



## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

### Secretariat of the Assembly

#### Synopsis

12 January 2009

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Friday 9 January 2009 in Barcelona, with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia:***

i. Implementation of Resolution 1633 (2008) on “The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia”: was informed about the discussions held concerning this issue within the Monitoring and the Political Affairs Committees;

ii. “The humanitarian consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia”: was informed about the discussions held concerning this issue within the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population;

iii. Visit by the Presidential Committee to Russia: was informed about the programme for the visit of the Presidential Committee to Moscow which would take place from 18 to 20 January 2009;

- ***Standing Committee (Madrid, 28 November 2008):***

i. Follow-up to the current affairs debate on “The global financial crisis: the economic collapse of Iceland”: referred this matter to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;

ii. Follow-up to Resolution 1640 (2008) on the “Use by Assembly members of their dual parliamentary role – both national and European”: decided to ask the Committee on Rules, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to provide the Bureau with proposals concerning, in particular, paragraph 6.1;

- ***2009 First part-Session of the Assembly (26-30 January 2009):***

i. Requests for current affairs debates:

a. took note of two requests for current affairs debates: one submitted by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development on the “**Financial crisis and the protection of citizens’ rights**”; and the other submitted by the chairpersons of the Assembly’s Political Groups, on behalf of their groups, on the “**Situation in Gaza**”;

b. in accordance with Rule 52.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on the “**Situation in Gaza**”;

- ii. Request for a debate under urgent procedure: decided, on the basis of a request submitted by the chairpersons of the Assembly's Political Groups, on behalf of their groups, to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on "**The consequences of the global financial crisis**" and to refer this matter to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report;
- iii. Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights: took note of the report by the Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges and proposed that the Assembly ask the Government of San-Marino to submit a new list;
- iv. Draft agenda: updated the draft agenda;
- v. Draft agenda of the Joint Committee (Thursday 29 January 2009): agreed to propose to the Committee of Ministers to include the following items on the agenda:
  - 1. The Council of Europe's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the May 2009 meeting of the Committee of Ministers;
  - 2. Reform of the European Court of Human Rights: recent developments;
  - 3. Follow-up given to Assembly Recommendation 1846 (2008) on "the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia";
  - 4. The situation in Armenia;
  - 5. Budgetary prospects for 2010;
  - **Statement:** adopted a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza;
  - **References and transmissions to committees:** see appendix;
  - **State of Human Rights in Europe: Proposal for the theme for the 2009 debate:** approved the theme put forward by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on "The state of human rights in Europe: The need to eradicate impunity";
  - **Observation of elections in 2009:**
    - i. Presidential election in "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (22 March 2009), subject to receipt of an invitation:
      - a. set up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections, composed of 20 members in accordance with the "D'Hondt" system (7 EPP/CD, 6 SOC, 3 EDG, 3 ALDE and 1 UEL);
      - b. authorised a pre-electoral mission composed of five members – one from each political group who were also members of the ad hoc Committee – on the understanding that it should take place approximately one month ahead of the elections;
    - ii. Parliamentary elections in Moldova (March 2009, date to be confirmed), subject to receipt of an invitation:
      - a. set up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections, composed of 20 members in accordance with the "D'Hondt" system (7 EPP/CD, 6 SOC, 3 EDG, 3 ALDE and 1 UEL);
      - b. authorised a pre-electoral mission composed of five members – one from each political group who were also members of the ad hoc Committee – on the understanding that it should take place approximately one month ahead of the elections;

- iii. Schedule for 2009 : took note of the elections which would take place in 2009;
- iv. Meeting of Chairpersons and members of ad hoc committees for the observation of elections during the period 2006-2008: was informed that this meeting would take place on Tuesday 27 January 2009 at the close of business;
  - **Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2009 financial year:** approved a series of measures proposed by the Secretary General of the Assembly in order to meet budgetary restrictions [AS/Bur (2009) 06];
  - **Communications:** took note of the communications of the President, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and of the Secretary General of the Assembly;
  - **Co-operation agreement between the Assembly and the Latin American Parliament :** noted that the President signed this agreement with the President of the Latin American Parliament on 5 December 2008 ;
  - **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council of Europe:** was informed by the Secretary General of the activities which might be carried out by the Assembly in the framework of the celebrations planned for this event;
  - **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:**
    - i. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Berlin (Germany), 23-24 March 2009;
    - **Assembly representatives for official activities:**
      - i. Appointment of representatives of the Assembly for official activities: in reply to a formal invitation, appointed Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) to participate in the Winter Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in Vienna on 19-20 February 2009;
      - ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation in official activities: took note of a report by Mrs Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) regarding her participation at a seminar in Stockholm on 6 October 2008 on "Systematic Work for Human Rights – a challenge to local/regional politics" organised by the association of local authorities of Stockholm;
  - **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:
    - . Strasbourg, Monday 26 January 2009 at 8.00 am;
    - . Strasbourg, Friday 30 January 2009 at 8.30 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  
 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

The Bureau approved the following references and modifications of references, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

### A. References to committees

0. **Follow-up to the current affairs debate on “The global financial crisis: the economic collapse of Iceland”**: to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;
1. **Doc. 11740**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bjarnadóttir and others**  
**Geothermal Energy: a solution for the future?**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*
2. **Doc. 11741**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Ducarme and others**  
**Armed conflicts and the environment**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*
3. **Doc. 11742**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rowen and others**  
**Human rights and family courts**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
4. **Doc. 11744 rev.**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Chope and others**  
**Clarification on the rules of motions**, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Modifications to the Rules of Procedure"*
5. **Doc. 11748**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Boswell and others**  
**Identity documents and databases**, consultation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *on the follow-up to be given*
6. **Doc. 11749**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Omtzigt and others**  
**End the travel ban for Chernobyl children**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information* and to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*
7. **Doc. 11750**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Ms McCafferty and others**  
**15 years since the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development**, to the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs *for report* and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for opinion*

8. **Doc. 11751**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Biberaj and others**  
**Term of office of co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee**, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for report* and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for opinion*
  9. **Doc. 11752**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr McIntosh and others**  
**The potential contribution of the Council of Europe in the development of the European Higher Education Area**, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report at the Standing Committee*
  10. **Doc. 11753**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Kiuru and others**  
**Involving women in the prevention and solution of unsolved conflicts in the Council of Europe area**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for information*
  11. **Doc. 11754**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lambert and others**  
**Discriminatory laws against Macedonian political refugees from Greece**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
  12. **Doc. 11755**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others**  
**Iraqi displacement crisis: a humanitarian disaster**, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for information*
  13. **Doc. 11756**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wodarg and others**  
**The situation of immigrants and asylum seekers in Southern Europe**, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for information*
  14. **Doc. 11757**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Ms Hägg and others**  
**Women's access to lawful medical care: the problem of unregulated use of conscientious objection**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*
- B. Reply after consultation**
1. **Doc. 11672**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Asko-Seljavaara and others**  
**Prevention of obesity and type 2 diabetes and promotion of healthy nutritional habits among children and the young**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
- C. Modification of references**
1. **Ref. 3483 of 29 September 2008. Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Hurskainen and others (Doc. 11678)**  
**The socio-economic potential of the Baltic Sea region**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report at the Standing Committee*

and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for opinion*

**2. Ref. 3200 of 17 March 2006. Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bousakla and others (Doc. 10753)**

**Abduction and “re-education” of Muslim women and children who have become too “Western-minded”**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report* and to the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs *for opinion*

**D. Extension of a reference**

**1. Ref. 3294 of 22 January 2007. Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others (Doc. 11073)**

**The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states**  
validity 22 January 2009, extended until 30 June 2009