



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

13 September 2007

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 10 September 2007 in Rome with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Introductory address by Mr Famiano Crucianelli, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy:** held an exchange of views with Mr Crucianelli;

- **4th Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 1-5 October 2007):**

i. Request for a debate under urgent procedure:

a. **“Political implications of the proposed US/NATO ‘rocket shield’” (submitted by Mr Kox and others):** decided 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;

ii. Draft agenda: updated the draft agenda;

iii. Draft order of business: drew-up the draft order of business;

iv. Joint Committee:

a. Draft agenda for the meeting to be held on 4 October 2007 in Strasbourg: agreed to include the following items:

. State of ratification in member states of leading Council of Europe conventions;

. Proposal for a CM/Assembly Working Group to assist the Joint Committee in its work;

. Political dimension of the Council of Europe budget;

. The Council of Europe and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union;

b. Draft agendas for future meetings: asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare for each item proposed to the Bureau background information and possible conclusions and expressed the hope that the Committee of Ministers proceed in a similar way for any supplementary item it would like to include on the draft agendas;

- **Requests for debates under urgent procedure: criteria for selection:** took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly on this matter and decided to return to this item at a future meeting;

- **Dialogue between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly: setting up of a joint working party:** took note of a Secretariat memorandum prepared on the instructions of the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities and decided to return to this item at its next meeting;

- **Meeting between the Assembly's Presidential Committee and the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament, Brussels, 30 August 2007:**

i. took note of a joint statement adopted at this meeting and welcomed the intention of the two bodies to meet annually, in principle at the end of August;

ii. noted that, in accordance with the decisions taken in Brussels, the Secretaries General of the Assembly and the European Parliament will meet on 25 September to jointly examine proposals for finalising the draft cooperation agreement between the Assembly and the European Parliament;

iii. agreed to organise a joint conference on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in the course of 2008;

- **Follow-up to the debate on "State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe":**

i. Debate and report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe: an evaluation:

a. was informed that the President had written to representatives of the various Council of Europe bodies involved in the debate asking them for their opinion on various aspects of the debate for future guidance, and took note of the President's intention to meet with the Chairpersons of the Political, Legal and Monitoring Committees in the course of the Assembly's next part-session to discuss this matter;

b. agreed to return to this matter at a future meeting on the basis of conclusions reached;

ii. Annual award of the Parliamentary Assembly for outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights: agreed on the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on this matter;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** See Appendix I;

- **Forum for the Future of Democracy:**

i. approved the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat upon the instructions of Messrs Gross, Lindblad and de Puig and agreed to convey to the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Forum and others concerned those proposals which concern the composition of the Board, the choice of themes, the issuing of invitations and national arrangements;

ii. agreed that Mr de Puig (Spain, SOC) should serve as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy to be re-established shortly;

- **Observation of elections:**

i. Parliamentary elections in Turkey (22 July 2007): approved the report of the ad hoc Committee (Rapporteur: Mr Van den Brande (EPP/CD, Belgium));

ii. Parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan (18 August 2007): took note of a press release issued at the end of the elections by the international election observation mission and decided to return to this matter at its next meeting;

- iii. Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (30 September 2007):
 - a. took note of a letter from the Speaker of the *Verkhovna Rada* concerning these elections;
 - b. heard a report on the pre-electoral mission to Ukraine (4-6 September 2007) by Mrs Severinsen, Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee to observe these elections, and took note of a press release issued at the end of the mission;
- iv. Municipal and Assembly elections in Kosovo (Serbia) (17 November 2007):
 - a. took note of a letter by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe inviting the Council of Europe to provide an observation mission to observe the forthcoming elections to be held in Kosovo;
 - b. in conformity with the Assembly guidelines on election observation, decided not to observe these elections;
- v. Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (2 December 2007):
 - a. confirmed its decision, subject to the receipt of an invitation, to observe these elections;
 - b. invited the Chairpersons of the political groups to encourage members to participate in the observation with a view to formally set-up at its next meeting an ad hoc committee (if possible, 60 members but with a minimum of 40 members);
 - c. agreed to authorise a pre-electoral mission composed of 10 members (two from each political group);
- **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;
- **Request of the Committee of Ministers for an advisory opinion of the European Court of Human Rights:** discussed and amended a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on this matter and invited the Secretary General of the Assembly to reply to the Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights along the lines indicated in the document;
- **First European Day against the Death Penalty “Europe against death penalty” (Lisbon, 9 October 2007):** took note of a draft joint declaration and a draft programme and, given the fact that the President would be unable to attend this event, agreed that Mr Vera Jardim, Vice-President of the Assembly, should represent the Assembly on this occasion or, if not available, Mr Mercan, Vice-President of the Assembly;
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2008:** See Appendix II;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Equal participation of Women and Men in decision-making of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men: Riga (Latvia), 9 November 2007;
 - ii. Committee on Economic Affairs and Development: London (United Kingdom), 17-18 January 2008;
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** See Appendix III;

- **Visits by rapporteurs:** postponed its decision on the authorisation of Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC), Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on “Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for Observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly”, to visit Kazakhstan in the autumn of 2007 for the purposes of his report, until the consideration of the report on the recent elections in this country;
- **Seminar on the role of mass media and education in intercultural dialogue (Rome, 14 November 2007):** decided to return to this matter at one of its future meetings;
- **Second Summer University for Democracy (Strasbourg, 2-6 July 2007):** took note of the Final Declaration of the Second Summer University for Democracy and agreed, in principle, to support future meetings of the summer university, in particular through the participation of members of the Assembly;
- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments (Strasbourg, 22 – 23 May 2008):** approved the draft programme of the conference;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** authorised the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 1 October 2007 at 8 am;
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 5 October 2007 at 8.30 am;
 - . Bratislava, Thursday 22 November 2007 at 4 pm;
 - . Paris, Monday 17 December 2007 at 9 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:

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Doc. 11324 rév.**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Rupprecht and others
"Marital rape", to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*
[PACE priority: Responding to common threats to Europeans (violence against women)]
2. **Doc. 11327 rév.**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Muttonen and others
Cultural education: the promotion of cultural knowledge, creativity and intercultural understanding through education, consultation of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *on a possible follow-up*
3. **Doc. 11328**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Laukkanen and others
The funding of public service broadcasting, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report* and to the Political Affairs Committee *for opinion*
[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states (freedom of expression and information); building a more humane and inclusive Europe: protecting cultural diversity]
4. **Doc. 11330**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bartumeu Cassany and others
Judicial corruption, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states (democratic stability, combating corruption and organised crime)]

B. EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

1. **Doc. 10653 rev.**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger and others
Investigation of crimes allegedly committed by high officials during the Kuchma rule in Ukraine
Ref. 3142 of 3 October 2005 – validity: 3 October 2007, extension until 31 March 2008
2. **Doc. 10636**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cekuolis and others
Possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon
Ref. 3156 of 25 November 2005 – validity: 25 November 2007, extension until 31 December 2008.
3. **Doc. 10705**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Eörsi and others
European Muslim communities confronted with extremism
Ref. 3145 of 7 October 2005 – validity: 7 October 2007, extension until 31 March 2008.

APPENDIX II

Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2008

The Bureau approved the following dates:

Monday 21 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 25 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 13 March, 3 pm, Paris	Bureau
Friday 14 March, 9.00 am, Paris	Standing Committee
Monday 14 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 18 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 29 May, Stockholm	Bureau and Standing Committee
Friday 30 May, Stockholm (to be confirmed)*	(CM Presidency)
Monday 23 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 8 September, 9.30am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 29 September, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 3 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
November, Madrid (to be confirmed) *	Bureau and Standing Committee
	(CM Presidency)
Monday 15 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau

* Dates of meetings are subject to a formal agreement with the Parliament of the country concerned.

APPENDIX III

Assembly representatives for official activities

- i. Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities: in reply to formal invitations, appointed the following Assembly members:
 - a. Mr Schmied (Switzerland, ALDE): Conference of National Parliaments and Regional Assemblies, Strasbourg, 12 September 2007;
 - b. Mr Bjørnstad (Norway, SOC): 59th Plenary Session of the Nordic Council, Oslo (Norway), 30 October to 1 November 2007;
 - c. Mr Schmied (Switzerland, ALDE): 15th Session of the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Local and Regional Government, Valencia (Spain), 15-16 November 2007;
 - d. Political Affairs Committee and Committee of Legal Affairs and Human Rights each to appoint one representative: 2007 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, New-York (United States of America), 20-21 November 2007;
 - e. Mr Marcenaro, (Italy, SOC): Special Day against the Death Penalty in the context of "Tuscany Day", Florence (Italy), 28 November 2007.
- ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation in official activities: took note of the following reports and decided to refer them to the competent committee:
 - a. Ms Jivkova (Bulgaria, SOC) who participated in the 29th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly, Varna (Bulgaria), 12-14 June 2007;
 - b. Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD) who participated in the Mediterranean Special Group of the NATO Parliamentary Seminar, Naples (Italy), 1-2 July 2007;
 - c. Ms Staponkiene (Lithuania, EDG) and Ms Barnett (Germany, SOC) who participated in the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Berlin (Germany), 27-28 August 2007.