



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

13 May 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on 11 May 2009 in Madrid with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Follow-up to be given to texts adopted at the Standing Committee meeting (Paris, 13 March 2009):**

i. *Resolution 1656 (2009) "Mobilising parliaments for Africa's development"*: in accordance with paragraph 16.6, asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to take steps to implement the Assembly's cooperation agreement with the Pan-African Parliament and to ensure that the Assembly's committees make use of the co-operation agreement with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe;

- **Follow-up to be given to texts adopted during the 2nd ordinary Part-Session of 2009 (Strasbourg, 27-30 April 2009):**

i. *Resolution 1660 (2009) "The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states"*: in accordance with paragraph 16.3, entrusted the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights with the follow-up to be given to paragraph 16 of this resolution;

ii. *Resolution 1664 (2009) "The humanitarian consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia: follow-up given to Resolution 1648 (2009)"*: in accordance with paragraph 23, decided that the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population would continue to follow this issue;

iii. *Resolution 1665 (2009) "The election process for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe"*: in accordance with paragraph 9, decided to entrust the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to submit proposals to the Bureau concerning changes to the Rules with regard to the appointment of the three senior officers of the Council of Europe;

iv. *Resolution 1666 (2009) "The functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova"*: in accordance with paragraph 11, decided to instruct the Monitoring Committee to continue to follow this matter;

- **Standing Committee (Ljubljana, 29 May 2009)**: took note of the updated draft agenda;

- **3rd ordinary Part-Session of 2009 (Strasbourg, 22-26 June 2009)**: adopted the preliminary draft agenda and decided to invite Dr Kälin, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, to address the Assembly in the framework of the debate on the report "Protecting the human rights of long-term displaced persons in Europe";

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

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

- **Observation of elections**

i. *Albania: observation of the parliamentary elections (28 June 2009)*: approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee put forward by the political groups and appointed Mrs Jonker (the Netherlands, EPP/DC) as Chairperson;

ii. *Bulgaria: observation of the parliamentary elections (5 July 2009)*: invited the political groups to make proposals as to the composition of the ad hoc committee for the observation of these elections;

- **European Committee for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CPT)**: approved the lists of candidates with respect to Denmark and Hungary for transmission to the Committee of Ministers on the basis of the order of preference recommended by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and as endorsed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:

i. *with regard to Denmark*:

1. Mr Jørgen Worsaae RASMUSSEN
2. Mr Leif HERMANN
3. Ms Elisabeth ARNOLD

ii. *with regard to Hungary*:

1. Ms Anna MOLNÁR
2. Mr András SZÜCS
3. Mr Gergely FLIEGLAUF

- **Issues raised by committees:**

i. *Belarus*: set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau comprising Mr Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on the situation in Belarus; Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee and Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, to attend the opening ceremony of the Infopoint of the Council of Europe in Minsk on 8 and 9 June;

ii. *Procedure for referring motions to committees*: asked the Secretariat to present proposals with a view to improving this procedure;

iii. *Forum on early warning in conflict prevention (Strasbourg, 24-25 September 2009)*: decided to set up an ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum comprising members of the Political Affairs Committee and members of other committees concerned;

iv. *Nevsky International Ecological Congress (Saint Petersburg, 15 May 2009)*: took note of the draft declaration due to be adopted during the Nevsky International Ecological Congress;

- **Possibility of holding a Youth Assembly to mark the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe**: pronounced itself to be in favour of the holding of such an Assembly during the October part-session and was informed by Mr Mignon, Chairperson of the French delegation, of his contacts with the European Youth Parliament and of his intention to submit, at the next Bureau meeting, a proposal as to the possible involvement of this association in this event;

- **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy (Kyiv, 21-23 October 2009)**: approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee;

- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (30 April – 22 June 2009)**: appointed Mr Harutyunyan (Armenia, EDG) as Rapporteur;

- **Draft code for civil participation:**

i. took note of the draft code for civil participation prepared by the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe;

ii. transmitted the draft to the Political Affairs Committee for it to prepare comments which should reach the Bureau in time for its next meeting in order for the Bureau to give its opinion on this subject in the next progress report;

- **European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe:** indicated its agreement with the draft memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Assembly and this association, to be included in the next progress report;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:** approved the changes to the lists of members for both committees;

- **Appointment of Assembly Representatives for official activities:** in reply to a formal invitation, appointed Mr van der Linden (the Netherlands, EPP/CD) to participate in the international "Karlspreis" ceremony in Aix-la-Chapelle on 21 May 2009 (without cost for the Assembly);

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

- . Ljubljana, Thursday 28 May 2009 at 3pm;
- . Strasbourg, Monday 22 June 2009 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 26 June 2009 at 8.30 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
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 Standing Committee:

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Piracy and hostage-taking on the high seas**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Keleş and others
Doc. 11803
and
2. **Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others
Doc. 11837, to the Political Affairs Committee *for one report on "Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies"*
3. **Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) : a solution for the future ?**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Cousin and others
Doc. 11816, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*
4. **Tourism for elderly people**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Cortajarena and others
Doc. 11817, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*
5. **Reconciliation and political dialogue between the countries of the former Yugoslavia**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marcenaro and others
Doc. 11818, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
6. **Preserve the Monastery of Mor Gabriel in Turkey**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Omtzigt and others
Doc. 11820, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report at the Standing Committee*
7. **Framing a proactive policy for public authorities in Europe aimed at preventing overweight and achieving regulation**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Karamanli and others
Doc. 11825, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on the "Prevention of obesity and type 2 diabetes and promotion of healthy nutritional habits among children and the young" (ref. 3517 of 26 January 2009)*
8. **Peril of using energy supply as an instrument of political pressure**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others
Doc. 11826, *consultation of the Political Affairs Committee on the follow-up to be given*
9. **Transport of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by river and river-sea going vessels as an efficient facility solving the present gas crisis**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Melčák and others
Doc. 11827, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report* and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for opinion*
10. **The impact of the European Union Eastern Partnership on economic growth in Eastern Europe**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rigoni and others
Doc. 11828, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*
11. **The Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership of the European Union**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lindblad and others
Doc. 11843, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

12. **International Convention for the Protection of all persons from enforced disappearances**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Gardetto and others
Doc. 11830, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

13. **Lack of appropriate follow-up, by the Committee of Ministers, to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others
Doc. 11831, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

14. **New human rights: regulatory frameworks on ethically sensitive issues and implementation thereof**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Farina and others
Doc. 11832, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

15. **The evaluation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact approaching its 70th anniversary**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Zingeris and others
Doc. 11833, to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

16. **Impact of the financial crisis upon pensioners**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Baroness O'Cathain and others
Doc. 11834, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "The social impact and the human dimension of the financial and economic crisis in the Council of Europe's member states" (ref. 3527 of 30 January 2009)*

17. **Women's right to hold an individual passport**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Hägg and others
Doc. 11835, consultation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *on the follow-up to be given*

18. **Gender budgeting as a tool for safeguarding women's health**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Circene and others
Doc. 11836, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report at the Standing Committee* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*

19. **Situation in Venezuela**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Kukan and others
Doc. 11849, consultation of the Political Affairs Committee *on the follow-up to be given*

20. **Learning lessons from "colour revolutions"**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others
Doc. 11850, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

21. **Re-engaging in the parliamentary dialogue with the United States**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others
Doc. 11851, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

22. **The European civil aviation industry confronted with the global financial and economic crisis**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Braun and others
Doc. 11852, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

23. **Sixty years of European co-operation**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others
Doc. 11853, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

24. **The need to combat economic crime in times of economic crisis**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr R. Huseynov and others
Doc. 11856, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

25. **Democracy and the limitation of mandates**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mota Amaral and others
Doc. 11863, to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

B. REQUEST TO MODIFY A REFERENCE

1. **On the compliance of the International Court of Justice decision in the Avena case**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Van den Brande and others
Doc. 11606
Ref. 3461 of 23 June 2008
and
The death penalty in Council of Europe member and observer countries – an unacceptable violation of human rights
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Wohlwend and others
Doc. 11675
Ref. 3481 of 29 September 2008, reference of the two motions to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for one report* (deadline : 23 June 2010)

C. REQUEST TO EXTEND A REFERENCE

1. **Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
Doc. 11103
Ref. 3305 of 22 January 2007 – validity: 30 April 2009, extension until 31 October 2009