

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis No 2005/131

28 November 2005

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 25 November 2005 in Bucharest with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- *Standing Committee (Bucharest, 25 November 2005)*: took note of the updated draft agenda;
- *1st Part of the 2006 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 23-27 January 2006)*:
 - i. adopted the draft agenda;
 - ii. took note of the letter from Mrs Bargholtz and Mr Lindblad requesting to hold a debate under urgent procedure on “*Freedom of the media in Russia*” during the January part-session 2006 and decided to consider this request at a future Bureau meeting;
 - iii. was informed by the Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights that this Committee might request a debate under urgent procedure on “*Alleged secret detention centres in Council of Europe member States*”;
- *Follow-up to the Third Summit*:
 - i. took note of the report by the President and Mr Gross on their participation in the Launching meeting of the Council of Europe Forum on the Future of Democracy which took place in Warsaw on 3-4 November 2005 and of the conclusions of this meeting;
 - ii. took note of the report by Mr van den Brande on his participation in the meetings of the CM-Suivi 3 on 25 October and 9 November 2005 and of the report from the Ministers’ Deputies on “*Follow-up to the Third Summit*”;
- *Co-operation with the Committee of Ministers*:
 - i. 115th Session of the Committee of Ministers (16-17 November 2005): took note of the report by the President on his participation in this Session as well as of the communique of the Session and the conclusions of the Chair;
 - ii. Review of action taken by the Committee of Ministers on Parliamentary Assembly recommendations: took note of the document transmitted by the Committee of Ministers;

- Relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union:

i. Co-operation with the European Parliament: took note of the conclusions of the Joint meeting of the Presidential Committee and the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament which took place on 20 October 2005 in Brussels and agreed to send them to the Assembly committees for a follow-up;

ii. Mr Juncker's report and "memorandum of understanding" on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union: was informed that the President has addressed letters to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, to the President of the European Commission and to the UK Secretary of State:

. urging them to ensure that the process of preparing a "memorandum of understanding" on relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union undertaken by the United Kingdom Presidency of the European Union, in collaboration with the European Commission, does not prejudice the outcome of Mr Juncker's report on "the relations between the European Union and the Council of Europe", expected by the first half of 2006;

. stressing that negotiations on the agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Union should be deferred until his final report has been presented;

. asking the Committee of Ministers to consult the Assembly prior to the conclusion of any agreement;

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

a. references

Doc. 10715

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Van den Brande and others

Precarious situation of national minorities in the Voivodina province of Serbia and Montenegro

and

Doc. 10726

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Cubreacov and others

Violation of the human rights of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for a single report*

Doc. 10717

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Cortajarena and others

Immigration from Sub-Saharan Africa, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*

Doc. 10721

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Christodoulides and others

Exploring ways of a closer association between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Council of Europe, to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "the situation in Kazakhstan"*

Doc. 10722**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Flynn and others****Representation of patient views in Europe**, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information***Doc. 10723****Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lloyd and others****Launch of a European and national debate on realising both economic growth and social protection in an era of globalisation**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion***Doc. 10727****Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Grignon and others****The need to harmonise the European patenting system in a globalised world**, to the Committee for Economic Affairs and Development *for information***Doc. 10748****Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others****Alleged secret detention centres in Council of Europe member states**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Political Affairs Committee *for opinion*

b. modification of references

Doc.10619**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others****Abuse of the criminal justice system in Belarus****Ref. 3119 of 1 September 2005**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report***Doc. 10636****Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cekuolis and others****Possibilities of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Lebanon****Ref. 3132 of 1 September 2005**, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report***Doc. 10106 rev.****Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Holovaty and others****The institutional balance at the Council of Europe****Ref. 2946 of 26 April 2004**, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for report* and to the Political Affairs Committee *for opinion***Docs. 9865 and 9866****Motion for resolution presented by Mrs Err and others****Mechanisms to promote gender equality in practice, and****Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Cliveti and others****Women's participation in decision-making****Modification of Ref. 2861 of 8 September 2003 (extended on 6 June 2005)****(References merged under the title "mechanisms to ensure women's participation in decision-making")**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and to the Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for opinion*

Doc. 10698**Motion for a recommendation by Mr Toshev and others****Need to investigate the financial resources exported by the states of Central and Eastern Europe on the end of communist totalitarianism**Ref. 3143 of 7 October 2005, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*

c. requests to extend references

Doc. 9970**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bindig and others****Human Rights violations in the Chechen Republic: the Committee of Ministers' responsibility vis-à-vis the Assembly's concerns**

Ref. no. 2895 of 25 November 2003 – Validity: 25 November 2005, extension until 31 January 2006

Doc. 9775**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Iwinski and others****Situation in Kazakhstan**

Ref. 2826 of 27 May 2003 extended on 29 April 2005 – Validity: 31 December 2005, extension until 30 June 2006

Doc. 9964**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Martínez Casañ and others. The promotion of local self-government along Council of Europe borders**

Ref. 2889 of 25 November 2003 – Validity: 25 November 2005, extension until 25 May 2006

Doc. 9993**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Nazaré Pereira and others****Forest fires: the consequences for the environment and the effect of spatial planning**

Ref. 2902 of 25 November 2003 – Validity: 25 November 2005, extension until 25 May 2006

d. follow-up after consultation

Doc. 10631**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Hajiyeva and others****Missing persons in Azerbaijan**, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report on "Missing persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia"*

e. others:

Doc. 10536**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Torosyan and others on Imvros and Tenedos**, to resume consideration at its meeting on 9 January 2006**Doc. 10538*** **Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Petrova-Mitevaska and others on the Provisional name of the Republic of Macedonia in the Council of Europe**, to consult the Political Affairs Committee on a possible follow-up to be given

Doc. 10714

*** Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others on Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey, and Doc. 10724**

***Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mercan and others on the plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, Greece, to consult the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the possibility of preparing a single report**

Doc. 10718

*** Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others on Femicicides, to consult the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on a possible study of the concept of "femicide"**

Doc. 10725

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Padilla and others on the Method for the amendment of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, to postpone consideration of the Motion

Doc. 10744

Motion for a resolution presented by Lord Russell-Johnston and others on the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Abdullah Öcalan, to postpone consideration of the Motion until the end of May 2006

Doc. 10716

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Wodarg and others Embryonic, foetal and post-natal animal-human mixtures, to postpone the decision to January 2006

Doc. 10719

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Çavusoglu and others Migration and mobility in the Eurasian Region – Prospects for the future, to postpone the decision to January 2006

- *Elections:*

i. Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (6 November 2005):

a. approved and declassified the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the observation of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan;

b. noted that the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee on Azerbaijan should visit the country as soon as possible and asked Mr Platvoet to accompany them in his capacity of Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe the parliamentary elections;

ii. Constitutional referendum in Armenia (27 November 2005): took note of the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee and of the appointment by the President of Mr Jirsa (Czech Republic, EDG) as Chairperson;

iii. Presidential election in Kazakhstan (4 December 2005): took note of the composition the Ad Hoc Committee and of the appointment by the President of Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC) as Chairperson;

- iv. Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council (25 January 2006): took note that the pre-electoral mission foreseen from 10 to 14 December 2005 has been postponed until January;
- v. Election in Transnistria (11 December 2005): decided not to observe this election;
- *European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, Tallinn/Helsinki (30 May – 1 June 2006)*: took note of the state of preparations;
- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)*: drew up the list of candidates in respect of Norway in the following order of preference:
 1. Mrs Birgit Lie
 2. Mrs Sidsel Rogde
 3. Mrs Jorunn Ringstad
- *Composition of the Monitoring Committee*: approved new members as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Marquet (Monaco, ALDE); Mrs Christoffersen (Norway, SOC) and Mr Vera Jardim (Portugal, SOC);
- *Assembly representatives for official activities* :
 - i. took the following decisions on the Assembly representatives at different events:
 - . 10th anniversary of the accession of Ukraine to the Council of Europe (Kyiv, 30 November 2005): Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, ALDE);
 - . 2nd Arab Parliamentary Symposium on Disability Legislation (Beirut, 1-2 December 2005): Mr Dees (Netherlands, ALDE);
 - . Eleventh session of the conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention, (Montreal, 7-9 December 2005): authorised Mr Etherington (United Kingdom, SOC) to join the Bureau of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs to participate in this session;
 - . 6th Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe (Sinaia, Romania, 8-9 December 2005): Mr Doric (Croatia, ALDE);
 - . Opening exhibition "The Holocaust against the Roma and Sinti and present day racism in Europe" (Strasbourg, 17 January 2006): Mr Schreiner (France, EPP/CD);
 - . 2006 Winter meeting of the OSCE PA (Vienna, 23-24 February 2006): Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD);
 - ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation at official activities:
 - a. took note of the reports by:
 - . Mr Gross on the 113th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva, 17-19 October 2005

- . Ms Muttonen on the 6th Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, Helsinki, 21-23 October 2005
 - . Mr Sasi on the European Investment Bank (EIB) Forum 2005, Helsinki, 27-28 October 2005
 - . Mr Schreiner on the ceremony for the 15th Anniversary of the Parliament of the Third Republic of Armenia, Yerevan, 1 November 2005
 - . Mrs Severinsen on the 51st Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Copenhagen, 12-15 November 2005
 - . Mr Azzolini on the Extraordinary Session of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly (EMPA), Rabat, 21 November 2005
- b. decided to forward these reports to the competent committees;
- *Hearing on cultural situation of the Kurds*: following a discussion on this hearing foreseen by the Committee on Science, Culture and Education in Paris on 30 November 2005, invited the Chairman of this Committee to postpone it in order that the Committee could re-consider the list of the invited personalities with a view to having a more appropriate balance;
 - *North-South Prize of the Council of Europe 2005*: took note that the Prize was awarded to Mrs Bogaletch Gebre (Ethiopia) and Mr Bob Geldof (Ireland);
 - *Use of article 52 of the ECHR*: took note that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe requested, in accordance with article 52 of the ECHR, information from all forty-five governments of the High Contracting Parties on reports suggesting that terrorist suspects may have been secretly detained in or transported through a number of Council of Europe member states with the possible involvement of foreign agencies;
 - *Communications*: took note of the written communications by the President; the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; and the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - *Date and place of the next meetings*: decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Paris, Monday 12 December 2005 at 9.30 am;
 - . Paris, Monday 9 January 2006 at 9.30 am.

Petr Sich/Alexandra Alléon

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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
 Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe