



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

22 June 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 22 June 2009 in Strasbourg, with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **3^d Part of the 2009 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 22-26 June 2009):**

i. The election process for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

a. took note of a letter from Mr Zbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, following the meeting held in Brussels on 18 June between the Presidential Committee of the Assembly and the Bureau of the Committee of Ministers at ministerial level;

b. decided to ask the opinion of the Venice Commission on the respect by the Committee of Ministers of the rules regarding the current process for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (subject to ratification by the Assembly);

ii. Requests for debates under urgent procedures

a. "The election process for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe" (submitted by 20 parliamentarians): decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter;

b. "The situation in Iran" (submitted by 20 parliamentarians): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter and proposed to refer it to the Political Affairs Committee for report;

iii. Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of San Marino: took note of the report of the Sub-Committee on the election of judges, including the recommendations contained in it, and decided to forward it to Assembly members;

iv. Draft agenda: decided to withdraw the point on the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the draft agenda and approved the updated draft agenda;

v. Joint Committee (Thursday 25 June at 6.30 pm): agreed with the President as to the holding of a meeting of the Joint Committee and the items to be proposed to the Committee of Ministers for inclusion on the agenda:

a. Follow-up to the Communication by Mr Zbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, before the Assembly on 22 June 2009;

b. Situation in Belarus;

c. "Partner for Democracy" status with the Parliamentary Assembly;

- **Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (30 April – 22 June 2009):** approved the Progress report;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix I;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. *Comments on the Draft Code of good practice for civic participation in the decision-making process:* approved the comments on the Draft Code of good practice for civic participation in the decision-making process transmitted by the Political Affairs Committee;
 - ii. *Proposal for an exchange of views with members of the Congress of the United States:* heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee regarding a proposal for an exchange of views with members of the Congress of the United States;
- **Communications:** took note of communications by the President and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Observation of elections :**
 - i. *Bulgaria: observation of the parliamentary elections (5 July 2009)*
 - a. took note that the competent authorities of Bulgaria until now failed to issue an invitation for the assembly to observe these elections and in these circumstances decided to cancel the observation mission;
 - b. decided to refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee in the context of its on-going post-monitoring dialogue, with a view to a possible debate at the October part-session, as foreseen in the rules;
 - c. adopted a declaration on this matter (see Appendix II);
 - ii. *Moldova: observation of the parliamentary elections (29 July 2009):* subject to receipt of an invitation, decided to observe these elections and to set-up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections composed of 20 members, according to the "D'Hondt" system;
- **Resolution 1376 (2004) relating to "Cyprus" :** took note of letters from the two Turkish Cypriot political parties informing the President of the Assembly of the names of the "elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community" entitled to sit in the Assembly, namely Mr Ertugruloglu (National Unity Party) and Mr Caglar (Republican Turkish Party) to be submitted to the Assembly for its approval within the framework of the progress report;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:** approved the list of members as proposed by political groups for ratification by the Assembly;
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:**
 - i. *Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:* in reply to formal invitations, took the following decisions:
 - a. Mrs Basseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) : meeting 2009 of the Council of Europe on the religious dimension of the intercultural dialogue (Strasbourg, 29-30 June 2009) ;
 - b. Mrs John-Calame (Switzerland, SOC) and Mr Mignon (France, EPP/DC) : XXXV session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the francophony (Paris, 2-6 July 2009, without costs for the Assembly);
 - c. Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE), Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) and Mr Ivanic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD): 4th Summer University (Strasbourg, 6-10 July 2009, without costs for the Assembly for Mr Marty and Mr Gross);
 - d. Mrs Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE): 18th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (Nyborg (Denmark), 30 August -1 September 2009);

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

- . Strasbourg, Friday 26 June 2009 at 8.30 am;
- . Paris, Monday 7 September 2009 at 9.30 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 I

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

i. References to committees

1. **The problem of political prisoners in Europe and the necessity to investigate the issue of political prisoners in Armenia**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr R. Huseynov and others
Doc. 11898, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia"*
2. **The situation of the Turkish minority in Rhodes (Rodos) and Kos (Istanköy)**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others
Doc. 11904, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for a report on the situation of the muslim minority (they regard themselves as Turks) in Rhodes and Kos*
3. **The definition of political prisoners**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Agramunt and others
Doc. 11922, consultation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *on a possible follow-up*
4. **The strategy, governance and functioning of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Elzinga and others
Doc. 11923, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

ii. Reply after consultation

1. **The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Korkeaoja and others
Doc. 11902, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

iii. Extension of references

1. **For a Europe-wide sex offenders register**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Pernaska and others
Doc. 11400
Ref. 3382 of 23 November 2007 – Validity: 23 November 2009, extension until 31 March 2010
2. **Minority protection in Europe: best practices and deficiencies in implementation of common standards**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cilevičs and others
Doc. 11261
Ref. 3355 of 25 June 2007 – Validity: 25 June 2009, extension until 31 December 2009
3. **Copyright in Europe**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Bodewig and others
Doc. 11272
Ref. 3360 of 25 June 2007 – Validity: 25 June 2009, extension until 31 December 2009

Appendix II

Parliamentary Elections in Bulgaria (5 July 2009): Assembly Bureau concerned over Sofia's lack of cooperation

Strasbourg, 22 June 2009. The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting in Strasbourg on 22 June 2009, expressed its disappointment that the competent authorities of Bulgaria had until now failed to issue an invitation for PACE to observe the forthcoming parliamentary elections of 5 July 2009 and considered this to be a clear case of lack of cooperation with PACE.

The Bureau recalls that Bulgaria is subject to a post-monitoring dialogue and that, in accordance with the existing rules, the Bureau decided, on 27 April 2009, to observe the 5 July elections and set up a twenty member ad hoc committee for that purpose, a decision on which the Bulgarian side was fully aware. The Bureau considers that the non-issuance of a timely invitation is indicative of Bulgaria's unwillingness to subject the functioning of its democracy to international scrutiny at such an important juncture.

The Bureau recalled that, under the existing rules, observation of elections and referenda on a national level is an inalienable right of the Assembly. A State's lack of cooperation or its refusal to accept a PACE election observation mission should give rise to a debate at the part-session or the Standing Committee meeting following the elections in question. The debate may result in sanctions that could include the challenge of credentials of the national delegation concerned on the basis of Rule 8.2.b (lack of cooperation under the Assembly's monitoring procedure).

The Bureau decided to refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee in the context of its on-going post-monitoring dialogue, with a view to a possible debate at the October Part-Session, as foreseen in the rules.