

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE, IMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Synopsis

11 December 2008

The Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, meeting in The Hague (The Netherlands) on 8 and 9 December 2008 with Mr Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Activities of the Dutch Parliament in the field of competence of the Committee:** had an exchange of views following a statement by Mrs Bemelmans-Videc, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Delegation of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe, member of the Committee for European Co-operation of the Senate of the States General, on matters related to European co-operation discussed at the Dutch Parliament, including the follow-up given to the reports of the Advisory Council on International Affairs of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on "The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe" (2005) and "The Council of Europe: less can be more" (2003);
- **Amendment of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure:** considered an introductory memorandum prepared by the Chairperson, appointed Mr Serhiy Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) rapporteur, and asked him to present a draft report at its next meeting;
- **Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings:** had an exchange of views following a presentation by the Director for General Services of the Assembly on the basis of an information memorandum prepared by the secretariat and instructed the secretariat to update statistics in order to finalise the discussion at the next meeting;
- **Questions to the Committee of Ministers:** appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) rapporteur and asked him to prepare a draft report on the review of Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure on the basis of proposals previously put forward by the Committee and approved by the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Electronic democracy** (rapporteur for opinion: Mr Gerd Höfer, Germany, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum prepared by the rapporteur for opinion, and took note of his wish to carry out a fact-finding visit to Estonia in January 2009 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy** (Madrid, 15-17 October 2008): heard a statement by its Chairperson on his participation to the Forum and took note of the conclusions of the general rapporteurs on the general theme "e-democracy: who dares?";
- **Gender equality principles in the Parliamentary Assembly:** took note of the Committee of Ministers' reply to the Assembly Recommendation 1819 (2007);
- **Motion for a resolution on "Requiring a minimum of 30% of each sex on Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's national delegations":** following the Bureau's decision to consult the Committee on a possible follow-up, had an exchange of views on the basis of an information memorandum prepared by the Chairperson and decided to invite the Bureau to refer the subject for report to the Committee and, for opinion, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men;

- **Next meeting:** in Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2009 first part-session (26 - 30 January 2009).

Mario Heinrich, Valérie Clamer

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries 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 of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe