



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

9 September 2008

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday, 5 September 2008 in Paris with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Georgia–Russia conflict:***

i. was informed about the action undertaken by the President since the start of the conflict;

ii. held an exchange of views with the Chairpersons of the Georgian and Russian parliamentary delegations to the Assembly;

iii. decided, on the basis of a unanimous proposal submitted by the five chairpersons of the Assembly's Political Groups, on behalf of their groups, to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure during the following part-session on "Consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia"; and proposed to refer this matter to the Monitoring Committee for report and to the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for opinion;

iv. set up an ad hoc committee to study the situation on the ground in Russia and Georgia from 21-26 September 2008, composed of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee for Georgia and Russia, the Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee and the Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Chairpersons of the Political Groups or their representatives and chaired by Mr Van den Brande in his capacity as Chairperson of the Assembly's largest political group;

- ***4th Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 29 September – 3 October 2008):***

i. Draft agenda:

a. updated the draft agenda for the part-session;

b. proposed to refer the report on "*The situation in Cyprus*" to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;

ii. Joint Committee (Thursday, 2 October at 6.30 pm): agreed to include the item "*Consequences of the war between Russia and Georgia*" as the only item on the agenda;

- ***Observation of elections:***

i. Post-electoral mission in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (15-16 July 2008): approved the report of the ad hoc committee;

ii. Parliamentary elections in Belarus (28 September 2008): decided not to observe these elections unless an invitation was received, in which case an ad hoc committee would be set up composed of one member of each political group;

iii. Senatorial elections in Kazakhstan (4 October 2008): decided to observe these elections and set up an ad hoc committee composed of one member of each political group;

- **Cooperation with the European Parliament:** was informed of the conclusions of the meeting between the Presidential Committee of the Assembly and the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament which took place in Brussels on 28 August 2008;

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

- **Communications:** took note of the communications of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as the Secretary General of the Assembly;

- **Forum for the Future of Democracy (Madrid, 15-17 October 2008):** took note of the draft programme;

- **Debates on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe:** took note of a document prepared by the Secretariat entitled "the evaluation of the 2008 debate on the state of democracy and lessons to be drawn for the 2009 debate on the state of human rights", and decided to come back to this item at a future meeting;

- **3rd World Holocaust Forum commemorating the seventy years since the Kristallnacht:** decided to set up an ad hoc committee composed of thirty members representing the political groups according to the d'Hondt system, in order to participate in the meeting in Brussels on 10 November 2008 on the occasion of the European Day of Tolerance;

- **Composition of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:** approved Mr Huseynov (Azerbaijan) as a new member, as proposed by the EDG group, for ratification by the Assembly;

- **Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize:** appointed the following four independent experts to sit on the jury:

i. Mr Pietr van Dijk, Netherlands, Chairman of the department of administrative justice of the Council of State, former judge at the European Court of Human Rights;

ii. Mrs Irene Khan, Bangladesh, Secretary General of Amnesty International;

iii. Mr Marek Antoni Nowicki, Poland, President of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, former International Ombudsman in Kosovo on appointment by the UN;

iv. Mrs Gaby Vermot-Mangold, Switzerland, former member of the Assembly;

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

i. Ad hoc Sub-Committee (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education): Praia (Cape Verde), 16-18 October 2008;

ii. Sub-Committee on External Relations (of the Political Affairs Committee): New York (United States of America), 20-22 October 2008;

iii. Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee: Lisbon (Portugal), 27-28 October 2008;

iv. Committee on Economic Affairs and Development: London (United Kingdom, EBRD), 22-23 January 2009;

- **Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:** see Appendix II;

- **Third Summer University for Democracy (Strasbourg, 30 June – 4 July 2008):** took note of the final declaration;

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

. Strasbourg, Monday 29 September 2008 at 8 a.m.

. Strasbourg, Friday 3 October 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. 11658**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hancock and others
Regular monitoring of the living conditions provided to children with mental and physical disabilities living in institutions, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*
2. **Doc. 11659**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Boswell and others
Threat to Democracy and Human Rights in Zimbabwe, to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*
3. **Doc. 11662**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Cliveti and others
Social measures, education and rehabilitation of young offenders, to Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
4. **Doc. 11663**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr MacShane and others
Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code: the case of Ragip Zarakolu, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information in the framework of its post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey*
5. **Doc. 11664**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Err and others
Requiring a minimum of 30% of each sex on Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's national delegations, consultation of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *on the possible follow-up*
6. **Doc. 11666**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Clappison and others
The right to freedom of religion in Algeria: the case of Habiba Konida, to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*
7. **Doc. 11667**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bételle and others
Promoting a prevention policy against gaming addiction and combating cybercriminality related to online betting and gaming, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report at the Standing Committee*

B. REQUEST TO EXTEND REFERENCES

1. **Doc. 10985**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Txueka and others
The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states
Ref. No. 3281 of 6 October 2006 – validity: 6 October 2008, extension until 31 January 2009.

APPENDIX II

Appointments of Assembly Representatives for official activities

In reply to formal invitations, the Bureau took the following decisions:

- i. Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD): Joint Parliamentary Meeting “Europe: migration and integration”, Brussels (Belgium), 10-11 September 2008;
- ii. Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD): OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Fall Meeting, Toronto (Canada), 18-21 September 2008;
- iii. Mrs Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD): Seminar “Systematic Work for Human Rights”, Stockholm (Sweden), 6 October 2008 (no cost for the Assembly);
- iv. Mr Mignon (France, EPP/CD): 1st World Policy Conference, Evian (France), 6-8 October 2008;
- v. Mr Austin (United Kingdom, SOC): 119th Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union, Geneva (Switzerland), 13-15 October 2008;
- vi. Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE): Forum of Foreign Ministers of Muslim and Western Countries “Common World: Progress through Diversity”, Astana (Kazakhstan), 17 October 2008;
- vii. Mr Pavlidis (Greece, EPP/CD): Colloquy “The European Constitutional Treaty and the representative, participative democracy”, Athens (Greece), 18 October 2008;
- viii. Mrs Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE): 4th Ministerial Seminar on “Teaching remembrance: for a Europe of freedom and rule of law”, Nuremberg (Germany), 5-7 November 2008;
- ix. Mr Wodarg (Germany, SOC): Forum “the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level”, Lisbon (Portugal), 10-11 November 2008;