



## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

### Secretariat of the Assembly

#### Synopsis No. 2003/40

31 March 2003

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on 31 March 2003 in Strasbourg with Mr Schieder in the Chair, as regards:

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Part of the 2003 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 31 March-4 April 2003)*: up-dated the draft order of business;
- *Accession of Serbia and Montenegro to the Council of Europe*: took note that the accession ceremony will take place on Thursday 3 April 2003 at 9.15 am;
- *Progress Report of the Bureau (31 January-31 March 2003)*: (Rapporteur: Mr Clerfayt, Belgium, LDR): approved the part of the Progress Report covering the period from 10 March to 31 March 2003;
- *4<sup>th</sup> part of the 2003 Ordinary session*: approved the revised schedule of meetings to be held during the part-session from 25 September to 2 October 2003 and instructed the Secretary General of the Assembly to transmit this schedule to the national delegations and political groups;
- *Observation of elections in Armenia*:
  - a. Presidential elections: approved and declassified the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the report covering the second round of the presidential elections, which took place on 5 March 2003;
  - b. Parliamentary elections (25 May 2003):
    - i. decided to set-up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members with the following repartition of seats among the political groups based on d'Hondt system: SOC-11, EPP-8, LDR-5, EDG-4, UEL-2;
    - ii. decided to send a pre-electoral mission to Armenia composed of 5 members, one from each political group, who are also members of the above-mentioned Ad Hoc Committee, and decided that this mission should take place, in principle, one month before the elections;
- *Referendum in Liechtenstein (16 March 2003)*: referred the opinion of the Venice Commission on the amendments to the Constitution of Liechtenstein proposed by the Princely House of Liechtenstein to the Monitoring Committee and made an application to this Committee to initiate a monitoring procedure;
- *Budget 2004 Consultation meeting*: took note that the consultation meeting between the delegations of the Assembly and the Ministers' Deputies to discuss the Council of Europe's and Assembly's budget 2004 will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003;

- *References and transmissions to committees:* approved the following proposals:
  - a. *References:*
    1. Doc. 9739  
Motion for an order  
Evolution and future development of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina: to the Political Affairs Committee
    2. Doc. 9745  
Motion for a resolution  
Need to prevent present transatlantic disagreements over Iraq from negatively affecting vital transatlantic economic relations: to the Political Affairs Committee to be included in the report on "Relations between Europe and the United States"
    3. Doc. 9749  
Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers  
Public ethics at local level – Model Initiatives Package: to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs
    4. Doc. 9750  
Motion for a recommendation  
Cartographic conquest – mass change of the toponyms with the political purposes and distortions of maps: no further action
    5. Doc. 9715  
Motion for a recommendation  
Social and health issues related to surrogate motherhood: to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, for opinion (on 10 March 2003, the Bureau proposed to refer this motion to the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs for report)
  - b. *Extension of references:*

Doc. 9239  
Reference No 2659 of 8 November 2001 – Validity: 8 November 2003  
Armenian-Azerbaijan (Mountainous Karabakh) Conflict

and

Doc. 9257  
Reference No 2674 of 8 November 2001 – Validity: 8 November 2003  
Renunciation of Azerbaijan's military statements on solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by the forceful means  
to extend the references until January 2004
- authorised the following meetings:
  - . Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, Kyiv (Ukraine, 12-13 May 2003)
  - . Political Affairs Committee, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19-20 May 2003
  - . Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Bucharest (Romania), 25-27 May 2003
  - . Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter and Employment (of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee), Andorra, 13-14 June 2003

- . Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, Budapest (Hungary), 1-2 September 2003 (European Youth Centre)
- Request for a modification of the name of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography: decided to refer this matter to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities for report to a Standing Committee;
- Date and place of the next meetings: confirmed the following meetings:
  - . Strasbourg, Friday 4 April 2003 at 12 noon (at the end of the Part-Session);
  - . Berlin, Monday 28 April 2003 at 3 pm
  - . Chisinau, Tuesday 27 May 2003 at 8.30 am.
  - . Strasbourg, Monday 23 June 2003 at 8.30 am
  - . Strasbourg, Friday 27 June 2003 at 12 noon (at the end of the Part-Session)
  - . Naples, Monday 8 September 2003 at 9 am.

Petr Sich/Agnès Nollinger

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- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Special guests and observers to the Assembly
- 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 and Research
- Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe