

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**Secretariat of the Assembly**  
**Synopsis No 2005/01**  
12 January 2005

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on 10 January 2005 in Vienna with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *1<sup>st</sup> part of the 2005 Ordinary session (24-28 January 2005):*
  - a. up-dated the draft order of business;
  - b. Opinion on the draft specific legal instrument for the prevention of terrorism: seized the Political Affairs Committee for opinion (subject to the transmission of the draft to the Assembly by the Committee of Ministers)<sup>1</sup>;
  - c. Opinion on the draft Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings: seized the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population for opinion;
  - d. requests for urgent debates:
    - . *“Prospects for peace in the Middle East”*: recommended that the Assembly hold this urgent debate and refer the matter to the Political Affairs Committee for report;
    - . *“Europe and the Tsunami Disaster”*:
      - recommended that the Assembly hold this urgent debate and refer the matter to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for report and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs for opinion;
      - invited Mr Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, and Mr Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to take part in this debate;
  - e. commemoration ceremony of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (27 January 2005):

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<sup>1</sup> transmission to the Assembly done on 11 January 2005

. decided to hold the commemoration ceremony in the Assembly Chamber on 25 January 2005 and to invite Mr Szewach Weiss, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, and Mr Jean Samuel, Auschwitz survivor, to address the Assembly on this occasion;

. agreed to invite representatives of the local and regional authorities as well as the Strasbourg religious communities to this ceremony;

f. Joint Committee: took note of the draft agenda;

g. election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:

. with respect to Serbia and Montenegro: approved and declassified the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the election of judges to the ECHR for distribution to the members of the Assembly;

. *Modification of Resolution 1366 (2004) on candidates for the European Court of Human Rights*: following the request by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, suspended temporarily all examination of the lists of candidates having all the same sex, if that is the sex which is under-represented on the Court, pending the Assembly's decision on a possible modification of its Resolution 1366 (2004);

- *Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (8 October 2004 – 24 January 2005) (Rapporteur: Mr Peter Schieder, SOC, Austria)*: approved the first part of the Progress report covering the period from 8 October 2004 to 9 January 2005;

- *Observation of elections*:

a. Presidential election in Ukraine (21 November and 26 December 2004):

. approved and declassified the report of the ad hoc Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the election (21 November 2004) (Rapporteur: Mr Christodoulides, UEL, Cyprus,);

. approved and declassified the report of the ad hoc Committee on the repeated 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the election (26 December 2004) (Rapporteur: Mr Iwinski, SOC, Poland);

b. Election of the President of the Palestinian Authority (9 January 2005): was informed about the press release issued by the ad hoc Committee which observed this election;

- *Dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein*:

a. was informed about the appointments by the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Monitoring Committee to the ad hoc Committee on the dialogue with the Parliament of Liechtenstein;

b. was informed that the UEL group appointed Mr Einarsson as member;

c. invited the EDG group to appoint its representative before the Bureau meeting on 24 January 2005;

d. decided to approve the composition of this ad hoc Committee and to appoint its Chairperson at its meeting on 24 January 2005;

- *Budgetary questions:*

- a. budget of the Assembly for 2005: took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat;
- b. proposals for the apportionment of the allocation to the political groups for 2005: approved the proposals for the apportionment;

- *European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Sectarism (FECRIS):*

- a. took note of the opinion by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities regarding the procedure followed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the report on the request by FECRIS for consultative status with the Council of Europe;
- b. agreed with the recommendations made by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities in this respect;
- c. referred this opinion to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and asked it to table a revised version of the report taking into account this opinion;

- *Amendment N° 7 to the draft resolution contained in the report on the monopolisation of the electronic media and possible abuse of power in Italy:* took note of the opinion of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities;

- *Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:*

- a. considered that Resolution (99) 50 and the timetable for the election of a new Commissioner entailed by the end of the term of office of the current Commissioner should be respected;
- b. took note of the deadlines as proposed in the appendix of the letter of the Polish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers to the President of the Assembly of 7 January 2005;
- c. proposed that the Assembly hold this election during the June 2005 part-session;
- d. decided to ask the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to organise the interviews of candidates in late May/early June 2005;

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

- a. examination of the list of candidates with respect to Albania and Ukraine: following the recommendations of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, requested a new list of candidates from the Albanian and Ukrainian Parliaments;
- b. agreed to the following proposals of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:
  - . to remind all national delegations concerned by the renewal of half of the membership of the CPT next year of the urgent need to present balanced lists of candidates fulfilling the criteria of Resolution 1248 (2001) and Recommendation 1323 (1997);

. to recommend to the national delegations to use a model curriculum vitae in order to facilitate the presentation and analysis of relevant information;

. to ask the national delegations for written information on the national procedures used to establish the lists of candidates submitted to the Bureau in order to examine possible further improvements in the selection procedure for members of the CPT;

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

a. references:

1. **Doc. 10371**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Tkáč and others**

**Demographic challenges for social cohesion**, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for report*, and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for opinion*

2. **Doc. 10377**

**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr McNamara and others**

**Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*, and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for opinion*

3. **Doc. 10387**

**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others**

**Member States' duty to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*

4. **Doc. 10388**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lloyd and others**

**The United States of America and international law**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*

5. **Doc. 10389**

**Request for an opinion from the Committee of Ministers**

**Draft Convention on action against trafficking in human beings**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, *for report*, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for opinion*

b. modification of references:

1. **Doc. 10330**

**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Severinsen and others**

**Launching a new inquiry into the murder of the Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze**

**Ref. 3018 of 23 November 2004**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*.

2. **Doc. 10343**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Sasi and others**  
**Europe's interest in the continued economic development of Russia**  
**Ref. 3025 of 23 November 2004**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, *for report*, and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for opinion*.
- c. follow-up after consultation
1. **Doc. 10160**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Braun and others**  
**Local elections in Romania**, , together with the opinion by the Venice Commission, to the Political Affairs Committee, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, *for information*.
2. **Doc. 10322**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Hägg and others**  
**Mercenaries**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to be taken into account in the preparation of the forthcoming report on "Human rights of members of the armed forces".
3. **Doc. 10327**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Ilaşcu and others**  
**Liberation of political prisoners from Tiraspol – Andrei Ivantoc and Tudor Petrov-Popa**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, to be taken into account in the framework of the report on "the implementation of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights".
- *Assembly's representation at official activities:*
- a. appointments: 4<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (Nafplion, Greece, 7 February 2005): Mr Azzolini;
- b. reports: was informed about the participation of Mr Sasi and Baroness Hooper in the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (Brussels, 24-26 November 2005);
- *Information:* heard 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;
- *Date and place of the next meetings:* agreed to hold the following meetings:
- . Strasbourg, 24 January 2005 at 8.30 am  
. Strasbourg, 28 January 2005 at 8.30 am.

Petr Sich/Alexandra Alléon

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