

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No. 2004/043
8 April 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Istanbul on Tuesday 6 April 2004, with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Chair:

- heard a welcome address by Mr Bülent Arınç, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and held an exchange of views;

As regards:

- 2nd Part of the 2004 Ordinary Session (26-30 April 2004):

a. updated the draft agenda, adding an item concerning the Draft Protocol No 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights, and authorised a derogation from the deadline for the distribution of the report by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;

b. proposed to the Assembly to hold the following urgent debates:

- the “new Dutch policy on asylum seekers” and decided to refer this matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for report;
- the “situation in Kosovo”, decided to refer this matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report and, for opinion, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education and to invite Mr Holkeri, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo to take part in the debate;

c. took note of the letters of Mr Leclercq, Minister of State of Monaco, to the President of the Assembly presenting the position of Monaco on the commitments concerning Protocol No 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Cyber-crime convention, as well as on the co-operation with the OECD, and of the intention of Mr Atkinson and others to table amendments in this respect;

d. drew up the draft order of business;

e. took note of the exchange of letters between the President of the Assembly and the Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies concerning the items for the Joint Committee, which will take place on 29 April 2004 at 6.30 pm;

f. took note of the letter of the Chairman of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee informing the Bureau about the Committee's decision to propose to the Assembly that the report on Euthanasia be referred back to the Committee after the debate in the Assembly and before the vote on the draft resolution and supported this proposal;

g. following a proposal of Mr Hunault, rapporteur on the "situation of European prisons and pre-trial detention centres", decided to invite Mr Turco, rapporteur of the European Parliament on the prison situation in the European Union to participate in this debate;

h. on the basis of the arrangements agreed for previous part-sessions, asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to invite two members of the Belarus Parliament representing respectively the majority and the opposition to this part-session, agreed that the political groups could invite representatives of other political forces and decided to invite one representative of the Parliament and one representative of the out-of-parliament opposition to take part in the debate on the reports concerning Belarus;

- Progress report of the Bureau (30 January – 26 April 2004) (Rapporteur: Mr Lloyd, United Kingdom, SOC): approved the first part of the Progress report (30 January – 1 March 2004);

- Libya:

a. took note of the report by Mr Eörsi on his visit to Libya on 2-4 March 2004 and decided to come back to this matter at a forthcoming meeting;

b. authorised Mr Eörsi, in the framework of his mandate, to carry out a second visit to Libya, possibly during May 2004;

- Latvia:

a. took note that the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee on the request to initiate a monitoring procedure visited Latvia on 28-30 March 2004 with a view to preparing the Committee's opinion for the Bureau on this matter;

b. took note of the exchange of letters between the President of the Assembly and the Speaker of the Latvian Parliament;

- Observation of elections:

a. Presidential election in the Russian Federation (14 March 2004): took note of the press release issued after the election and of information given by Mr Bindig, Chairman and Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee that observed this election;

b. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (28 March 2004): took note of the press release issued after the election;

c. Presidential election in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: was informed that the presidential election would take place on 14 April 2004 and, according to the guidelines for the observation of elections, decided not to observe it;

- European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments (17-19 May 2004):

a. took note of the President’s proposal for the preliminary draft programme of the Conference and for the Draft Rules of the Conference;

b. took note that the President will organise a meeting with the Speakers of the Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the afternoon of 17 May 2004;

- Parliamentary Assistance Programme: took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and approved the proposals contained therein;

- Third Part of the 2004 Ordinary Session (21-25 June 2004); decided to invite the President of Armenia as a guest speaker;

- Moldova: took note of the President’s letter to the Speaker of the Moldova Parliament asking for the reasons for lifting the parliamentary immunity of MM. Cubreacov, Rosca and Secareanu and of the reply by the Speaker;

- Budget 2005 consultation meeting:

a. took note that the consultation meeting with the Ministers’ Deputies will take place at 5.30 pm on 27 April 2004 to discuss the 2005 budgets of the Council of Europe and the Assembly;

b. took note of the proposals of the Secretary General of the Assembly on this matter;

- Pan African Parliament: took note of the President’s message of support to the inaugural session of this new Parliament and approved the proposal of the President to invite a delegation of this Parliament to a part-session;

- References and transmissions to committees: approved the following proposals:

a. references:

1. Doc. 10105

Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mr Schmied and others

Regrouping agricultural land and forests in Central and Eastern Europe, to the Committee of Environment, Agriculture, and Local and Regional Affairs, *for report at the Standing Committee*

2. Doc. 10106 rev.

Motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Holovaty and others

The institutional balance at the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, *for report*

3. **Doc. 10109 rev.**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mr Tkáč and others
Human rights of irregular migrants, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for report*
4. **Doc. 10110**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
The follow-up to Recommendation 1570 (2002) on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for information*
5. **Doc. 10112**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mrs Err and others
Promoting a United Nations Fifth World Conference on Women, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for report at the Standing Committee*
6. **Doc. 10113**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mr Goris and others
Protection of foreign investments in Moldova, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), to be taken into account in the preparation of its report on the “Honouring of obligations and commitments by Moldova”
7. **Doc. 10119**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
Disappearance of newborn children, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for report*
8. **Doc. 10122**
Motion for a recommendation tabled by Mrs Azevedo and others
Controlling and diagnosing children with dyslexia, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for report at the Standing Committee*
9. **Request by the Committee of Ministers for an opinion on Draft Protocol n°14 to the European Convention on Human Rights** to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*

b. requests to extend references:

1. **Doc. 9353 Ref. no 2700 – validity: 26 March 2004**
Motion for a recommendation
Harmonisation of criminal law in Europe, following the letter dated 19 March 2004 from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights asking that this reference be extended, noted that this reference has already expired and therefore cannot be extended;

c. follow-up after consultation

1. Doc. 10059

Motion for a recommendation

Working migration from the countries of Eastern and Central Europe: present state and perspectives, following consultation of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population on the possible follow-up to this motion, decided to refer this matter to this committee for report.

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

- . Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, Bratislava (Slovakia), 22 September 2004,
- . Sub-Committee on Population of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Bratislava (Slovakia), 23-24 September 2004.

- Colloquy on the dialogue between Europe and the Middle East (organised by the Sub-Committee on the Middle East on 7 April 2004 in Istanbul): took note of the draft programme and invited Bureau members to participate in it;

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

- . Strasbourg, Monday 26 April 2004 at 8.30 am
- . Strasbourg, Friday 30 April 2004, 8.30 am
- . Paris, Monday 24 May 2004 at 3.00 pm.