

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

3 June 2008

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 29 May in Stockholm, with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Standing Committee (Stockholm, 29 May 2008)**: took note of the updated draft agenda;
- **3rd Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23-27 June 2008)**:
 - i. Requests for debate under urgent procedure:
 - a. took note of a request for a debate under urgent procedure, submitted by the five chairpersons of the Assembly's Political Groups, on behalf of their groups, on "the functioning of democratic institutions in Turkey"; decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate; and proposed to refer this matter to the Monitoring Committee for report;
 - b. took note that the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee would request, on behalf of the Committee, the holding of a debate under urgent procedure on "the functioning of democratic institutions in Armenia", if the co-rapporteurs, following their visit to Armenia on 16 and 17 June 2008, concluded that insufficient progress had been achieved by then as regards the implementation of the proposals made by the Assembly in its Resolution 1609 (2008) on the functioning of democratic institutions in Armenia;
 - ii. Draft agenda: updated the draft agenda of the part-session;
 - iii. Draft agenda of the Joint Committee: agreed to include the following items on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Committee on Thursday 26 June 2008 at 6.30 pm:
 - 1. The Council of Europe and the situation in south-eastern Europe;
 - 2. The Council of Europe and the situation in the South Caucasus region;
 - 3. The European Court of Human Rights: current and future developments;
 - 4. Possibly: Any matter arising from the Assembly's June 2008 part-Session;
- **References and transmissions to committees**: see Appendix I;

- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, 22-23 May 2008):** took note of the conclusions by the President and authorised their transmission for information and possible action to the Chairpersons of National Delegations of the Assembly and to the committees of the Assembly;

- **Observation of elections:**

i. Parliamentary elections in Serbia (11 May 2008): approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee (Rapporteur Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD);

ii. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (21 May 2008): took note of the press release issued after the elections and, in the absence of the Rapporteur (Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE), decided to postpone discussion of this item until its next meeting;

iii. Parliamentary elections in the “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (1st June 2008): approved the composition of the Ad hoc committee and took note that the President had appointed Mr Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG) as Chairperson of the committee;

iv. decided to call a meeting, during the June 2008 part-session, of Chairpersons of Ad hoc Committees for the observation of elections, having held this function during the period 2006-2008, and open to all members having participated in the observation of elections;

- **Draft Agreement on strengthening co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE):** approved the draft cooperation agreement between the Assembly and the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies;

- **Visits by Rapporteurs:**

i. authorised Mr Margelov, Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on the “situation in the Middle East” to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Middle East (Israel, Palestinian Territories and Jordan) from 16-20 June 2008 in the framework of the preparation of his report;

ii. authorised Mrs Papadopoulou, Rapporteur of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on “Abduction and illegal confinement of women and girls in the name of practices contrary to human rights” to carry out a fact-finding visit to Morocco in the framework of the preparation of her report;

- **60th anniversary of the Council of Europe:** took note of a document prepared by the Secretariat on the Assembly’s participation in the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Council of Europe and decided to return to this item at one of its future meetings;

- **Tripartite Forum on the situation in the Middle East (Rhodes, 11-12 June 2008):** established an Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum composed of the following members or their representatives: the five Chairpersons of the political groups; and the Chairpersons of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights; the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development; the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs; the Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs and the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men;

- **April 2009 part-session:** subject to the approval of the Assembly, proposed to change the dates of the April 2009 part-session, 30 March to 3 April 2009 (instead of 20 to 24 April 2009 as originally planned);
- **North-South prize of the Council of Europe for 2008:** decided to put forward the candidature of the following personalities:
 - i. Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan;
 - ii. Mr Jorge Fernando Branco de Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations and Former President of Portugal;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:
 - i. Sub-committee on International Economic Relations (of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development): Washington DC (United States of America), 1-3 July 2008;
 - ii. Committee on Culture, Science and Education: Warsaw (Poland), 1-3 September 2008;
 - iii. Sub-committee on Migration (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population): Kiev (Ukraine), 4-5 September 2008;
- **Assembly Representatives for official activities:**
 - i. Appointments of Assembly Representatives for official activities: in reply to formal invitations took the following decisions:
 - a. Mr Vrettos (Greece, SOC): Parliamentary Summit and 31st Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Athens (Greece), 9-11 June 2008;
 - b. Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE): Closing conference of the Council of Europe Campaign to “Combat Domestic Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence”: Strasbourg, 10-11 June 2008;
 - c. Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD): 17th Annual Session of the OSCE: Astana (Kazakhstan), 29 June – 3 July 2008;
 - d. Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD), Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) and Mr Mc Intosh (United Kingdom, SOC): 3rd Summer University for Democracy of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 30 June – 4 July 2008;
 - e. Mrs McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC): G8 International Parliamentarians’ Conference on Population and Sustainable Development, Tokyo (Japan), 2-3 July 2008 (at no cost to the Assembly);
- **Parliamentary Assistance Programmes in 2007 and 2008:** took note of the document submitted by the Secretariat on this subject;

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

- . Strasbourg, Monday 23 June 2008 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 27 June 2008 at 8.30 am;
- . Paris, Friday 5 September 2008 at 9 am (instead of Monday 8 September 2008).

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. 11558**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Margelov and others
Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia in Europe, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report* and to the Political Affairs Committee *for opinion*, to deal with paragraph 3 of the motion
2. **Doc. 11571**
Motion for a resolution by Mr Pieter Omtzigt and others
Children without Parental Care: Urgent need for Action, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
3. **Doc. 11572**
Motion for a resolution by Ms Carina Ohlsson and others
Children who witness domestic violence, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*
4. **Doc. 11573**
Motion for a resolution by Mrs Christine McCafferty and others
Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Maghreb in fighting social exclusion, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
5. **Doc. 11574**
Motion for a resolution by Mr Konstantin Kosachev and others
Inhumane treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
6. **Doc. 11578**
Motion for a resolution by Mr Francis Grignon and others
Protecting innovation and consumers in Europe, *consultation* of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *on the follow-up to be given*
7. **Doc. 11581**
Motion for a resolution by Mr John Prescott and others
The challenges posed by climate change, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*
8. **Doc. 11582**
Motion for a resolution by Mr Bernard Marquet and others
Water: a strategic challenge for the Mediterranean Basin, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

9. **Doc. 11583**
Motion for a resolution by Mr Paul Rowen and others
Human rights and the family division in England and Wales, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

10. **Doc. 11520**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bilozir and others
European expatriates: relations to their countries of origin, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*

B. MODIFICATION OF A REFERENCE

1. **Decision of the Bureau of 17 December 2007**
Situation of democracy in Europe
Ref. No. 3413 of 21 January 2008, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*, and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*

C. EXTENSION OF A REFERENCE

1. **Doc. 10753**
Motion for a resolution presented by Ms Bousakla and others
Abduction and "re-education" of Muslim women and children who have become too "Western-minded"
Ref. No. 3200 of 17 March 2006 - Validity: 17 March 2008, extended to 27 June 2008 by Bureau decision on 21 January 2008, *extension* until 31 December 2008.