

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

20 March 2006

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 16 March 2006 in Paris with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Cooperation agreement with the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan:** heard a statement by Mr Kopeyev, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and held an exchange of views on its basis;

- **Standing Committee (Paris, 17 March 2006):**

i. Request for a current affairs debate submitted by Mr Legendre and others: recommended to the Standing Committee to hold a current affairs debate on “*Freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs*” and chose Mr Legendre (France, EPP/CD) to open the debate;

ii. took note of the updated draft agenda;

- **2nd Part of the 2006 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 10-13 April 2006):**

i. Request for a debate under urgent procedure:

. “*Stop trafficking in women before the FIFA World Cup*”: recommended, in principle, to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure, subject to confirmation at the Bureau’s meeting on 10 April 2006; proposed to refer the matter to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report; and agreed to invite Mr Frattini, EU Commissioner on “Justice, Freedom and Security “ as well as Mr Blatter, President of FIFA, to participate in the debate;

ii. Draft agenda:

a. decided to include in the draft agenda the reports of the Political Affairs Committee on “*Follow-up to the Third Summit: Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union*” and of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on “*Follow-up to the Third Summit: the Council of Europe and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union*”;

b. adopted the draft agenda;

- iii. Draft order of business:
 - a. decided to propose to the Assembly to hold a joint debate on “*Follow-up to the Third Summit: Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union*” and on “*Follow-up to the Third Summit: the Council of Europe and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union*” and agreed to invite the President in office of the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and possibly other personalities to take part in it;
 - b. drew up the draft order of business;
- iv. Joint Committee (Wednesday 12 April 2006 at 6.30 pm): agreed to include the following topics on the draft agenda:
 - a. Relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union;
 - b. Co-operation between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly in the implementation of the Juncker report;
 - c. Council of Europe budgetary prospects for 2007;
 - d. Relations with Belarus;
 - **Priorities of the Assembly for 2006:** asked the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated document for the next Bureau meeting to permit it to take a decision on the matter;
 - **Budget of the Council of Europe for 2007:**
 - i. heard a statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - ii. held an exchange of views on this matter;
 - iii. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare, in consultation with Mr Wille, Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for this issue, concrete proposals concerning the expenditure of the Assembly in 2007, to be considered at its next meeting;
 - **Communications:** heard communications by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe as well by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - **References and transmissions to committees:** see appendix 1;
 - **Observation of elections:**
 - i. *Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (25 January 2006):* approved the report of the ad hoc Committee which had observed these elections;
 - ii. *Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (26 March 2006):* took note of the memorandum prepared by Mrs Wohlwend, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee, on the pre-election mission to Ukraine carried out from 28 February to 2 March 2006;
 - iii. *Partial re-run of parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (13 May 2006):* took note of a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan stating that the partial re-run of parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan would take place on 13 May 2006 and inviting the Council of Europe to observe these elections;

- ***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:*** agreed with the proposals contained in the report of the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee;
- ***Conference on Belarus (Prague, 22-23 February 2006):***
 - i. took note of the programme, list of participants and joint statement of the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic;
 - ii. took note of a press release by the President entitled: "Stop intimidation of the Belarus opposition";
- ***Conference on European parliamentarism: History and the Present (on the occasion of the centenary of the establishment of the Russian State Duma) (Saint Petersburg, 28 April 2006):*** took note of the draft programme of the conference, co-organised with the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS;
- ***Parliamentary Troika on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe: Review of the Assembly Chairmanship in 2005:*** took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- ***Composition of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein:*** took note of changes in the composition of the ad hoc Committee and was informed by the latter's Chairman that it had adopted conclusions which would be transmitted to the Bureau for a future meeting;
- ***Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*** authorised the following meetings:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs): Constanta, 30 March 2006;
 - ii. Ad Hoc Sub-Committee (of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee): Monaco, 4-5 April 2006;
 - iii. Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against terrorism and Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights): The Hague, 27-28 April 2006;
 - iv. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism and Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities: Budapest, 17-18 May 2006;
 - v. Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe: Budapest, 19 May 2006;
 - vi. Sub-Committee on Refugees (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population): Lisbon, 18-19 May 2006;
 - vii. Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations (of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development): Riga, 15-17 June 2006;
- ***Assembly representatives for official activities:*** see appendix 2;

- **Progress report of the Bureau and of the Standing Committee covering the period from 27 January to 10 April 2006:** appointed Mr Ivanovski ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC) as rapporteur;
- **Revision of the Aide Memoire concerning the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses of the members of the Parliamentary Assembly at the charge of the Council of Europe budgets:** approved the revision of this document;
- **Letter from Mr Andris Berzins, Chairman of the Latvian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly:** took note of the letter from Mr Berzins concerning the post-monitoring dialogue with Latvia and agreed to take it up formally at its next meeting;
- **Visit by rapporteur:** authorised a fact-finding visit by Mr Iwinski to Kazakhstan in May/June 2006 in his capacity as rapporteur on the situation in that country;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 10 April 2006 at 8.30 am;
 - . Strasbourg, Thursday 13 April 2006 at the end of the part-session.

Kjell Torbiörn/Alexandra Alléon

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

Decisions on documents tabled for reference to committees

Appendix 1

- A. **DOCUMENTS TABLED FOR REFERENCE SINCE TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2006 AT 12 NOON**
1. **Doc. 10815**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Evin and others
Strengthening of the co-operation between Council of Europe member states to prevent and tackle health risks linked to the development of pandemics, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report at the Standing Committee*.
 2. **Doc. 10816**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Sasi and others
The need to conclude the WTO Doha Development Agenda in 2006, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *to be taken into account* in the annual report on the OECD.
 3. **Doc. 10822 rev. English only**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Platvoet and others
Relations between the State, Religion and Individuals, to consult the Committee of Culture, Science and Education on a possible follow-up.
 4. **Doc. 10823**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Veenendaal and others
Energy savings as a way out of Europe's energy crisis, to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the report on "Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure"*.
 5. **Doc. 10824**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs de Zulueta and others
Europe's response to humanitarian disasters, to consult the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population on a possible follow-up
 6. **Doc. 10826**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Severin and others
The code for good practices of the political parties, to consult the Political Affairs Committee on a possible follow-up.
 7. **Doc. 10827**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bockel and others
Transfrontier co-operation, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*.
 8. **Doc. 10828**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Ilicali and others
Transport policies in Europe, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*.
 9. **Doc. 10829**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Dendas and others
Situation of longstanding refugees and displaced persons in South East Europe, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report at the Standing Committee*.

10. **Doc. 10830**
Motion for a resolution present by Mr Eörsi and others
Conflict of Interests, to consult the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities on a possible follow-up.
11. **Doc. 10831**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Högmark and others
Overcoming remaining obstacles to Economic Development in South-eastern Europe, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*.
12. **Doc. 10832**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others
Freedom of assembly and expression for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons in members states, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account* in the report on “Legal recognition of same sex partnerships in Europe” .
13. **Doc. 10839**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hancock and others
With respect to the “Pasat case”, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *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*.

B. MOTIONS POSTPONED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE BUREAU

1. **Doc. 10573**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr McNamara and others
Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights by the Parliamentary Assembly, to the Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on the “Council of Europe Commissioner of Human Rights – stock-taking and perspective”, and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for information*.
2. **Doc. 10603**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Beržins and others
Voting in the Parliamentary Assembly must be made in the spirit of openness, transparency and accountability, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for report at the Standing Committee*.
3. **Doc. 10634**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others
Improving the participation of parliamentarians in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities for report to be debated together with the report on “The Institutional Balance at the Council of Europe”.
4. **Doc. 10635**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Walter and others
Access to satellite broadcasting platforms, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*.
5. **Doc. 10667**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Legendre and others
Promoting the teaching of European literature, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for a report on* “Increasing awareness of cultural heritage as part of European identity”.

6. **Doc. 10669**
Motion for a resolution presented by Ms Wurm and others
Police handling of complaints filed by women, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *to be taken into account* in the preparation of the report on the "Parliamentary Campaign to combat domestic violence against women".
7. **Doc. 10697**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Schmied and others
Preserving the environment by energy savings within the public sector and the Council of Europe, to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the report on "Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure"*.
8. **Doc. 10716**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wodarg and others
Embryonic, Foetal and Post-natal Animal-Human Mixtures, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "the precautionary principle"*.
9. **Doc. 10719**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others
Migration and mobility in the Eurasian Region – Prospects for the Future, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *to be taken into account* in the follow-up to the first Eurasian Forum on Migration.
10. **Doc. 10725**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Padilla and others
Method for the amendment of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, no further action.
11. **Doc. 10747**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Preda and others
Establishment of a European Institute for Early Warning, Management and Studies of Natural Calamities Crises, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*.
12. **Doc. 10753**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bousakla and others
Abduction and "re-education" of Muslim women and children who have become too "Western-minded", to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*.
13. **Doc. 10775**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rigoni and others
Palliative care, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*.
14. **Doc. 10804**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bērziņš and others
Concern over Russian NGO Law Amendments, 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 the ongoing monitoring report with respect to Russia.

C. REQUESTS TO MODIFY REFERENCES

1. **Doc. 10799**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Pericleous Papadopoulos and others
The need to enhance European air safety
Reference No. 3172, 27 January 2006, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report *at the Standing Committee*.

D. REQUEST TO EXTEND A REFERENCE

1. **Doc. 10106 rev.**
Motion for a resolution by Mr Holovaty and others
Institutional balance at the Council of Europe
Ref. 2946 valid until 26 April 2006, extension until 1 October 2006.

E. FOLLOW-UP AFTER CONSULTATION

1. **Doc. 10714**
Motion for an opinion presented by Mr Pourgourides and others
Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey
and
Doc. 10724
Motion for an opinion presented by Mr Mercan and others
The plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, Greece, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for a single report* on "Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey and for Muslim minorities in Thrace (Northern Greece)".
2. **Doc. 10718**
Motion for an opinion presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
Femicicides, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*.
3. **Resolution 1436 (2005)**
Iran's nuclear programme: the need for an international response, to the Political Affairs Committee *for a new report*.

F. POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING

1. **Doc. 10674**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Gardetto and others
The fight against harm to the environment in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
2. **Doc. 10675**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Gardetto and others
Equal rights and opportunities for the disabled and their integration in society
3. **Doc. 10701**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jakavonis and others
Potential threats to the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea arising from the chemical munitions buried in its seabed during the Second World War

4. **Doc. 10769**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Meale and others
Protection of the environment in the Arctic region

5. **Doc. 10781**
Freedom of the media in Russia
Letter from Mrs Bargholtz and Mr Lindblad to the President of the Parliamentary
Assembly
Reference No. 3165, 23 January 2006

Assembly representatives for official activities

Appendix 2

i. Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities: in reply to formal invitations, took the following decisions:

- a. Mr Miutescu (Romania, ALDE): 3rd Intercultural forum "Promoting Intercultural dialogue between generations", Bucharest, 17-18 March 2006 (no cost to the Assembly);
- b. Ms Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE): 3rd Ministerial seminar on "Teaching remembrance: cultural heritage – yesterday and tomorrow", Prague and Terezin, 24-25 April 2006;
- c. Member of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs: Conference on "Environmental Challenges, in the Actual Context", Bucharest, 27-28 April 2006;

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:

- a. report by Mr Kirilov, Parliamentary meeting "The Parliaments on the Way to Lisbon", Brussels, 31 January – 1 February 2006;
- b. report by Mr de Puig, Conference "uniteagainstracism", Barcelona, 1 February 2006;
- c. report by Mr Gubert, Conference for the launching of the Adriatic Euro-Region, Venice, 6 February 2006;
- d. report by Lord Russell-Johnston, OSCE Winter Meeting, 23-24 February 2006.