

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**Secretariat of the Assembly**

**Synopsis**

18 April 2008

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Friday 18 April 2008 in Strasbourg with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Standing Committee meeting (Stockholm, 29 May 2008):***
  - i. took note of the draft agenda for the meeting as well as the programme ;
  - ii. decided to invite a representative of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference particularly to participate in the debate on chemical munitions buried in the Baltic Sea;
- ***3<sup>rd</sup> Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23 - 27 June 2008) :***
  - i. took note of the list of reports;
  - ii. decided to hold a general policy debate on “the situation in China on the eve of the Olympic Games” and asked the Political Affairs Committee to draw up the report which would serve as a basis for the debate;
  - iii. decided to add the report on “Empowering women in a modern, multicultural society” to the agenda of the part-session and to invite Mrs Inés Alberdi, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), to address the Assembly in this context;
  - iv. decided to invite His Holiness the Dalai Lama to address the Assembly;
  - v. took note of the personalities who would be invited to speak during the debate on the state of democracy in Europe;
  - vi. drew up a preliminary draft agenda for the part-session;
- ***Medium Term Strategy of the Council of Europe:*** held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- ***References and transmissions to committees:*** see Appendix I;

- **Observation of elections:**

- i. Parliamentary elections in Serbia (11 May 2008)
  - a. took note of a letter from the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia inviting the Assembly to observe these elections;
  - b. heard a report by Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD), Chairman of the ad hoc committee for observing these elections, on the pre-electoral mission which took place on 9 and 10 April 2008;
- iii. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (21 May 2008): approved the composition of the ad hoc committee for observing these elections and that of the pre-electoral delegation; and appointed Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE) as Chairperson;
- iv. Parliamentary elections in the “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (1 June 2008):
  - a. subject to receipt of an invitation, set up an ad hoc committee for observing these elections composed of 20 members according to the “d’Hondt” system (7 EPP/CD, 6 SOC, 3 EDG, 3 ALDE and 1 UEL);
  - b. asked the President to appoint the Chairperson of the ad hoc committee;

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):** drew up the list of candidates with regard to Poland on the basis of the order of preference recommended by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights as endorsed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:

1. Mrs Marzena KSEL
2. Mr Zbigniew HOLDA
3. Mr Adam LAPTAS

- **Progress report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (18 April-23 June 2008):** appointed Mr Zala (Slovakia, SOC) as rapporteur;

- **Apportionment of the allocation to the political groups for 2008:** approved the apportionment of the allocation to the political groups for 2008;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** approved the designation of new members proposed by the Socialist group for ratification by the Assembly: Mrs Feric-Vac (Croatia, SOC) and Mr Saar (Estonia, SOC);

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:

- i. Monitoring Committee: Kiev (Ukraine), 26-29 May 2008;
- ii. Ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, composed of one member from each political group, in order to participate in the conference on the democratisation of media in Belarus: Warsaw, 6-7 June 2008;

- ***Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2008:*** appointed:

i. Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG), on behalf of the Monitoring Committee, as a substitute to represent the Assembly at the Council on Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission;

ii. Mrs Melo (Portugal, SOC) and Mrs Papadopoulos (Greece, ALDE), on behalf of, respectively, the Committee on Culture, Science and Education and the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, as substitutes to represent the Assembly at the Executive Council of the North-South Centre;

- ***Assembly representatives for official activities:*** appointed Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD) to participate in the Crans Montana Forum to be held in Tirana (Albania) from 15-17 May 2008 (at no cost to the Assembly);

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

- . Stockholm (Sweden), Thursday 29 May 2008 at 9 a.m;
- . Strasbourg, Monday 23 June 2008 at 8 a.m;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 27 June 2008 at 8.30 a.m.

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

Secretary General of the Congress

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. 11532**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bemelmans-Videc and others**  
**Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights**, reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*
2. **Doc. 11542**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Kosachev and others**  
**To the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mass famine in the territory of the former USSR**, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*
3. **Doc. 11543**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Hancock and others**  
**Promoting dialogue between the Council of Europe and its neighbour, China, on social values and working conditions**, postponed its decision
4. **Doc. 11544**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marquet and others**  
**Preventive health care policies in the Council of Europe member states**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
5. **Doc. 11545**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Roseira and others**  
**Towards a new social vision for 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe – Report of the High Level Task Force on Social Cohesion**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
6. **Doc. 11546**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lambert and others**  
**The situation of abandoned and disabled children in Bulgaria**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*
7. **Doc. 11551**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Huss and others**  
**Noise and light pollution: serious risks for the environment**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report* at the Standing Committee
8. **Doc. 11552**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Dorić and others**  
**Towards a strategy on innovation and good governance at local level**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*
9. **Doc. 11558**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Margelov and others**  
**Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia in Europe**, postponed its decision

10. **Doc. 11559**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Margelov and others**  
**Prospects for co-operation between the Council of Europe and Israel**, to the Political Affairs Committee to take it into account in the framework of the report on situation in the Middle East.
- b. modification of a reference
1. **Doc. 11443**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Evans and others**  
**Growing food or fuel?**  
**Ref. 3398 of 21 January 2008**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report* and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*.
- c. reply after consultation
1. **Doc. 11271**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Lord Russell-Johnston and others**  
**The state of health of Mr Abdullah Ocalan**, no further action
2. **Doc. 11410**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Kaikkonen and others**  
**Changing the name of the Council of Europe**, no further action