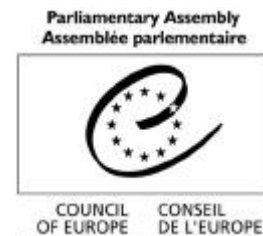


Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Secretariat of the Bureau of the Assembly
Secrétariat du Bureau de l'Assemblée



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

31 May 2007

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Wednesday 23 May 2007 in Belgrade with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Election of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe***: held an exchange of views with Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and agreed to transmit her candidature to the Assembly, which would proceed to a vote at its June 2007 part-session;
- ***Standing Committee (Belgrade, 24 May 2007)***: took note of an updated draft agenda;
- ***3rd Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2007)***:
 - i. adopted a draft agenda and a draft order of business for the part-Session;
 - ii. agreed to include the following items in the draft agenda for the meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 28 June 2007 in Strasbourg:
 - a. Results of the 117th session of the Committee of Ministers
 - b. The European Court of Human Rights: future developments
 - c. Results of the 2007 Forum for the Future of Democracy Conference
 - d. Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
 - e. The Council of Europe and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union
- ***Follow-up to the current affairs debate on “Sudan and Darfur – Europe’s responsibility”***: decided to refer the subject “Sudan and Darfur – Europe’s responsibility” to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for report;
- ***Follow-up to the debate on “State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe”***: took note of the initiatives taken by the President of the Assembly regarding the dissemination of the final publication resulting from the debate and agreed to return to this issue at a meeting during the June 2007 part-Session;

- **117th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 10-11 May 2007):**
 - i. took note of the Communiqué from the session, the Conclusions of the Chair of the Committee of Ministers and the Priorities of the incoming Serbian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers;
 - ii. took note of the signing, the same day, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union and decided to ask the Political Affairs Committee for an evaluation of the Memorandum in time for its next meeting;
- **Forum for the Future of Democracy:** took note of the preparations for and draft programme of the Forum for the Future of Democracy (Stockholm/Sigtuna 13-15 June 2007), as presented by Mr Lindblad;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** See Appendix I;
- **Observation of elections:**
 - i. **Parliamentary elections in Armenia (12 May 2007):** took note of a press release issued by the International Election Observation Mission following these elections, pending the Ad Hoc Committee's report which would be ready in time for the Bureau's next meeting;
 - ii. **Guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:** approved a new paragraph to be added to the 'Guidelines', relating to gender balance in the composition of Ad Hoc Committees to observe elections;
 - iii. **Election calendar 2007:** took note of upcoming elections in Turkey, Serbia (Kosovo Assembly) and the Russian Federation, and agreed to observe them, subject to receipt of invitations;
- **Communications:** took note of communications 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;
- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, May 2008):** agreed to hold the conference on 22 and 23 May 2008 and decided that it should be devoted to the theme "Parliaments and Civil Society";
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:**
 - i. in reply to formal invitations, appointed the following Assembly members to represent it for official activities:
 - a. The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to appoint a representative to attend the Joint meeting of contact parliamentarians and national focal points - Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women including domestic violence, Strasbourg, 5 June 2007;
 - b. Mr Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EDG): Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact – Seminar on "Budget Scrutiny", Belgrade, Serbia, 11 June 2007;
 - c. Mrs Doris Barnett (Germany, SOC): Standing Committee of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Moscow, Russian Federation, 20 June 2007;

d. Mr Göran Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD): Mr Konstantin Kosachev (Russian Federation, EDG) et Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC), 2nd Summer University for Democracy, Strasbourg, 2-6 July 2007;

e. Mr Walter Schmied (Switzerland, ALDE): Annual conference of European regional legislative assemblies, Berlin, Germany, 22-23 October 2007;

- **Visit by a rapporteur:** authorised Mr Pourgourides, Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for the report "Abuse of the criminal justice system in Belarus", to carry out a fact-finding visit to that country for the purposes of his report;

- **Date and place of forthcoming meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:

- . Strasbourg, Monday 25 June 2007 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday, 29 June 2007 at 8.30 am;
- . Rome, Monday 10 September 2007 at 9.00 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

References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau approved the following references and modifications of references, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

I. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Request for a current debate**
Sudan and Darfur - Europe's responsibility, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*
2. **Doc. 11245**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hancock and others
Attitude to memorials to fighters against fascism in Council of Europe member states, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
3. **Doc. 11246**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Bilgehan and others
The rights of today's girls: the rights of tomorrow's women, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*
4. **Doc. 11247**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Curdová and others
The position of women in science in Europe, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for information*
5. **Doc. 11249**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others
Plight of the ethnic Macedonian national minority of northern Greece, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
6. **Doc. 11251**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Dupraz and others
Preserving the environment by energy savings in public administrations and the Council of Europe, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*
7. **Doc. 11252**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Melnikov and others
Discriminatory amendments to the Estonian law on language, to the Committee on the Honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*
8. **Doc. 11254**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Walter and others
The promotion of Internet and online media services appropriate for minors, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report at the Standing Committee*

II. REQUEST TO MODIFY REFERENCES

1. Doc. 10623

Motion for a resolution by Mrs Hurskainen and others

Blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion

Reference N° 3122 of 1 September, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*

III. REQUESTS TO EXTEND REFERENCES

1. Doc. 9869

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bindig and others

Video surveillance of public areas

Ref. 2864 of 8 September 2003 (extended on 24 June 2005 until 30 June 2007), extension until 31 December 2007

2. Doc. 10552

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Randegger and others

Vocational Education and Training, a key factor for lifelong employability,

Ref. 3094 of 6 June 2005 – validity: 6 June 2007, extension until 31 January 2008

3. Current affairs debate of 21 June 2005

The situation in the Republics of Central Asia

Ref. 3113 of 24 June 2005, - validity: 24 June 2007, extension until 31 December 2007

4. Doc. 10555

**Declaration third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe
Implementation of the third Summit Declaration and Action Plan**

Ref. 3095 of 6 June 2005 – validity: 6 June 2007, extension until 31 December 2007