

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

5 October 2007

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 5 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. was informed by the Secretary General of the Assembly about the follow-up to be given to texts adopted during the part-session;
 - ii. follow-up to the current affairs debate on “*The looming crisis facing the European Court of Human Rights: urgent action needed*”: according to Rule 52.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, decided to refer this matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;
- **Standing Committee (Bratislava, 23 November 2007):** took note of a draft agenda and a draft programme;
- **1st Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 21-25 January 2008):** took note of a preliminary draft agenda and a provisional list of guest speakers;
- **Observation of elections:**
 - i. Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (30 September 2007):
 - a. took note of a memorandum on the pre-electoral mission undertaken from 4 to 6 September 2007;
 - b. heard a report by Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, ADLE), Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee which had observed these elections;
 - c. decided to return to this matter at its next meeting;
 - ii. Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (2 December 2007):
 - a. approved the composition of the ad hoc Committee that would, subject to the receipt of an invitation, observe the elections; appointed Mr Van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD) as its Chairperson;
 - b. approved the composition of the pre-electoral mission, which would take place on 8 and 9 November 2007;

- ***Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:*** took note of the timetable foreseen for the term of office of judges to be elected at the January 2008 part-session;
- ***Follow-up to the debate on “State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe”:***
 - i. endorsed the conclusions reached at the meeting held during the part-session between the President and the Chairpersons of the Committee on Political Affairs, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Monitoring Committee;
 - ii. agreed to return to this matter at its next meeting in order to fix the main focus of next year’s report and debate and in particular the possibility of observing a yearly alternation between the themes of democracy and human rights;
- ***Vote on the appointment of a Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on developments as regards the future status of Kosovo:***
 - i. agreed to set up an ad hoc Committee of five members (to be appointed by each political group among members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) to investigate this matter;
 - ii. was informed that the President would send a letter to the Chairpersons of all Assembly Committees asking them to follow the procedure to be proposed by the tellers of the Political Affairs Committee for the conduct of future votes by secret ballot;
- ***References and transmissions to committees:*** see Appendix I;
- ***Requests for debates under urgent procedure: criteria for selection:*** approved the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on this matter;
- ***Ad Hoc Committee on the implementation of Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference:***
 - i. was informed by Lord Russell-Johnston, Chairman of the ad hoc Committee, that the visit to Nagorno-Karabakh by the Ad hoc Committee, which had been scheduled for 8-12 October 2007, had been cancelled; and that it was the intention of the ad hoc committee to organise inter-parliamentary conferences in Baku and Yerevan on parliamentary co-operation between the two countries;
 - ii. within the framework of the preparation of the above-mentioned conference, authorised Lord Russell-Johnston to visit Baku and Yerevan;
- ***Monopolisation of the electronic media and the possible abuse of power in Italy:***
 - i. took note of a draft opinion by the Monitoring Committee and declassified it;
 - ii. agreed to return to this matter at its next meeting;
- ***European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):***
 - i. drew up lists of candidates on the basis of the order of preference recommended by the Sub-committee on Human Rights and endorsed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, with regard to the following countries:

- a. With regard to Andorra:
 - Mr Joan-Miquel RASCAGNERES LLAGOSTERA
 - Mr Joan CABEZA GIMENEZ
 - Ms Maria Neus VIVES ARMENGOL
- b. With regard to Finland:
 - Mrs Veronika PIMENOFF
 - Mrs Sonja KURTEN-VARTIO
 - Mr Jari PIRJOLA
- c. With regard to Romania:
 - Mr Dan DERMENGIU
 - Mrs Camelia DORU
 - Mrs Alessandra Guiseppina GRECEANU
- d. With regard to the Russian Federation:
 - Mrs Elena V. SEREDA
 - Mr Mikhail P. FOMICHENKO
 - Mr Alexander B. SHATILOV
- ii. With regard to Armenia and Poland, asked the two delegations to present new lists;
- iii. instructed the Secretary General of the Assembly to return lists deemed not to be in fulfilment of the criteria set out in Recommendation 1323 (1997);
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** approved new members as proposed by political groups for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Harntyunyan (Armenia, EDG); Mr Laakso (Finland, UEL); and Mr Mooney (Ireland, ALDE);
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** approved the following meetings:
 - i. Committee on Culture, Science and Education: Rome (Italy), 14 November 2007;
 - ii. Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations (of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development): Brussels (Belgium), 19-20 November 2007;
 - iii. Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings (of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men): Brussels (Belgium), 20 November 2007;
 - iv. Committee on Economic Affairs and Development: Brussels (Belgium), 21 November 2007;
 - v. Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights): Bratislava (Slovakia), 22 November 2007;
 - vi. Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee: Florence (Italy), 7 December 2007;
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** see Appendix II;
- **Ad hoc Sub-committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:**
 - i. authorised the establishment of a Sub-committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights as a fourth standing sub-committee of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

ii. authorised a derogation from the rule on multiple memberships of Sub-committees for members of the above-mentioned sub-committee;

- **Visits by rapporteurs:**

i. authorised Mrs Durrieu, Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories with a view to preparing a Tripartite Forum, to extend this visit also to include Jordan;

ii. authorised Mrs Durrieu, Rapporteur on “*Strengthening cooperation with the Maghreb countries*”, to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Arab League in Cairo on 26 November 2007 for a meeting with its Secretary General, Mr Amr Moussa, for the purposes of her report;

- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (5 October 2007 – 21 January 2008):** appointed the President of the Assembly, Mr van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD), as rapporteur;

- **Joint Conference in 2008 of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:** took note of the preparations for the Conference; agreed that its general theme should be that of migration; and agreed that it take place on 4 April 2008 in St Petersburg;

- **Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly: Venice Commission:** on the proposal of the President, appointed Mr Ates to succeed Mr Mota Amaral as representative of the Assembly until the end of 2007;

- **Date and place of the next meetings:** authorised the following meetings:

- . 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. 11378**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Ojuland and others
The situation of Aung San Suu Kyi, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
2. **Doc. 11379**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Ates and others
Need for a Council of Europe Neighbourhood policy, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report [PACE priority: Promoting common fundamental values: human rights, rule of law and democracy; Promoting fundamental European values in neighbouring areas]*
3. **Current affairs debate on "The looming crisis facing the European Court of Human Rights: urgent action needed"**: according to Rule 52.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

b. reply after consultation

1. **Doc. 11327 rev.**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Muttonen and others
Cultural education: the promotion of cultural knowledge, creativity and intercultural understanding through education, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report [PACE priority: Developing intercultural and inter-religious dialogue]*

c. extension of a reference

1. **Doc. 10715**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Van den Brande and others
Precarious situation of national minorities in the Voivodina province of Serbia and Montenegro
Ref. no 3147 of 25 November 2005 – Validity: 25 November 2007, extension until 31 January 2008

APPENDIX II

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 Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD) : International Forum of Civil Society, Paris, 25 October 2007 ;
 - b. Mr Dacic (Serbia, SOC) : 67th Rose-Roth Seminar “Serbia and Europe : Together or Apart”, Belgrade (Serbia), 25-27 October 2007;
 - c. M. Bokeria (Georgia, ALDE): Tbilisi Summit 2007 “Building Europe’s East and fact-finding trip”, Tbilisi (Georgia), 1-4 November 2007 ;
 - d. Ms Staponkiené (Lithuania, EDG) : 30th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Tbilisi (Georgia), 20-21 November 2007 ;
 - e. Ms Banovic (Serbia, EPP/CD) : Opening Ceremony of the Third Plenary Assembly of the European Roma and Travellers Forum, Strasbourg, 26 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. Mr Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) and Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) who participated in the 16th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Kiev (Ukraine), 5-9 July 2007;
 - b. Mr Doric (Croatia, ALDE) who participated in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2007 Autumn Meeting, Portorož (Slovenia), 29 September – 2 October 2007.