

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2004/07
13 January 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on 12 January 2004 in Paris with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *1st Part of the 2004 Ordinary Session (26-30 January 2004):*

a. recommended to the Assembly to hold the following urgent debates:

. on "Terrorism: a threat to democracies" (requested by the Political Affairs Committee), and proposed to refer it to the Political Affairs Committee for report;

. on "the constitutional crisis in Ukraine" (requested by the Monitoring Committee), and proposed to refer it to the Monitoring Committee for report;

b. up-dated the draft order of business, in particular:

Tuesday 27 January 2004:

. withdrew from the draft order of business the report on "the Principality of Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe";

. included the report on "Public service broadcasting", initially foreseen for Thursday 29 January 2004, instead of the above-mentioned report;

Wednesday 28 January 2004:

. invited Mr M. Saakashvili, President-elect of Georgia, to address the Assembly during the afternoon sitting;

Thursday 29 January 2004:

. included the two proposed urgent debates in the morning sitting in the following order: 1. "Terrorism: a threat to democracies", 2. "The constitutional crisis in Ukraine";

. decided to hold the following debates in the afternoon: 1. "Improving the prospects of developing countries: a moral imperative for the world", 2. "Euthanasia", 3. "Access to assistance and protection for asylum seekers at European seaports and coastal areas";

. invited Mrs Carroll, Minister for International Cooperation of Canada, to speak during the debate on "Improving the prospects of developing countries", together with Mr Goerens, Minister for Co-operation, Humanitarian Action and Defence of Luxembourg;

c. took note of the draft agenda of the Joint Committee to be held on 28 January 2004 at 6pm;

d. was informed by the President about the results of his contacts concerning the allegations that led to the postponement of the 2nd round of the election of a judge to the European Court on Human Rights with respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which showed that there was no evidence for these allegations;

e. taking into account the recent developments in Georgia, authorised the Monitoring Committee to adopt its report on “the functioning of democratic institutions in Georgia” at the latest on 26 January 2004 before 3 pm in derogation to Rule 33.2 concerning the deadlines for distribution of reports;

f. on the basis of the arrangements agreed for the September 2003 part-session, asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to invite two members of the Belarus Parliament representing respectively the majority and the opposition to the part-session and agreed that the political groups could invite representatives of other political forces;

g. took note that Mrs Ebadi, Nobel Prize Winner, could not come to Strasbourg for this part-session and asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to explore the possibility of inviting her for the April 2004 session or for the Standing Committee on 2 March 2004;

h. took note of a model for a new presentation of amendments aiming at facilitating their discussion in plenary;

- *Monaco's application for membership of the Council of Europe:*

a. took note of the letters of Mr Leclercq, Minister of State of Monaco, of 7 and 8 January 2004 and of the letter of Mr Valéri, President of the National Council of Monaco, concerning the commitments, which Monaco is required to honour following its accession;

b. asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to discuss with the authorities of Monaco their position with respect to the commitments concerning the Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Cyber Crime Convention and the cooperation with the OECD;

c. decided to include the debate on this report on the agenda and the draft order of business of the April 2004 part-session;

- *Progress report of the Bureau (2 October 2003 – 26 January 2004):* appointed Mr Cekuolis as rapporteur to replace Mr Lloyd and approved the first part of the Progress report (2 October 2003 – 11 January 2004);

- *Liechtenstein:* took note of the letter of the President of the Parliament of Liechtenstein expressing the Parliament's openness to dialogue with the Assembly;

- *Azerbaijan:* took note of the decree of the President of Azerbaijan on “Pardoning of a number of persons sentenced to imprisonment” of 29 December 2003;

- *Goodwill Ambassadors:* took note that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe would provide the Bureau with more information on their nominations and duties;

- *3rd Summit of the Council of Europe:* held an exchange of views with Ambassador Krzysztof Kocel, Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe and Chairman of

the Ad Hoc Working Party of the Ministers' Deputies to prepare the 3rd Summit of Heads of States and Government of the Council of Europe (GT-SOM3);

- *Budgetary questions:*

- a. took note of the document on the budget of the Council of Europe and the Assembly for 2004;
- b. approved the apportionment of the allocation to the political groups for 2004;

- *Observation of elections:*

a. *Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (7 December 2003):* approved and declassified the report of the Ad Hoc Committee;

b. *Parliamentary elections in Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) (28 December 2003):* took note of the press release issued after the elections;

c. *Presidential election in Georgia (4 January 2004):* took note of the press release issued after the elections;

d. *Forthcoming elections:*

. *Parliamentary elections in Georgia (28 March 2004):* decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee of 30 members (d'Hondt system) to observe these elections and to send a pre-electoral mission not later than one month before the elections composed of one representative from each political group (who are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee);

. *Presidential elections in Russia (14 March 2004):* decided to set up an Ad Hoc Committee of 10 members to observe these elections (d'Hondt system, it being understood that all political groups are represented);

- *Kazakhstan:* took note that both Chambers of the Parliament of Kazakhstan had approved the draft agreement based on the Bureau's model and that a delegation was ready to come to Strasbourg to sign this Agreement, possibly during the April 2004 part-session;

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):*

a. took note of the letter of the Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

b. drew up the lists of candidates as follows:

. with respect to Azerbaijan: 1. Mr Huseynov, 2. Mr Guliev, 3. Mr Issmailov;

. with respect to Belgium: 1. Mr Neve, 2. Mr Smaers, 3. Mr van der Kelen;

. with respect to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia": 1. Mr Ortakov, 2. Mr Matovski, 3. Mr Kambovski;

. with respect to Slovakia: 1. Ms Radicova, 2. Mr Valko, Mr Benedik;

c. requested a new list of candidates from the Parliament of Albania;

- *References and transmissions to committees:*

a. approved the following reference:

Doc. 10021

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Iwiński and others
New trends and challenges for Euro-Mediterranean migration policies, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for report*

- b. approved the following change of reference

Doc. 9297 Ref. No 2683

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Clerfayt and others
Greater transparency of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities (instead of the Political Affairs Committee, which had asked to delete this reference from its work programme) and extended its validity until 26 January 2006

- c. extended the following reference:

Doc. 8266 Ref. No 2687 Validity: 21 January 2004

Motion for an order presented by Mr Bindig and others

Repayment of the deposits of foreign exchange made in the offices of the Ljubljanska Banka not on the territory of Slovenia, 1977-1991, until 21 March 2004.

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

- a. Political Affairs Committee, Ljubljana (Slovenia), 8-9 March 2004;

- b. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population: Mexico, 29-31 March 2004 (it being understood that interpretation will be ensured in English, French and Spanish only);

- Opinion of the Venice Commission on the "implication of a legally binding EU Charter of Fundamental Rights on human rights protection in Europe": took note of this opinion and transmitted it for information and possible follow-up to the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

- Standing Committee: decided to hold a meeting of the Standing Committee in Paris on Tuesday 2 March 2004 at 9.30 am (French National Assembly, Lamartine Room);

Date and place of the next meetings: confirmed the following meetings:

- . Strasbourg, Monday 26 January 2004 at 8.30 am,
- . Strasbourg, Friday 30 January 2004 (at the end of the Part-Session)
- . Paris, Monday 1st March 2004, 3 pm

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
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