as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Abbasov (Azerbaijan, SOC); Mr Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD); Mr Daubler-Gmelin (Germany, SOC), Mr Foss (Norway, EPP/CD); Mr Gacek (Poland, EPP/CD);
- ii. invited the political groups to take into account regional balance when proposing representatives for the Monitoring Committee;

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:

- . Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations (of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development): Geneva, 14 March 2006;
- . Sub-Committee on Health (of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee): Brussels, 7 March 2006;
- . Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee: Stockholm, 18 – 19 May 2006;
- . Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population: Brussels, 20 – 21 March 2006;
- . Ad hoc Sub-Committee (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population): Brussels, 23 March 2006;
- . Ad hoc Sub-Committee (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs): Mexico, 16-22 March 2006, on the occasion of the Fourth World Water Forum;

- **Assembly representatives for official activities:**

- i. Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities: in reply to formal invitations, took the following decisions:
 - a. Conference launching the “Adriatic Euroregion” initiative, Venice, 6 February 2006: Mr Guber (Italy, EPP/CD) and Mr Crema (Italy, SOC);
 - b. Seminar “Developing a protective framework for children: the role of Parliaments”, Hanoi, 15-17 February 2006: asked the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee to appoint a representative (no cost to the Assembly);
 - c. Unidem seminar, Bucharest, 17-18 February 2006: Lord Russell-Johnston (United Kingdom, ALDE);
 - d. High level experts forum “Montenegro in the 21st Century”, Sveti Stefan, 19-21 February 2006: Mr Budin (Italy, SOC);
 - e. Hearing on “Promoting Stability and Democratisation in our Neighbourhood: What Role for the EU in the South Caucasus”, Brussels, 22 February 2006: Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE) and Mr Severin (Romania, SOC);
 - f. General meeting of the National Associations of Local Authorities of CoE member states, Strasbourg, 23-24 February 2006: Mr Dorić (Croatia, ALDE);
 - g. Congress “North South Mediterranean Dialogue: A shared vision of the future”, Algiers, 24-26 February 2006: Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD);

- h. Gender Equality: Making a Difference through Parliament, New York, 1 March 2006, asked the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to appoint a representative;
- i. Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of SEECP member states, Athens, 16-18 March 2006: a member of the Greek delegation (no cost to the Assembly);
- j. 18th Anniversary of the Crans Montana Forum, Zagreb, 5-7 April 2006 and Monaco, 22-25 June 2006: Mr Mimica (Croatia, SOC);
- k. 4th Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member states (PUIC), Istanbul, 12-13 April 2006: a member of the Turkish delegation (no cost to the Assembly);
- l. 4th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting, Helsinki, 4-5 May 2006: a member of the Finnish delegation (no cost to the Assembly);
- m. NATO Spring Session, Paris, 26-30 May 2006: Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, ALDE);
- ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation at official activities: took note of the following reports and decided to transmit these reports to the competent committees for follow-up;
 - . report by Ms Papadimitriou, Conference: "Water Management: A Shared Responsibility", Strasbourg, 20-21 October 2005 (to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs);
 - . report by Lord Russell-Johnston, Conference on the Declaration of principles for international election observation and the Code of Conduct for International election observers, New York, 27 October 2005 (to the Political Affairs Committee);
 - . report by Mr Flynn, Commonwealth of Independent States conference on Problems of International Cooperation in combating drugs, St. Petersburg, 10 November 2005 (to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee);
 - . report by Mr Sasi, Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Hong Kong, 12-15 December 2005 (to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development);
- **Co-operation agreement with the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan:** heard an oral statement by Mr Kuanysh Sultanov, Head of the Committee on social-cultural Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who presented the annual report on the progress achieved in the promotion of the principles stated in the co-operation agreement with the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- **Granting of the title of "Honorary Secretary General of the Assembly":** awarded the title of "Honorary Secretary General of the Assembly" to Mr Bruno Haller;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold the following meeting:
 - . Paris, Thursday 16 March 2006 at 4 pm (instead of 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