



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2012) 08
2 July 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 29 June 2012

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 29 June 2012 in Strasbourg, with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Third part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2012):** approved the proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly for follow-up to the part-session as set out in Appendix I;
- **Fourth part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 1-5 October 2012):** drew up a preliminary draft agenda;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the proposals contained in Appendix II, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Election observation:**
 - i. **Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (28 October 2012):** approved the final composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections; decided to include the two co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, in their capacity as *ex officio* members of the ad hoc committee, in the composition of the pre-electoral mission;
 - ii. **Parliamentary elections in Georgia (October 2012):** approved the final composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections; decided to include the two co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, in their capacity as *ex officio* members of the ad hoc committee, in the composition of the pre-electoral mission;
 - iii. **Revised Guidelines for the observation of elections:** approved the amendment to the Guidelines on the observation of elections by the Assembly as regards the inclusion of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the countries concerned as "ex officio" members of the ad hoc committees;
- **Communications:** took note of the communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Relations with the European Parliament:** took note of the synopsis of the meeting of the Joint PACE/EP Informal Body held on 19 June and of an information memorandum on the relations between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from January to June 2012;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. **Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:** took note of the opinion of the Venice Commission on the intended suspension of the constitutional amendment procedure in Belgium and decided accordingly that no further action should be taken by the Assembly on this matter;

ii. *Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:*

. authorised the fact-finding visit of Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) to Egypt, in the second half of the year, in the context of the preparation of a report on “Political transition in Egypt”;

. authorised the fact-finding visit of Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) to the Palestinian Territories and Israel, in the second half of the year, in the context of the preparation of a report on the “Evaluation of the partnership for democracy with the Palestinian National Council”;

. authorised a representative of the committee to attend the conference on the abolition of the death penalty to be held in Morocco on 10 July 2012, subject to receipt of a formal invitation, accompanied by the General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty, if available;

iii. *Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination:*

. authorised Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to conduct a fact-finding visit to Morocco, on 8 and 9 July 2012, in his capacity of general rapporteur on violence against women;

- **Youth Assembly 2012 (Strasbourg, 5-7 October 2012):** took note of a Memorandum on the state of preparation of the Youth Assembly prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly, decided to set up an ad hoc committee subject to approval by the Assembly, and approved the composition of an ad hoc committee to participate in the event;

- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 5-11 October 2012):** approved the final composition of an ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum and appointed the President of the Assembly as its Chairperson;

- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, 20-21 September 2012):** took note of the draft programme of the Conference;

- **Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (29 June – 1 October 2012):** appointed Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) as rapporteur;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** on the basis of a proposal by the EPP/CD group, nominated Mr Mikuláš Dzurinda (Slovenia, EPP/CD), subject to ratification by the Assembly;

- **Analysis of the use made by the Assembly’s political groups of their allocations for 2011:** approved the report submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedures, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:

. the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Sighișoara (Romania) on 21 July 2012;

. the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Corciano (Italy) on 12 August 2012;

. the Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Relations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in London on 5 September 2012;

. the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to meet in Ljubljana and Maribor (Slovenia) on 21 September 2012;

. the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Moscow on 19-20 November 2012 ;

- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** appointed the following members:

. Ms Carmen Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD) to attend the Conference “The gender approach in the development of Women in the Mediterranean”, organised by the Association “Voix de femmes”, Women’s Tribune and the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe), in Tetouan (Morocco) on 7 July 2012;

. Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD) to attend the International Session of the European Youth Parliament in Tallinn on 27 July – 5 August 2012;

. Mr Paolo Corsini (Italy, SOC) to attend the Council of Europe 2012 Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue on the theme: “Taking responsibility for tomorrow’s Europe: the role of young people in the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue” in Durrès (Albania) on 3-4 September 2012;

. the Chair or a member of the delegation of Albania to attend a tribute from the European youth to the people who saved the honour of humanity during the Holocaust in Tirana on 5 September 2012;

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

- . Nice (France), Monday 3 September 2012 at 9.30 am
- . Strasbourg, Monday 1 October 2012 at 8.am
- . Strasbourg, Friday 5 October 2012 at 8.30 am
- .

Markus Adelsbach / Ivi-Triin Odrats

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
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
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

Proposals for follow-up to the 3rd part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2012)

- **Current affairs debate on “European institutions and human rights in Europe”:** decided
 - . to refer the topic of the current affairs debate "The European institutions and human rights in Europe" to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
 - . to ask the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to prepare the report on "The memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union - evaluation 5 years after" subject to ratification by the Assembly;
 - . to ask the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to prepare the report on "Challenges of a "federal Europe", subject to ratification by the Assembly;

- **Resolution 1891 (2012) on the situation of human rights defenders in the Council of Europe member states:** to seize the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for a report on “Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States” subject to ratification by the Assembly;

- **Resolution 1885 (2012) on the young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political implications of the financial crisis:** to make use of the Assembly’s state of democracy and human rights debates to assess progress made and the effectiveness of measures taken by member States in improving access to social rights;

- **Resolution 1889 (2012) on the portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns:** with reference to paragraph 12, to ask the Venice Commission to carry out a study on the portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns, with a view to possibly amending the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters.

- **Resolution 1893 (2012) on political transition in Tunisia:** to seize the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for a report on “Political transition in Tunisia” subject to ratification by the Assembly.

Appendix II

References and transmissions to Committees

Doc. No.	Nature of document	Title of document	Proposals
12940	Motion for a resolution	Need to reinforce the independence of the European Court of Human Rights	Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights <i>to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The future of the European Court of Human Rights and the Brighton Declaration” (Ref. 3864 of 27 April 2012)</i>
12941	Motion for a resolution	Fathers and their influence on children’s well-being	Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development <i>for information</i>

12946	Motion for a resolution	Migrants: a benefit or a burden for our society?	Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons <i>for report</i>
12947	Motion for a resolution	Addressing age discrimination on the labour market	Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination <i>for report</i> and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development <i>for opinion</i>
12979	Motion for a resolution	The war between Georgia and Russia: the humanitarian situation in the war-affected areas	Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons <i>for report</i>

Modification of a reference

The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2011-2012, Ref. 3845 of 9 March 2012

Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*

Extension of a reference

Measures to improve the democratic character of elections in the Council of Europe member States, Bureau decision of 14 December 2009

Ref. 3629 of 25 January 2010 - validity: 30 June 2012

Extension until 31 December 2012