



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

25 May 2010

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on 20 May 2010 in Skopje (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) with Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Standing Committee meeting (Skopje, 21 May 2010):** took note of the up-dated draft agenda;
- **120th Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 11 May 2010):** heard an account of the outcome of the Session from the President;
- **2010 Third ordinary part-Session (Strasbourg, 21-25 June 2010):**
 - i. Draft agenda: up-dated the draft agenda;
 - ii. Draft agenda of the Joint Committee (*Thursday, 24 June 2010 at 6.30 pm*): agreed to propose to the Committee of Ministers the following items for inclusion on the agenda:
 - a. Statutory consultation on the candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - b. Enhancing dialogue and co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers;
 - c. Future priorities of the Council of Europe and budgetary prospects for 2011;
- **Situation in Belarus:** held an exchange of views on the situation in the country and authorised Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to the country in her capacity as Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee for “The Situation in Belarus”;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix I;
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina: observation of parliamentary elections (3 October 2010):** decided:
 - i. to constitute an Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members, in accordance with the D’Hondt system (11 EPP/CD, 9 SOC, 5 ALDE, 4 EDG, 1 UEL);
 - ii. to authorise a pre-electoral mission composed of five members – one from each political group also members of the Ad hoc Committee – to be carried out approximately one month before the elections;
- **Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:** took note of the communication;
- **Visit by rapporteur:** authorised Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for “Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia”, to participate in the 2010 Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 27 to 29 May 2010;
- **Statement on the rights of temporary staff of the Council of Europe:** adopted the statement appearing in Appendix II and decided to forward it to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:
 - i. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Batumi (Georgia), 16-17 September 2010;
 - ii. Committee on Migrations, Refugees and Population, Ohrid ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"), 16-17 September 2010 (tbc);
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** appointed the following Assembly representatives:
 - i. Mr Dorić, (Croatia, ALDE), seminar on "local government and territorial dynamics", Rabat (Morocco), 7 June 2010;
 - ii. Mr Lipinski, (Poland, EPP/CD), Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum, Krakow (Poland), 3 July 2010;
 - iii. Mr Lotman (Estonia, UEL), 15th Session of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT), Moscow (Russian Federation), 8-9 July 2010;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold forthcoming meetings as follows:
 - . Monday 21 June 2010, Strasbourg, at 8 am;
 - . Friday 25 June 2010, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am.

Kjell Torbiörn/Alexandra Alléon

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
 Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
 Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
 Observers to the Assembly
 Secretary General of the Congress
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
 Directors General
 Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
 Director of Communication
 Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

APPENDIX I

The Bureau approved the following references, subject to the ratification by the Standing Committee:

i. References to committees

1. **Mediation by the Council of Europe in cases of hostage-taking of Council of Europe member states citizens**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Müri and others
Doc. 12225, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
2. **Armenia's determination to become a monoethnic State and implement a policy against its national minorities**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr R. Huseynov and others
Doc. 12227, 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*
3. **European cultural and educational policies through national parliaments**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Brasseur and others
Doc. 12228, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*
4. **Securing the fundamental right to equality between women and men in the European Convention on Human Rights**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Err and others
Doc. 12229, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*
5. **Right of member states to cultivate or not to cultivate genetically modified crops**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Toshev and others
Doc. 12233, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): a solution for the future?"* (Ref. 3532)
6. **Health hazards of heavy metals**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Huss and others
Doc. 12234, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*

ii. Transmission for information

1. **Nuclear energy projects in Belarus and the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Vésaité and others
Doc. 12226, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*

iii. Consultation of committees

1. **More gender equality in Parliamentary Assembly positions**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Stump and others
Doc. 12230, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for consultation on the follow-up to be given*

iv. Extensions of references

1. **Promoting parliamentary diplomacy**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mota Amaral and others
Doc. 11593
Ref. 3455 of 23 June 2008 – validity : 23 June 2010, extension until 31 December 2010

2. **The looming crisis facing the European Court of Human Rights : urgent action needed**
Decision of the Bureau
Ref. 3380 of 5 October 2007 – validity : 30 June 2010, *extension* until 31 December 2011
3. **The need for a global consideration of Human rights implications of Biometrics**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others
Doc. 11066
Ref. 3288 of 22 January 2007 – validity : 30 June 2010, *extension* until 31 October 2010
4. **Inhumane treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Kosachev and others
Doc. 11574
Ref. 3446 of 29 May 2008 – validity : 29 May 2010, *extension* until 31 December 2010
5. **Strengthening measures to protect and revive highly endangered languages**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Hurskainen and others
Doc. 11517
Ref. 3427 of 14 April 2008 – validity : 30 June 2010, *extension* until 31 January 2011

APPENDIX II

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly on the rights of temporary staff of the Council of Europe

At its meeting on 30 April 2010, the Bureau discussed the issue of a number of temporary staff who have been employed by the Council of Europe, including within the secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly, for up to 10 years and who are facing imminent termination of their contracts.

This problem has its origin in the fact that the Council of Europe, faced with the consequences of its enlargement, resorted at the time to employing temporary staff for structural, permanent needs related to an increased level of activities.

Over the last several months, competitions were organised for permanent posts but not all these temporary staff managed to accede to a permanent status.

The Bureau is particularly concerned that these temporary staff members, after numerous years of loyal service, do not have the right to an indemnity for loss of their jobs, a right which is enshrined in the employment law of virtually all member States of the Council of Europe. Furthermore, the departure of the staff members concerned and the replacement by new temporary staff entails a waste of competencies and resources.

The rigidity of the 6-month rule on temporary employment, combined with the negative impact of the economic crisis in all member States, further exacerbates the economic hardship which these temporary staff members will have to face upon the termination of their contracts with the Organisation.

The Bureau of the Assembly therefore calls upon the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to take all appropriate ad hoc measures to improve the situation of these temporary staff in order to protect their rights in conformity with the fundamental principles of the Organisation. The Bureau firmly believes that such measures would also be in the interests of an efficient and effective use of the human resources of the Organisation as a whole.