



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

2 October 2006

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 2 October 2006 in Strasbourg with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **4th Part of the 2006 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 2-6 October 2006):**
 - i. adopted the updated agenda;
 - ii. requests for debates under urgent procedure:
 - a. “*Recent developments in the Lebanon in the context of the situation in the Middle East*”: confirmed its intention to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure and proposed to refer this matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report;
 - b. “*The need for a European response to the mass arrival of irregular migrants on Europe’s Southern shores*”: confirmed its intention to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure; agreed to propose the following title “Mass arrival of irregular migrants on Europe’s Southern shores”; and proposed to refer this matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for report;
 - c. “*The Council of Europe budget for 2007: an alarming standstill*”: recommended to the Assembly not to hold a debate on this subject under urgent procedure ;
 - iii. requests for current affairs debates:
 - a. “*The Council of Europe budget for 2007: an alarming standstill*”: decided to propose to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on this matter; chose Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE) as the opening speaker; and agreed that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe would take part in that debate;
 - b. “*Slovakia*”: was informed that the request to hold a current affairs debate on this matter had been withdrawn;
 - c. “*Tensions between Russia and Georgia*”: decided to propose to the Assembly not to hold a current affairs debate on this matter;
 - iv. up-dated the draft order of business;

- v. proposed to limit the speaking time to 4 minutes on Monday 2 October, Tuesday 3 October, Wednesday 4 October and Thursday 5 October;
- vi. 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian uprising: endorsed a declaration on this matter, to be appended to the Progress report of the Bureau (Appendix I);
- **Progress report of the Bureau of the assembly and of the standing committee (30 June – 2 October 2006):** approved the Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee, covering the period from 30 June to 2 October 2006;
 - **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix II;
 - **Follow-up of the Third Summit:**
- i. noted that the President of the Assembly together with the President of the European Parliament had addressed a letter to the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers and the Prime Minister of Finland asking to be invited to participate as full members in future quadripartite meetings between the European Union and the Council of Europe;
- ii. took note of the preliminary draft programme for the Forum for the Future of Democracy to be held in Moscow on 18 and 19 October 2006; urged the political groups to ensure the highest possible political representation at the Forum of the European party federations; and further urged national delegations to the Assembly to ensure broad and representative participation of political parties from their countries in the Forum;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** approved new members of the Monitoring Committee as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD); Mr Islami (Albania, SOC); and Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE).
 - **Observation of elections:**
- i. Presidential and parliamentary elections in Mexico (2 July 2006):* approved an addendum to the report of the ad hoc Committee that had observed these elections;
- ii. Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Montenegro (10 September 2006):* approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee that had observed these elections;
- iii. Presidential election in Bulgaria (22 October 2006):* decided to postpone the decision on this matter until its next meeting;
- iv. Referendum and parliamentary elections in the Republic of Serbia:*
- a. agreed to observe the referendum on the constitutional reform in the Republic of Serbia, which will take place on 28 and 29 October 2006, subject to the receipt of an invitation by the Serbian parliament;
- b. agreed to set-up an ad hoc Committee to observe this referendum composed of 20 members: 7 SOC; 6 EPP/CD; 3 ALDE; 3 EDG; 1 UEL;
- c. subject to the outcome of the referendum and to the receipt of an invitation by the Serbian parliament, agreed to observe the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Serbia, which should probably take place in December 2006.
- **Communications:** took note of the communications of the President, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and the Secretary General of the Assembly.

- ***Date and place of the next meeting***: decided to hold the following meeting:
- . Strasbourg, Friday 6 October 2006 at 8.30 am.

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

APPENDIX I

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising of 1956

1. As Europe observes the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising of October 1956, this provides an occasion for both sadness and joy. Sadness at the many lives tragically lost in what turned out to be a failed attempt to restore a people's liberty and national independence. But also joy at today's freedom and independence - not only of Hungary but of many other European nations which at the time found themselves in a similarly desperate situation.

2. The popular uprising that started in Hungary in October 1956 imperceptibly sowed seeds of hope among the suppressed and of self-doubt among the rulers. Seeds that would eventually lead, after years of oppression and international tension, first to 'détente' and cautious economic reform, particularly in Hungary but also elsewhere in central and eastern Europe in the 1960s; to the Helsinki Final Act and the creation of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in the 1970s; to the rise of the Solidarity trade union in Poland and internal reforms in the Soviet Union in the 1980s; and, finally, to the overcoming of the division of Europe in the early 1990s and to the spread of democracy across the entire European continent, including the area of the former Soviet Union itself.

3. Seen in this context, the Hungarian revolution of 1956 was, for all its tragedy and human suffering, a seminal event of immense moral value, to which the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly - even at that time and virtually alone among international organisations - gave its full moral and political support.

4. Thus, in its Recommendation 105, adopted on 26 October 1956 –three days into the uprising - the Assembly said it “welcomes the brave demonstrations of the unmistakable popular desire for independence and freedom in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and expresses its deep sympathy with the victims of oppression”. The Assembly asked that “freedom of decision by the people, guaranteed by free elections, should be restored there” and expressed the belief that “full self-determination for these people can alone ensure a lasting peace in central and eastern Europe”. And in its Recommendation 132 of 11 January 1957, the Assembly “pays tribute to the courageous resistance of the Hungarian people which has demonstrated to the world that the political system imposed upon it was powerless to quell mankind's profound desire for freedom”.

5. Since 1990, when Hungary joined the Council of Europe, the country has been extremely active in promoting the values of the organisation, whether in the Committee of Ministers or in the Parliamentary Assembly – as witnessed, for instance, in the establishment, in 1995, of a Council of Europe “European Youth Centre” in Budapest. The placement of the Centre in Budapest is of symbolic importance, given the prominent role played in the revolution by what Hungarians still lovingly remember as “the lads of Pest” – that is, the boys from the working-class areas of the city who were among the first to demonstrate and give their lives in the uprising.

6. On this solemn day of remembrance, it is the duty of this new and united Europe of ours to uphold the values of freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law that inspired the Hungarian and other European peoples at that time. These values must never be taken for granted but must be fought for and defended by every new generation of Europeans. The Assembly, as the parliamentary organ of the Council of Europe, has since the Organisation's foundation in 1949 tirelessly pursued these worthy aims and will continue to do so, on behalf of its 46 member states against any possible new threats against these values, from whatever direction they may come. Today the Assembly thank Hungary for its inestimable contribution to the cause of freedom.

APPENDIX II

The Bureau approved the following proposals, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

a. references to committees

1. **Doc. 10993**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wilshire and others

Application to initiate a monitoring procedure to investigate electoral fraud in the United Kingdom, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for a written opinion for the Bureau in accordance with Resolution 1115 (1997) as modified by Resolution 1431 (2005)*

2. **Doc. 10998**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Glavan and others

Training teachers for education for democratic citizenship and human rights, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*

3. **Doc. 10999**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Circene and others

The role of women in modern societies, including in intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, *for opinion*

4. **Doc. 11000**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Severin and others

Need to modify the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in order to promote its external relations, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "the application and amendment of various provisions of the Rules of Procedure"*

5. **Doc. 11001**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr van Thijn and Mr Kox and others

The accession of the European Union/European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

6. **Doc. 11002**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Randegger and others

Nanotechnology: need for regulation?, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*

7. **Doc. 11004**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs de Zulueta and others

Unexpected large scale arrival of migrants and asylum seekers in Europe, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*

b. request for modification of a reference

1. **Doc. 10916**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others

Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region

Ref. 3243 of 26 June 2006, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for an information report*

c. others

1. **in accordance with Rule 66.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly**, the Bureau instructed the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities to consider the issues concerning the procedure in committees for considering and adopting texts; the procedure and practice for considering Motions for Resolutions and Recommendations; and the composition of the Joint Committee regarding the Assembly.