

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No 2005/41

25 April 2005

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 25 April 2005 in Strasbourg with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *2nd part of the 2005 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 25-29 April 2005):*
 - i. requests for debates under urgent procedure:
 - a. “Constitutional reform process in Armenia”:
 - . took note of the letters of Mr Torosyan, Chairman of the parliamentary delegation of Armenia to the Assembly and Mr Kocharyan, member of the parliamentary delegation of Armenia to the Assembly;
 - . recommended to the Assembly to hold this urgent debate and to refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee for report and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for oral opinion;
 - b. “Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones”:
 - . recommended to the Assembly to hold this urgent debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report and to the Political Affairs Committee for oral opinion;
 - ii. request for a current affairs debate:
 - a. “European Constitutional Treaty”:
 - . recommended to the Assembly to hold this current affairs debate;
 - . chose Mr Einarsson to open the debate;
 - iii. updated the draft order of business as follows:

Monday 25 April:

- . proposed to include the debate on “the rights of children in institutions: follow-up to Recommendation 1601 (2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly” as the last debate in the

afternoon instead of the debate on “Migration and integration: a challenge and an opportunity for Europe”;

Tuesday 26 April:

- . proposed to postpone the debate on “Referendums: towards good practices in Europe” until Friday as the first debate in the morning instead of the debate on “Iran’s nuclear programme: need for international response”;
- . proposed to include the debate on “Iran’s nuclear programme: need for international response” as the last debate in the afternoon;
- . proposed to end the sitting at 7.15 pm;

Wednesday 27 April:

- . proposed to end the morning sitting at 1.30 pm;
- . proposed to hold a joint debate on the reports on “Discrimination against women in the workforce and the workplace” and “Discrimination against women and girls in sport”;
- . proposed to include the debate on “Migration and integration: a challenge and an opportunity for Europe” as the last debate in the afternoon;
- . proposed to end the sitting at 8.00 pm in the evening;

Thursday 28 April:

- . proposed to include the urgent debate on “Constitutional reform process in Armenia” as the first debate in the morning and the urgent debate on “Freedom of the press and the working conditions of journalists in conflict zones” as the second debate in the morning;
- . proposed to include the current affairs debate on “European Constitutional Treaty” as the second point in the afternoon instead of the debate on “the rights of children in institutions: follow-up to Recommendation 1601 (2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly”;

Friday 29 April:

- . proposed to include the debate on “Referendums: towards good practices in Europe” as the first debate in the morning instead of the debate on “Iran’s nuclear programme: need for international response”;
- iv. proposed to limit the speaking time on Wednesday 27 April to 4 minutes;
- v. Joint Committee (28 April at 6.30 pm):
 - . took note of the letter of Mr Kocel, Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies, asking to add a new item on the draft agenda on the relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE and decided to include this item on the draft agenda provided that this discussion will take place on the basis of the document on this matter which is currently under consideration in the Ministers’ Deputies;

. took note that the President will mention the question of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in his introductory speech and, consequently, agreed not to include this question as a formal item on the draft agenda;

. took note of the decision taken by the Ministers' Deputies at the 921st meeting on 30 March 2005 concerning the timetable for the election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;

. took note that the President had sent a letter to Mr Rotfeld, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, asking if the Assembly could receive, in advance, the latest versions of both the Draft Declaration and Action Plan which will be submitted to the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit;

vi. Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights with respect to Latvia:

. took note that the Sub-Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights will interview the candidates on Monday 25 April in the afternoon (at 1.30 pm) and agreed to the written consultation of Bureau members on this matter;

. urged the Assembly's political groups to ensure the best possible participation of their members in the meetings of the Sub-Committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights;

- *Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (28 January-25 April 2005)*: approved the Progress report covering the period from 28 January to 25 April 2005;

- *Observation of elections*:

i. Parliamentary elections in Albania (June-July 2005):

. set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members (d'Hondt system: SOC: 11 ; EPP/CD: 9 ; LDR: 5 ; EDG: 4 ; UEL: 1);

. decided that a pre-electoral mission should take place one month before the election at the latest, composed of five members, one from each political group who are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee;

ii. Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (17 July 2005):

. set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members (d'Hondt system: SOC: 11 ; EPP/CD: 9 ; LDR: 5 ; EDG: 4 ; UEL: 1);

. decided that a pre-electoral mission should take place one month before the election at the latest, composed of five members, one from each political group who are at the same time members of the Ad Hoc Committee;

iii. Constitutional referendum in Armenia (summer 2005):

. set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 10 members (3 SOC, 2 EPP/CD, 2 LDR, 2 EDG, 1 UEL);

iv. Parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (25 June 2005):

. took note that Mr Passy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, had sent a letter to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe inviting the Council of Europe to assess the need to send an observation mission to the parliamentary elections in Bulgaria;

. asked that the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to consult the Chairman of the parliamentary delegation of Bulgaria to the Assembly and agreed to come back to this matter at the meeting of the Bureau on Friday 29 April on the basis of this consultation;

- *Follow-up to Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference*: approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee on the implementation of paragraph 5 of the Resolution 1416 (2004) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with the OSCE Minsk Conference and appointed Lord Russell-Johnston as Chairman;

- *Composition of the Monitoring Committee*: approved new members as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Vesaite (Lithuania, SOC), Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) and Mr Prijmireanu (Moldova, UEL);

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

a. references:

1. **Doc. 10481 revised**

**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr McNamara and others
Municipal elections in Latvia on 12 March 2005
and**

Doc. 10482

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Elo and others

Education reform and problems with observance of the national minorities' rights in Latvia, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for one report on "the rights of national minorities in Latvia"*;

2. **Doc. 10488**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others

Guidelines for the status of the opposition in a democratic parliament, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, for a report on the "Procedural guidelines on the rights and duties of the opposition in a democratic parliament";

3. **Doc. 10492**

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Marquet and others

The quality of medicines in Europe, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for report*

4. **Doc. 10499**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jurgens and others

Cyprus: towards a resumption of talks on the basis of the "Annan Plan", to the Political Affairs Committee, to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "the situation in Cyprus";

b. request to modify a reference:

1. **Doc. 10459**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gubert and others

Responsible foodstuffs consumption

Ref. no 3060 of 18 March 2005, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*, instead of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*;

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*

i. authorised the following meetings:

. Sub-Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs), Lutsk (Ukraine), 15 – 16 September 2005;

. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Almaty (Kazakhstan), 15 – 17 September 2005;

. Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education), Rostock (Germany), 12 – 13 September 2005;

. Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, Budapest (Hungary), 19 May 2005;

. Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, Antalya (Turkey), 7 – 8 September 2005;

ii. postponed until the next Bureau meeting on Friday 29 April its decision on three requests for meetings in Baku in the beginning of July and asked the committees concerned (Political Affairs Committee, Sub-Committee on Refugees (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population), Monitoring Committee) to discuss the opportunity of these meetings during the part-session with a view of presenting their position to the Bureau;

iii. did not authorise the following meeting:

. Committee on Culture, Science and Education, Prague (Czech Republic), 2 – 3 September 2005;

- *Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:*

i. took the following decisions on the Assembly representatives at different events:

. 9th Regional round table of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe (Sofia, 18 May 2005): Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) and Mr Toshev (Bulgaria, EPP/CD);

. 2005 Spring Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Kyiv, 7-9 June 2005): asked the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development to appoint a representative (without costs for the Assembly);

- . XXXI Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the French-speaking communities (Brussels, 6-9 July 2005): left it up to the President to appoint a representative (without costs for the Assembly);
 - . 9th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (St Petersburg, 14-16 June 2005): asked the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development to appoint a representative;
 - . 2nd Barents Parliamentary Conference (Bodo (Norway), 29-30 June 2005): left it up to the President to appoint a representative (without costs for the Assembly);
 - . 14th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) (Vilnius, 28-30 August 2005): left it up to the President to appoint a representative (without costs for the Assembly);
- ii. Conference of the Chairmen of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Committees from the National Parliaments of the SEECF Participating States (Bucharest, 24-25 March 2005): took note of a written report by Mr Severin (Romania, SOC) and referred it to the Political Affairs Committee for consideration;
- *Information*: took note of the information by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the Assembly;
 - *Granting of the title of Honorary President*: granted the title of Honorary President to Mr Björck, former President of the Assembly;
 - *Date and place of the next meetings*: decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 29 April 2005 at 8.30 am.
 - . Lisbon, Monday 6 June 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