



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

15 December 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday, 14 December 2009 in Paris with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Standing Committee (Bern, 20 November 2009):***

i. *Resolution 1698 (2009) "Amendment of various provisions of the Parliamentary Assembly's Rules of Procedure"*: in accordance with paragraph 7, asked the Secretariat to prepare an amended version of the "guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly";

ii. *Resolution 1699 (2009) "Procedural implications of Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1600 (2008) on the Council of Europe and its observer states – the current situation and a way forward, and related Assembly texts"*: in accordance with paragraph 8, asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to transmit this text to parliamentary observer delegations;

- ***1st part-session of the Assembly in 2010 (25-29 January 2010):***

i. *Requests for urgent debate:*

a. "Faked Pandemics – a threat for health" (submitted by the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee): decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter;

b. declared itself to be in favour of the holding of a debate under urgent procedure on the consequences of the world financial crisis, subject to a formal request for such a debate be submitted;

ii. *Agenda for the part-session:* drew up the draft agenda;

iii. *Joint Committee (Thursday, 28 January 2010 at 6.30 pm):* agreed to propose to the Committee of Ministers that the following items be included on the agenda:

a. Enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers;

b. Future of the European Court of Human Rights;

- ***Communications:***

i. took note of the communications of the President, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and of the Secretary General of the Assembly;

ii. held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

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

- ***2010 debate on the state of democracy in Europe:*** noted its agreement in principle with the proposal made by the Political Affairs Committee on the theme "extra-institutional sources of power in the

democratic system” to be the subject of a joint debate with the report on “the economic crisis and the legitimacy of democracy in Europe”;

- **Forum for the Future of Democracy (Kyiv, 21-23 October 2009):** approved the proposals set out in the document [AS/Bur (2009) 109], on the follow-up to be given to the Forum by the relevant Assembly committees;

- **Observation of elections:**

i. *Ukraine : presidential election (17 January 2010):* took note of the report and press release on the pre-electoral mission (Chairperson of the ad hoc committee: Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE) which took place from 24 to 26 November 2009;

- **The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia:**

i. *Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on promoting dialogue between the Georgian and Russian Assembly delegations:* was informed by the President of his intention to consult the Georgian and Russian delegations to the Assembly prior to the January 2010 part-session regarding the continuation of the work of this committee;

ii. *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee):* was informed by the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee on the follow-up given to this issue as well as the intention of the committee to present a report during the April 2010 part-session;

- **Ad Hoc Committee on the implementation of Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference:** held an exchange of views with regard to the continuation of the work of this committee and decided to return to this question at one of its meetings during the part-session of January 2010;

- **Assembly Honorary President:** decided to grant the title of Honorary President of the Assembly on Mr Van der Linden;

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

- . Strasbourg, Monday 25 January 2010 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 29 January 2010 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:

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Abuse of the criminal justice system in Armenia**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others
Doc. 12060, 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*
2. **Measures to be taken to ensure the preservation of the fundamental values of sport**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rochebloine and others
Doc. 12062, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*
3. **The impact of the world economic crisis on local and regional authorities within member states of the Council of Europe**
Motion for a resolution presented by Earl of Dundee and others
Doc. 12063, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*
4. **Promoting the development of microcredit**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Yazdanfar and others
Doc. 12064, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*
5. **The economic crisis and the legitimacy of democracy in Europe**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Zingeris and others
Doc. 12066, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*
6. **Roma asylum seekers in Council of Europe member states**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Memecan and others
Doc. 12073, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*
7. **Access to and protection of the audiovisual cultural heritage**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Fiala and others
Doc. 12077, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*
8. **Decision by the Bureau**
Extra-institutional sources of power in the democratic system, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
9. **Decision by the Bureau**
Measures to improve the democratic character of elections in Council of Europe member states, to the Political Affairs committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for opinion*

B. MODIFICATIONS TO REFERENCES

1. **The Declaration of Principles on Equality and activities of the Council of Europe**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Cilevičs and others
Doc. 12022, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*
2. **The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Korkeaoja and others
Doc. 11902
and
3. **The European Union Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Evans and others
Doc. 12050, both motions to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for a single report*

- ii. The Bureau decided to carry out the following consultations:
1. **Ensuring protection against attacks on the honour and reputation of persons**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Harutyunyan and others
Doc. 12059, consultation of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *on the follow-up to be given*
 2. **Families' freedom of choice in education in each member state**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Volonte' and others
Doc. 12061, consultation of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *on the follow-up to be given*
 3. **Fighting the global backlash against women's human rights**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Ducarme and others
Doc. 12065, consultation of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *on the follow-up to be given*