

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly
Synopsis No 2004/137
14 December 2004

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting in Paris on Monday 13 December 2004 with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *1st part of the 2005 Ordinary session (24-28 January 2005):*
 - a. up-dated the draft agenda;
 - b. drew up the draft order of business;
 - c. took note of the request to hold an urgent debate on “Prospects for peace in the Middle East”;
 - d. agreed to seize the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for oral opinions on the report by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on the draft convention on action against trafficking in human beings;
 - e. authorised the derogations to the deadlines for adopting the opinion on the draft specific legal instrument for the prevention of terrorism by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the opinion on the draft convention on action against trafficking in human beings by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men;
 - f. agreed to invite the Kosovo Ombudsperson, Mr Marek Nowicki, to take part in the debate on the protection of human rights in Kosovo;
 - g. decided not to follow the request by the Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development to invite a guest speaker to take part in the debate on the reports to be presented by this Committee on Friday 28 January 2005;
 - h. agreed on the following items for the agenda of the Joint Committee: Third Summit of the Council of Europe, Council of Europe draft conventions under preparation as well as the situation of the imprisoned medical staff in Libya;
- *Standing Committee in Warsaw (23 November 2004):* was informed by the Secretary General of the Assembly about the follow-up to be given by Committees to the texts adopted and to the current affairs debate on Belarus;
- *North-South Centre:* approved the draft co-operation agreement as amended;

- *Pan-African Parliament*: approved the draft co-operation agreement, on the understanding that the implementation of this agreement will be under the authority of the Bureau;

- *Observation of elections*:

a. Presidential election in Ukraine (31 October and 21 November 2004):

. was informed by the President about his correspondence in connection with this election, including his exchange of letters with the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament;

. was informed about the visit of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to Kyiv and agreed to have an exchange of views with him on this matter at its next meeting;

. decided to postpone to its next meeting the consideration of the report of the ad hoc Committee which observed the 2nd round of the election;

. decided to set up an ad hoc Committee to observe the repeated 2nd round of the election (26 December 2004), consisting of members of the ad hoc Committee which observed the first round on 31 October and the second round on 21 November, and other interested Assembly members proposed by political groups;

. appointed Mr Iwinski (SOC) Chairperson and rapporteur of this ad hoc Committee;

. agreed to invite the newly elected President of Ukraine to address the Assembly during the 2005 January part-session, provided that the election is recognised as free and fair;

b. Election of the President of the Palestinian Authority (9 January 2005):

. approved the list of members of the ad hoc Committee to observe this election;

. appointed Lord Kilclooney (EPP/CD) as Chairperson and rapporteur of this ad hoc Committee;

. subject to sufficient security conditions and to the agreement of the Central Electoral Commission of the Palestinian Authority, agreed to increase the number of the members of this ad hoc Committee from 10 to 15;

- *Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (27 January 2005)*:

a. was informed by the Secretary General of the Assembly about his contacts concerning the availability of the speakers for the ceremony in the Assembly;

b. asked him to continue these contacts and to also check the availability of Mr Shewach Weiss, former Speaker of the Knesset, and Mr Elio Toaff, former Chief Rabbi of Rome;

c. agreed to invite Mr Bartoszewski, Poland's former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Council for the Protection of the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom, to address the Assembly in the framework of this ceremony;

- *International Institute for Democracy*:

a. took note of the letter of the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute announcing, in conformity with the Bureau's decision on 23 November 2004, the Assembly's resignation from the Institute;

b. in addition to the grant of 10.000,- euros already allocated to the Institute for 2004, decided to allocate to the Institute an additional grant of 20.490,- euros (thus bringing the Assembly's grant for 2004 to the level of the 2003 grant), under the following conditions:

. this additional grant must be used exclusively to cover first-ranking liabilities of the Institute such as salaries and employer's contributions;

. any amount of this grant, which is not used for the above-mentioned purpose, must be returned to the Assembly;

- *Deadline for tabling amendments during part-sessions:*

a. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly;

b. asked the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities to draw up (under Rule 65.2) a report on the amendment of the Rule 34.5 with respect to the deadline for tabling amendments;

c. until such a report is approved, decided to apply a new deadline which would be 23 and a half hours, i.e. 10.30 am and 3.30 pm for debates taking place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except for urgent debates;

- *Monitoring Committee:*

a. took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the proposal for an increase in the number of seats (Resolution 1356 (2003));

b. decided to increase the number of seats of the Monitoring Committee to 83, subject to the approval of the Assembly;

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:* authorised the meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development in Antalya (Turkey) on 23-24 May 2005;

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

a. references:

1. Doc. 10361

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Korobeynikov and others

Strategic principles and practical aspects regarding investment in the Russian economy: to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development

2. Doc. 10362

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cilevičs and others

The OSCE guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance co-operation and synergy:

to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*, and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, *for opinion*

b. extension of references:

1. Doc. 9510

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Cilevičs and others

The plight of the deported Meskhetian population

Ref. 2755 of 3 September 2002 – Validity: 31 December 2004 (extended by the Bureau on 24 May 2004): extended until 28 January 2005.

- *Petition on the effects of the non-ratification by Belgium of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities*: following the proposals of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:

a. referred the main question raised in the petition to this Committee to be dealt with in its report on the “ratification of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe member states”;

b. as regards the issue of the division of an electoral constituency, considered that the petition was not admissible because the complaint was neither substantiated, nor of legitimate interest to the Assembly and there was a possibility of using local remedies;

- *Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities*:

CODEXTER meetings: took note that Mr Bartumeu Cassany, rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the draft Council of Europe specific legal instrument on the prevention of terrorism, will participate as an observer in these meetings;

- *Information*: heard the information by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the Assembly and noted the written information by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- *Visits*: following a specific request from the World Bank, exceptionally authorised Mr Kirilov, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, to join Mr Jonas, rapporteur of this Committee on “The World Bank and the IMF: Promoting fairness and good governance in a global economy”, during his fact-finding mission to the headquarters of the two institutions in Washington;

- Conference dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition in the World War II (15 April 2005, St. Petersburg): agreed to the proposal by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (IPA CIS) to join this Conference as a co-organiser;

- *Date and place of the next meetings*: agreed to hold the following meetings:

. Vienna, 10 January 2005 from 9.30 am to 1 pm, followed by a lunch until 2.30 pm

. Strasbourg, 24 January 2005 8.30 am

. Strasbourg, 28 January 2005 at 8.30 am.

Petr Sich/Alexandra Alléon

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