



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

7 September 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday, 7 September 2009 in Paris with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers:** was informed by the President of the outcome of the meetings between the Presidential Committee of the Assembly and the Bureau of the Committee of Ministers held in Paris on 13 July 2009 and in Bled on 31 August 2009 and also of the holding of another meeting in Brussels on 14 September 2009.
- **4th Part of the 2009 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 28 September – 2 October 2009):**
 - i. Draft agenda:* updated the draft agenda and noted its agreement for the Acting Chairman of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to be invited to participate in the debate on “The challenges posed by climate change” to take place on Tuesday 29 September;
 - ii. Joint Committee (Thursday 1 October from 8 to 9 am):* agreed to propose to the Committee of Ministers that the following points be placed on the agenda for the meeting:
 - a. Enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers;
 - b. Current political questions;
 - iii. Ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe:* took note of the programme of events taking place on 30 September and 1 October 2009;
- **Resolution 1671 (2009) on the situation in Belarus:**
 - i.* took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat, upon the instructions of the President, on the implementation of Paragraph 19 of Resolution 1671 (2009);
 - ii.* referred the issue of follow-up of the situation in Belarus to the Political Affairs Committee for report;
 - iii.* asked the Political Affairs Committee – within the framework of the preparation of the report on the situation in Belarus and within one year of the lifting of the suspension of the special guest status of the Parliament of Belarus with regard to the Council of Europe, or sooner – to submit an evaluation of whether Belarus has made substantive and irreversible progress towards Council of Europe standards;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix I
- **Observation of elections:**
 - i.* Parliamentary elections in Albania (28 June 2009) and in Moldova (29 July 2009) : approved the reports of the respective ad hoc committees;

- ii. Parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (5 July 2009): approved the report of the ad hoc committee and decided to return to this issue following the debate in the Assembly;
- **Communications:** took note of the communications of the President, the Acting Secretary General of the Council of Europe and of the Secretary General of the Assembly;
- **Code of good practice in the field of political parties:** referred the code of good practice to the Political Affairs Committee for report;
- **Issues raised by committees**
 - i. *60th anniversary of the Council of Europe "Festival del Cinema" (Venice, (Italy) 9 September 2009):* approved of the composition of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in this event and appointed the President of the Assembly as its Chairperson;
 - ii. *Follow-up to Assembly Resolution 1640 (2008) on the "Use by members of their dual parliamentary role - both national and European"*
 - a. took note of the opinion of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;
 - b. agreed to ask the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to consult the chairpersons and/or secretaries of national delegations before the end of 2009, on the proposals contained in this opinion and in particular the setting up within that Committee of a sub-committee with the task of selecting the texts requiring parliamentary action;
 - c. agreed to return to this point in the light of the results of the above-mentioned consultation.
 - iii. *Report on the situation in Kosovo:* in the context of the preparation of this report, took note of the decision of the Political Affairs Committee to invite representatives of the Kosovo Assembly, as well as other actors with first-hand knowledge of the situation in Kosovo to an exchange of views to be held during one of its forthcoming meetings in the course of the next part session;
 - iv. *"Euro-Mediterranean: call for a Council of Europe strategy":* the Bureau authorised Mr Badré (France, ALDE), within the framework of the preparation of his report, to visit Cairo for meetings with representatives of the League of Arab States;
- **International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2009 (Interparliamentary Union):** adopted a declaration (see Appendix II);
- **Forum for the Future of Democracy (Kiev, Ukraine), 21-23 October 2009):** took note of the summary and conclusions of the meeting of the Advisory Board on 26 June 2009;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** see Appendix III;
- **Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:** see Appendix IV;
- **Fourth Summer University For Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-10 July 2009):** took note of the final declaration;
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2010:** see Appendix V;
- **Organisational chart of the Secretariat of the Assembly:** took note of the new organisational chart;

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

- . Strasbourg, Monday 28 September 2009 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 2 October 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 I

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

i. References to committees

1. **Raising awareness in national parliaments and governments of the Council of Europe's vital mission and need for sufficient resources**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Meale and others
Doc. 11967, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*
2. **The investigation of events of 1 and 2 March 2008 in Armenia, in particular the exact circumstances that led to the deaths**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others
Doc. 11970, 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 the Assembly's monitoring procedure on Armenia*
3. **Situation in Belarus**
Decision by the Bureau, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* in order to continue to follow the situation in Belarus
4. **Code of good conduct in the field of political parties**
Decision by the Bureau, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

ii. Modifications to references

1. **Impact of the financial crisis upon pensioners**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Baroness O’Cathain and others
Doc. 11834, to the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs *for report* and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*
2. **Situation in Venezuela**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Kukan and others
Doc. 11849, no further action
3. **Democracy and the limitation of mandates**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Moto Amaral and others
Doc. 11863, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
4. **Human rights and family courts**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rowen and others
Doc. 11742, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

Appendix II

Declaration by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the United Nations International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2009

The world's celebration of the International Day of Democracy on 15 September 2009 touches a special chord with the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly. Sixty years ago, in 1949, the Council of Europe was created by ten European countries trying desperately to recover from the onslaught of nazism and fascism and the horrors of World War II, in order that Europe would never again experience such a negation of basic human values and rights.

Unique among international organisations, the Council of Europe was founded on three ideals: the preservation and strengthening of democracy; the consolidation and expansion of the rule of law; and the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Once despaired of by many, and under mortal threat, these universal values have today proven their strength, as virtually all European countries – forty-seven – are members of the Council of Europe and their parliaments represented in its Parliamentary Assembly. All have taken on specific legal commitments to uphold these values.

But as history shows, democracy is never safe, either from outside threats or from inner decay. Like any social endeavour, its health and its ability to achieve the aspirations of citizens depend on their daily involvement, empowerment, effort and ingenuity in organising and running it. This belief forms the essence of the work of the Council of Europe, whose Parliamentary Assembly is redoubling its efforts in order for all its member states to attain the highest standards of democracy and to spread these standards across the globe.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe therefore warmly welcomes the Interparliamentary Union's 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy and the United Nations' proclamation a decade later of an International Day of Democracy. The world community will no doubt in the years to come suffer many setbacks along the difficult road to global democracy, but the strength of the democratic ideal - supported by millions across the world who thirst for freedom, justice and a political voice - is such that these obstacles will eventually be overcome. Europe must, and will, continue to be in the vanguard of this struggle.

Appendix III

Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the following meetings:

- a. Sub-committee on the Europe Prize (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs), Ankara (Turkey), 9-10 October 2009;
- b. Sub-committee on Local and Regional Democracy (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs), Utrecht (Netherlands), 16-17 November 2009;
- c. Sub-committee on Youth and Sport (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education), Budapest (Hungary), 5-7 October 2009;
- d. Sub-committee on Media (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education), Luxembourg (Luxembourg), 26 October 2009;
- e. Sub-committee on the Cultural Heritage (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education), Lisbon (Portugal), 20 November 2009.

Appendix IV

Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities

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

- i. Mrs Wurm (Austria, SOC): 10th Conference of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons organised by the OSCE, Vienna (Austria), 14-15 September 2009 (at no cost to the Assembly);
- ii. Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD): 61st plenary session of the Nordic Council, Stockholm (Sweden), 27-29 October 2009 (at no cost to the Assembly).

Appendix V

Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2010

The Bureau approved the following dates¹:

Monday 25 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 29 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 11 March, 3 pm, Paris	Bureau
Friday 12 March, 9.00 am, Paris (to be confirmed)	Standing Committee
Monday 26 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 30 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
May, Skopje (date to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 21 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 25 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 6 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 4 October, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 8 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
November, Turkey (date and place to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 13 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau

¹ Dates of meetings due to be held elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris are subject to the conclusion of a formal agreement with the Parliament of the country concerned.