

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2003/109
27 September 2003

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Strasbourg on 26 September 2003, with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **4th part of the 2003 Ordinary session (Strasbourg, 25 September – 2 October 2003):**
 - a. decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on the “role of the United Nations in Iraq” and to refer this matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report;
 - b. decided not to recommend to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on the “functioning of democratic institutions in the South Caucasus States”;
 - c. decided not to recommend to the Assembly to hold an urgent debate on the “public broadcasting service”;
 - d. decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on the “current situation in Kosovo”, fixed the duration of this debate to 1 hour and asked Mr Micunovic, Chairman of the parliamentary delegation of Serbia and Montenegro to open the debate (or, if not available, another member of this delegation);
 - e. up-dated the draft order of business, in particular:
 - . Tuesday 30 September 2003: included the election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina (10 a.m.), withdrew the report on “Gender-Balanced Representation in the Parliamentary Assembly” and replaced it by the current affairs debate on the “current situation in Kosovo” (11 a.m.);
 - . Wednesday 1 October 2003: included a possible second round of the election of a judge to the ECHR with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina (10 a.m.);
 - . Thursday, 2 October 2003: included the urgent debate on “the Role of the United Nations in Iraq” (10 a.m.);
 - f. took note of the agenda of the Joint Committee;
 - g. took note of the list of candidates for the election of a judge of the European Court on Human Rights with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina and transmitted the report of the Sub-Committee on the election of judges to the members of the Assembly;
- **Progress report of the Bureau (27 June – 26 September 2003) (Rapporteur: Mr Mercan, Turkey, EPP-CD):** adopted the Progress report;

- *Presidential election in the Chechen Republic (5 October 2003)*: decided not to observe this election and took note that the rapporteurs of the Committees concerned will propose to carry out a fact-finding visit shortly after this election;

- *Liechtenstein*: discussed the opinion adopted by the Monitoring Committee recommending to the Bureau that a monitoring procedure should be opened as regards Liechtenstein and decided to postpone the decision on the question whether to initiate a monitoring procedure until its meeting to take place on 6 November 2003 in Paris and to invite the rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee on this matter, as well as its Chairperson, to this meeting for this item on the agenda;

- *Observation of elections*:

a. *Azerbaijan: Presidential election (15 October 2003)*: took note of the memorandum presented by Mr Gross on the pre-electoral mission (15-16 September 2003), decided to attach this memorandum to the Progress report of the Bureau and took note of the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections;

b. *Georgia*: took note of the programme of the pre-electoral mission (7-11 October 2003) and of the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections;

- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Croatia*: took note of the memorandum approved by the Monitoring Committee and agreed to the recommendation of this Committee to conclude the post-monitoring dialogue;

- *3rd Annual report on the activities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (1 January - 31 December 2002)*: decided to refer this matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report and to invite the Commissioner to take part in the debate on the report to be presented by this Committee;

- *references to Committees: approved the following proposals*

1. **Doc. 9875 rev.**
Motion for a resolution
Need for international condemnation of totalitarianism, to the Political Affairs Committee for report.
2. **Doc. 9895**
Motion for a resolution
The acute terrorist threat against civil aviation posed by portable missiles, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development for report.
3. **Doc. 9896**
Motion for a recommendation
The human rights situation in Kosovo, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report.
4. **Doc. 9906**
Motion for a recommendation
Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote in general elections, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report, and to the Political Affairs Committee for opinion.

5. **Doc. 9907**
Motion for a recommendation
Campaign to combat domestic violence in Europe, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for report.
6. **Doc. 9924**
Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers
Draft additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on Biomedical Research, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for opinion.
7. **Doc. 9916**
3rd Annual Report on the activities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (1 January – 31 December 2002), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report.

- *modification of references:*

Doc. 9859

Motion for a resolution

The persecution of the press in the Republic of Belarus

Ref. No 2857 of 8 September 2003, confirmed its decision of 8 September 2003 to refer this text to the Political Affairs Committee for report, and proposed, in addition, to refer this report to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for opinion.

- *confirmed its next meeting:* Strasbourg, Thursday 2 October 2003 at 3.30 pm (at the end of the Part-Session).

Petr Sich/Agnès Nollinger

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