



AS/Bur/CB (2012) 11

5 October 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 5 October 2012

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 5 October 2012 in Strasbourg, with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Fourth part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 1-5 October 2012):** approved the proposals made by the Secretary General of the Assembly for the follow-up to the adopted texts as set out in Appendix I;
- **Standing Committee (Andorra la Vella, 30 November 2012):** took note of the draft agenda;
- **First part-session of 2013 (Strasbourg, 21-25 January 2013):** 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 Georgia (1 October 2012):** took note of the press release issued by the ad hoc committee, which observed the election;
 - ii. **Presidential elections in Armenia (February 2013):** decided to observe these elections (subject to the receipt of an invitation and confirmation of the date), to constitute an ad hoc Committee for this purpose composed of 22 members: EPP/DC: 7, SOC: 6; ALDE: 3; EDG: 3; UEL: 1 and the two Co-Rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, and to authorise a pre-electoral mission;
 - iii. **Parliamentary elections in Monaco (10 February 2013, tbc.):** decided to observe these elections (subject to the receipt of an invitation and confirmation of the date), to constitute an ad hoc Committee for this purpose composed of 6 members, including one from each political group and the Rapporteur for the post-monitoring dialogue with Monaco;
- **Communications:** took note of the communication by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. adopted the declaration on “The North-South Centre and the Arab countries in transition” as submitted to the Bureau jointly by the Chairpersons of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (Appendix III);
 - ii. **Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons:** decided to transfer the request by the Committee to extend its mandate to include topics dealing with population, nationality and stateless persons to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, to be taken into account within the revision of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure;

- **Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (5 October 2012 – 21 January 2013):** appointed Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as rapporteur;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):** drew up the list of candidates for the CPT in respect of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:**
 - . nominated Mr Jacques Legendre (France, EPP/CD), Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD), Mr Pasquale Nessa (Italy, EPP/CD) and Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC) to the Monitoring Committee, on the basis of proposals submitted by political groups, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
 - . nominated Mr George Loukaides (Cyprus, UEL) to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, on the basis of a proposal submitted by the United European Left group, subject to ratification by the Assembly;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** Appendix IV;
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** Appendix V;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Andorra la Vella, Thursday 29 November 2012 at 3 pm;
 - . Paris, Monday 17 December 2012 at 9.30 am;
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 21 January 2013 at 8 am;
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 25 January 2013 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 4th part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 1-5 October 2012)

- . **Resolution 1897 (2012) on ensuring greater democracy in elections:**
 - to convene a meeting of chairpersons of ad hoc committees to observe elections in 2008-2012 during the January 2013 part-session to discuss follow-up to paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Resolution;
 - to invite the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare a memorandum for the Bureau meeting of 17 December 2012 containing proposals on this issue;
- . **Resolution 1898 (2012) on political parties and women's political representation:**
 - to ask the leaders of political groups to take action on the recommendations stated in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Resolution;
 - to ask the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to organise one or more events on women's political representation for the parliaments of member States in which women's representation is below 10%;
- . **Resolution 1903 (2012) on the code of conduct of members of the Parliamentary Assembly: good practice or a core duty?:**
 - to invite the Secretary General of the Assembly to submit to the Bureau proposals for the revision of the existing rules on "Access to the Palais de l'Europe and use of offices" and on "Special rules on honorary association with the Parliamentary Assembly", and to implement the provision regarding the register of gifts or similar benefits accepted by members of a value exceeding 200€ (paragraph 14 of the Code);
 - to invite the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare, for the forthcoming Bureau meeting, proposals for revising the "Guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly" as regards :
 - . amending the provisions concerning conflict of interest and the clarification of the declaratory requirements incumbent on members of the ad hoc Committees;
 - . the absence of conflict of interest of locally recruited staff;
 - . the modalities of drafting election observation reports;
 - . the code of conduct during pre-electoral and election missions.

Appendix II

A. MOTIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND RESOLUTION

Doc. [12909](#), Motion for a resolution, Refusing impunity for the killers of Sergei Magnitsky, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

Doc. [12996](#), Motion for a resolution, Combating eugenics and discrimination against people with disabilities, *no further action*

Doc. [13015](#), Motion for a resolution, Good governance and enhanced quality in education, to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

Doc. [13016](#), Motion for a resolution, Identities and diversity within intercultural societies, to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

Doc. [13028](#), Motion for a resolution, The strengthening of national democracy through local European levels, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for information*

Doc. [13041](#), Motion for a resolution, Child poverty: a cause of continuing human rights violations and a barrier to children's full development, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

Doc. [13042](#), Motion for a resolution, Children's right to physical integrity, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

Doc. [13043](#), Motion for a resolution, Protection of the right to bargain collectively, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

Bureau decision, Corruption as a threat to the Rule of Law, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report to be discussed during the debate on the State of Human Rights in Europe in June 2013*;

Bureau decision, Measures to prevent abusive use of the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

B. REQUEST TO EXTEND REFERENCES

Doc. 12256, Motion for a resolution, Young Europeans : an urgent educational challenge (Ref. 3688 of 21 June 2010), to extend until 30 June 2013;

Doc. 11886, Motion for a resolution, The ethics of science (Ref. 3557 of 29 May 2009), to extend until 30 June 2013;

Appendix III

Declaration by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly on “The North-South Centre and the Arab countries in transition”

1. Since the “Jasmine revolution” in Tunisia in January 2011, people in Arab countries have been seeking freedom and the conditions which would allow them to live in dignity. Recalling the Parliamentary Assembly’s Resolution 1831 (2011) on “Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the emerging democracies in the Arab world”, the Bureau of the Assembly welcomes Resolution CM/Res(2011)6 of the Committee of Ministers on the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre), calling on the Centre “*to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law through intercultural dialogue and education, in particular among the youth of Europe and its neighbouring regions*” and to foster “*dialogue and co-operation between Europe and non-European countries in neighbouring regions*”.

2. The North-South Centre offers a useful platform for structured co-operation between countries in neighbouring regions and the Council of Europe. The Centre is particularly well-placed to accompany and complement actions intended to promote the development of democratic culture and global citizenship; intercultural – and interreligious – dialogue; women and youth empowerment; social inclusion of young people; quality education; and stronger civil society.

3. Thanks to its networks and partnerships with organisations and institutions, the North-South Centre is a powerful tool to achieve synergies and encourage cross-fertilisation at regional level. The partnership with the European Union – which is contributing to the North-South Centre politically and financially – is particularly significant in this respect.

4. Therefore, the Bureau of the Assembly is concerned by the Centre’s financial fragility due to the withdrawal in recent years of some member States. To remedy this situation, recalling Recommendation 1893 (2009) on “The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)”, the Bureau of the Assembly:

4.1. deems it necessary that Member States (re-)consider their accession to the partial agreement and their voluntary contributions in support of Council of Europe/North-South Centre’s projects in the Arab countries in transition (country specific or of a regional scope);

4.2. calls on national delegations to the Assembly to: raise awareness within the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and/or other relevant ministries on the importance of (re-)including the North-South Centre among their strategic priorities; and use their political leverage to obtain that the accession to the partial agreement be (re-)considered and that, meanwhile, decisions be taken in favour of voluntary contributions to its work.

4.3. calls on national delegations to the Assembly from member States which are stakeholders in the G-8 *Deauville Partnership with Arab Countries in Transition* – i.e.: France, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, Turkey and the United Kingdom – to encourage collaboration and synergies between the Deauville Partnership, the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre.

Appendix IV

Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the following meetings:

- . ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination to meet in Istanbul (Turkey) on 3-6 November 2012;
- . Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to meet in Geneva (Switzerland) on 26-27 November 2012;
- . Sub-Committee on External Relations of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in New York (USA) on 6-7 December 2012;
- . Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in Turin (Italy) on 13-14 December 2012;
- . Sub-Committee on the Middle East of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in Palestinian Territories, Israel and Jordan on dates to be confirmed.

Appendix V

Assembly representatives for official activities

The Bureau appointed the following members:

- . Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC), 23rd Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Strasbourg, 16-18 October 2012;
- . Sir Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC), Conference on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: "Building Europe through Human Rights: Acting together against extreme poverty", Strasbourg, 17 October 2012;
- . Ms de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD), 64th Plenary Session of the Nordic Council, Helsinki, 30 October – 1 November 2012;
- . Mr Connarty (United Kingdom, SOC), Plenary Session of the European Youth Parliament, Amsterdam (Netherlands), 2-11 November 2012;
- . Mr Corsini (Italy, SOC), High Level Conference on Diversity in Europe: "Diversity in Europe: a Strength for the Future"; Tirana, 8-9 November 2012;
- . Mr Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG), 40th Plenary Session of the PABSEC, Baku, 27-28 November 2012;
- . Mr Schennach (Austria, SOC), World Conference on Climate Change, Doha (Qatar) 26 November to 7 December 2012 – his participation being limited to the last three days of the conference.