



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

1 October 2007

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 1 October 2007 in Strasbourg with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **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): confirmed its decision to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure and to propose referring this matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report;

ii. Request for a current affairs debate:

a. **“The looming crisis facing the European Court of Human Rights: urgent action needed”** (submitted by Mr Marty and others): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on this matter and chose Mr Marty as the opening speaker;

iii. Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:

a. took note of the report of the Sub-Committee on the elections of judges, including the recommendations contained in it, and decided to forward it to the Assembly members;

b. proposed to the Assembly to ask the governments of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Moldova, San Marino and Turkey to submit new lists of candidates for the post of judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of their countries;

c. concerning the list of candidates in respect of Ireland:

- proposed to the Assembly that it:

- take note that hearings had not been completed as one of the candidates had withdrawn her candidature;
- take note that the Irish government has in the meantime completed the list by replacing the candidate who withdrew;
- agree that the Sub-Committee would endeavour to complete the hearings in respect of this country in November 2007 and that the election would take place in any case during the January 2008 part-session;

- d. concerning the list of candidates in respect of Ukraine:
- took note of letters from:
 - President Yushchenko, stating that he withdraws the list of candidates for election to the office of judge at the Court in respect of Ukraine;
 - the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the election of judges, stating that the Sub-Committee considered that there were no exceptional circumstances justifying the acceptance, by the Assembly, of the withdrawal of the Ukrainian list, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Appendix to Resolution 1432 (2005);
 - Mr Vasyl Marmazov, a candidate for election to the office of judge at the Court in respect of Ukraine, stating that he wished, for personal reasons, to withdraw his candidature;
 - proposed to the Assembly to:
 - agree that there are no exceptional circumstances justifying the acceptance of the withdrawal of the list;
 - ask the Ukrainian government to complete the list by replacing the candidate who withdrew his candidature;
 - agree that the Sub-Committee would endeavour to complete the hearings in respect of this country in November 2007 and that the election would take place in any case during the January 2008 part-session;
- iv. *Draft order of business*: approved the updated draft order of business and decided to reduce the speaking time to four minutes for all debates of Monday, 1 October, Tuesday, 2, October; Wednesday, 3 October; and Thursday, 4 October;
- v. *Joint Committee (Thursday 4 October 2007)*: took note of an annotated draft agenda;
- ***Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee*** (29 June – 1 October 2007): approved the Progress report;
 - ***Dialogue between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly: setting up of a joint working party***: approved the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on this matter upon the instructions of Mr Gross and authorised its being made available to the Joint Committee meeting of 4 October;
 - ***Draft co-operation agreement between the Assembly and the European Parliament***: was informed by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly about the work in progress on this issue in the European Parliament;
 - ***References and transmissions to committees***: see Appendix I;
 - ***Composition of the Monitoring Committee***: approved new members as proposed by political groups for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Goris (Belgium, ALDE) and Mr Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC);
 - ***Elections***
 - i. *Parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan (18 August 2007)*: approved and declassified the report of the ad hoc Committee which had observed these elections (Rapporteur: Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG)).

- ii. *Referendum of 21 October 2007 (Turkey)*: decided not to observe this referendum;
- ***Call to put an end to the brutal crackdown on peaceful protests in Myanmar (Burma)***: adopted a statement on this issue (see Appendix II);
 - ***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 Parliamentary Assembly;
 - ***Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris***: authorised the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to meet in Lisbon on 8 October 2007 on the occasion of the Conference “Europe against Death Penalty”;
 - ***Date and place of the next meetings***: authorised the following meetings:
 - . 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

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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

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. **Doc. 11336**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Zingeris and others
Protecting Europe's historic urban landscapes from new tall buildings, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*
2. **Doc. 11337**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wodarg and others
Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*
[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law; contributing to the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts and crises threatening the security of Europeans]
3. **Doc. 11338**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Platvoet and others
A study of history teaching in Bosnia and Herzegovina, consult the Committee on Culture, Science and Education on the possible follow-up
4. **Doc. 11341**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Asko-Seljavaara and others
Prevention of obesity and promotion of healthy nutrition habits among children and the young, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*
5. **Doc. 11342**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Pozzo di Borgo and others
Guaranteeing a right to schooling for children with illnesses or disabilities, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*
6. **Doc. 11345**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Branger and others
Human rights and democratic concerns for the integration of migrants, postponed until after the holding of the Conference of Aachen (Germany, 19-20 November 2007) on the European day of migration and integration
7. **Doc. 11346**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Hajiyeva and others
Europe's population decline and migration, postponed until after the holding of the Conference of Aachen (Germany, 19-20 November 2007) on the European day of migration and integration
8. **Doc. 11347**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others
Diasporas: their role in the integration of migrants, postponed until after the holding of the Conference of Aachen (Germany, 19-20 November 2007) on the European day of migration and integration
9. **Doc. 11348**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Austin and others
The urgent need for action on so-called "honour crimes", reference to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*

10. **Doc. 11349**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Ojuland and others
A political framework for co-operation against cyber-attacks, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
11. **Opinion on the draft Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning genetic testing for health purposes**, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report* and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*

II. MODIFICATION OF REFERENCES

1. **Doc. 11213**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Dupraz and others
Ban of cluster munitions
Ref. 3364 of 29 June 2007 (modification of Ref. 3341 of 20 April 2007), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*.
2. **Doc. 11028**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Bemelmans-Videc and others
National selection procedures for candidates for the European Court of Human Rights
Ref. 3279 of 6 October 2006, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*.
3. **Doc. 11261 rev.**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cilevičs and others
Minority protection in Europe: best practices and deficiencies in implementation of common standards
Ref. 3355 of 25 June 2007, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for opinion*.

III. REPLY AFTER CONSULTATION

1. **Decision of the Bureau**
Code of good practice on referendums (CDL-AD (2007) 008), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states]

IV. EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

1. **Doc. 10672**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Toshev and others
Strengthening of the dialogue between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and national parliaments (new title of the report: "Use by Assembly members of their "double mandate", national and European")
Ref. 3140 of 3 October 2005 – validity: 3 October 2007, extension until 30 June 2008.

APPENDIX II

Call to put an end to brutal crackdown on peaceful protests in Myanmar (Burma)

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg, on 1 October 2007, calls on the military Junta in Myanmar (Burma) to put an immediate end to the brutal crackdown on the peaceful protests, led by Buddhist monks, which have swept across the country. The violence with which the demonstrations have been struck down and the ensuing heavy death toll among the civilian population are shocking in this day and age. To repress the peaceful expression of dissent with such violence and on such a disproportionate scale is a flagrant and massive violation of human rights.

To date, calls for restraint by the international community have gone unheeded which demonstrates that the Junta is prepared to use the most repugnant means in their struggle to hang on to power at all costs.

The Bureau encourages and supports all democratic forces in the country in their struggle for the establishment of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Myanmar (Burma). It pays tribute to the courageous actions of the Buddhist Monks who have rallied the civilian population in their peaceful attempts to alleviate the many years of suffering under the Junta's harsh regime. It also salutes the courage and tenacity of Aung San Suu Kyi, (Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1991), who has spent the major part of the last 18 years in detention, in her long-standing and tireless efforts to bring about democratic change in the country, and calls for her immediate release.

Since democratic reforms, rule of law and respect for human rights are the only way forward to achieve stability and prosperity in the country, the Bureau calls on the Junta to seize this opportunity to put an end to brutal repression, to open a dialogue with the political forces opposed to the regime and civil society and to embark on a peaceful transition to democracy.

The Bureau lends its wholehearted support to the efforts of the international community to find a peaceful outcome of the current crisis.