



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

18 December 2006

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 15 December 2006 in Paris first with Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly, and then Mr Gardetto, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **1st Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 22-26 January 2007):**
 - i. Requests for debates under urgent procedure:
 - a. **“Threats to the life and freedom of expression of journalists”** (submitted by Mr Legendre on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education): recommended, in principle, to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure, subject to confirmation at the Bureau’s meeting on 22 January 2007; and proposed, if the urgent procedure is decided by the Assembly, to refer this matter to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report;
 - b. **“Current tensions between Russia and Georgia”** (submitted by Mr Lintner on behalf of the Monitoring Committee): postponed its decision on whether to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure until the Bureau’s meeting on 22 January 2007; and took note of two letters on this subject sent by Mr Kosachev, Chairman of the Russian delegation to the Assembly;
 - ii. Draft agenda and draft order of business: updated these documents;
 - iii. Draft agenda of the Joint Committee (Thursday 25 January at 6.30 pm): agreed to include the following items in the draft agenda:
 - a. Follow-up to the Third Summit;
 - b. Institutional balance at the Council of Europe;
 - c. Spontaneous questions to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers during Parliamentary Assembly sessions;
 - d. Situation in Belarus;

- **Report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe:**
 - i. Report outlines:
 - a. took note of the draft outlines for the report from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights; the Political Affairs Committee; and the Monitoring Committee;
 - b. took note of the specific aspects of contributions from other Assembly Committees, subject to the agreement of the respective rapporteurs, once appointed;
 - c. noted that, in the consolidated version of the report to be presented to the Assembly, an appendix would contain a brief description of the principal Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms while a further appendix would list the most recent Assembly texts of relevance to the report;
 - d. noted that the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, had conveyed to the Secretariat his intention to have the publication of his annual report coincide with the Assembly's April 2007 debate;
 - ii. Text(s) to be adopted by the Assembly and time schedule for the debate: approved the proposals contained in the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly on the instructions of the President (see Appendix I);
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the proposals contained in a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat on the instruction of the President, subject to ratification by the Assembly (see Appendix II);
- **Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Malta:** took note of a letter and a memorandum on this issue by Mr Marty, Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and decided to consult the Committee on Rules and Procedure on the follow-up to be given to the proposal contained in the letter;
- **Functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly: proposals submitted by the Presidential Committee:** approved the medium-term proposals contained in the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat (see Appendix III);
- **Recommendation 1775 (2006) on "The situation of Finno-Ugric and Samoyed peoples":** agreed to consult the Committee on Culture, Science and Education on the follow-up to be given to paragraph 7.2 in Recommendation 1775 (2006) stating the decision of the Assembly to establish an ad hoc Committee to encourage increased dialogue with the Duma of the Russian Federation on the issue of minority rights, including those of the Finno-Ugric peoples;
- **Vice-Presidents of the Assembly in 2007:**
 - i. noted that the Assembly in January 2007 would elect Vice-Presidents for 2007 in accordance with the system for the attribution of seats set out in Resolution 1379 (2004);
 - ii. noted that the Secretary General of the Assembly had, in accordance with the above-mentioned Resolution, addressed a letter to the Chairpersons of national delegations of the countries concerned in which he had drawn their particular attention to the fact that the principle of gender equality mentioned in Rule 14.3 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure should be taken into account;
- **Follow-up to the Third Summit:** took note of the synopsis of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers' Follow-up Committee on the Third Summit (CM-Suivi3) held on 7 December 2006;

- ***Elections:***

- i. Parliamentary elections in Serbia (21 January 2007):
 - a. took note of a letter by Mr Danilovic, Secretary of the Republic Electoral Commission of the Republic of Serbia, inviting the Assembly to observe the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Serbia;
 - b. approved the list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections and appointed Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC) as its Chairperson;

- ***Conference on the Parliamentary Dimension of election observation: applying common standards (Strasbourg, 15-16 February 2007):***

- i. took note of the draft programme of the conference;
- ii. approved the list of members of the Ad hoc Committee to participate in the conference and noted that the President would chair it;

- ***Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*** authorised the following meeting: Sub-Committee on the European Charter and Employment (of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee): Monaco, 15 -16 March 2007;

- ***Assembly representatives for official activities:***

- i. Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities: in reply to a formal invitation, took the following decision: Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD): Winter meeting 2007 of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Vienna (Austria), 22-23 February 2007;
- ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation at official activities:

a. took note of reports by:

. Mr Ates, who had participated in the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 October to 1 November 2006;

. Mr Sasi, who had participated in the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation held in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 2006;

b. decided to refer these reports to the competent committees for follow-up as appropriate;

- ***Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to visit Moscow and Grozny (24-27 November 2006):***

i. took note of a document prepared by the Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to visit Moscow and Grozny from 24 to 27 November 2006;

ii. noted that the Ad hoc Committee had ceased to exist following the Bureau's consideration of the above-mentioned document;

iii. noted that the discussion on the follow-up to the visit would now take place within the Political Affairs Committee and its Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the organisation of the Round Table on the political situation in the Chechen Republic;

- ***Council of Europe budget for 2007:*** took note of a letter from Mr Schreiner, Chairperson of the French parliamentary delegation, announcing that the French government had decided to contribute an extra □ 800,000 to the Council of Europe's budget for 2007;

- **Efficiency of the European Court of Human Rights: Publication of the report of the Group of Wise Persons:** noted that the report was available on the Council of Europe's website;
- **European Migration Observatory/Agency:**
 - i. took note of a letter by Mrs Papadimitriou, Chairperson of the Greek parliamentary delegation, expressing support for the creation of a European Migration Observatory/Agency;
 - ii. agreed to propose that elements raised in the letter by Mrs Papadimitriou be included in the draft report on "A new response to migratory flows" under preparation within the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population (rapporteur: Mr Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD);
- **Communications:** heard communications by the Secretary General the Council of Europe and by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:**
 - i. took note of the proposal by Mr Rigoni, Chairman of the Italian parliamentary delegation, to hold a meeting of the Bureau in Rome in September 2007;
 - ii. decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 22 January 2007 at 8.00 am;
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 26 January 2007 at 8.30 am;

Kjell Torbiörn/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

APPENDIX I

Bureau of the Assembly

Preparation of the report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe: texts to be adopted by the Assembly and time schedule for the debate

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly upon instructions from the President

Introduction

1. This memorandum contains proposals of the Secretariat regarding the structure of the texts to be adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the debate on the report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe and on the procedure for their adoption at Committee level given the number of Committees involved in the process.
2. It also sets out proposals for the structure and time schedule of the debate itself bearing in mind the relatively numerous guests speakers to be accommodated throughout the day and the need to ensure a lively and focused discussion.

I) Structure of the texts to be adopted by the Assembly and procedure for adoption

3. It is proposed that three texts be put forward for adoption on the occasion of the debate:
 - (a) a draft Resolution in which the Assembly will take position on thematic issues concerning both human rights and democracy;
 - (b) a draft Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers containing thematic proposals for future Council of Europe action in the fields of human rights and democracy;
 - (c) a draft Resolution emanating from the Monitoring Committee which will contain country-specific recommendations.
4. It is suggested that the Political Affairs Committee should take responsibility for the formal adoption of the draft Resolution (a), while the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights could formally adopt the draft Recommendation (b).
5. Extensive coordination will be necessary between AS/POL and AS/JUR and their respective secretariats in preparing the two drafts ((a) and (b)). In practice, the human rights elements of the two drafts will be prepared under the responsibility of the AS/JUR rapporteur and the democracy elements will be prepared by the AS/POL rapporteur. Each committee will approve its respective parts of the texts prior to the formal adoption of the drafts by the competent committee. Each committee will agree to leave intact the part of the texts approved by the other committee.
6. In order to simplify the procedure as far as possible, AS/POL and AS/JUR could meet in parallel on the same day during the week of 12 March 2007. Each committee could first consider their respective thematic parts of the two draft texts ((a) and (b)), followed possibly by a joint

discussion of the two committees on the texts as a whole, after which each committee would formally adopt in parallel the draft for which it has responsibility.

7. From a logistical perspective, the meetings should preferably take place in Strasbourg.

8. As to the contributions of other Assembly Committees, these should be prepared in advance of the meetings of AS/POL and AS/JUR so that elements can be included in the draft texts to be submitted for adoption by AS/POL and AS/JUR. Early coordination of the various inputs will be ensured by the Secretariat in a manner similar to the procedure followed for the preparation of Recommendation 1693(2005) on the Parliamentary Assembly's contribution to the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe.

9. Should certain elements not be retained by AS/POL or AS/JUR in the adopted drafts, the normal procedures for tabling amendments would come into play when the draft Resolution (a) and draft Recommendation (b) are presented for adoption by the Assembly.

II) Structure and time schedule of the debate

10. Given the number of Council of Europe and outside personalities invited to take part in the debate, (15 in total, see appendix), the fact that the debate will be based on three main contributions (AS/JUR, AS/POL and AS/MON) and the importance of ensuring a lively and focused debate, it is proposed to divide the debate into three main thematic blocks:

- Human Rights;
- Democracy;
- Monitoring of States' performance.

11. Each thematic block would last approximately two hours, followed by a one-hour block for summing up and voting on the draft Resolutions and Recommendation.

12. Each thematic block would be introduced by the competent Rapporteur, followed by short contributions by the relevant Rapporteurs for opinion. Space would be devoted in each block for up to a maximum of 5 keynote speeches/brief statements of invited personalities, spread out over the two-hour period to avoid a high concentration of such interventions at the opening of the debate in each block. Each block would include interventions by spokespersons of the 5 political groups and by other members.

13. According to the Secretariat's calculations, the debate would allow more than 40 members to intervene throughout the full-day debate, in addition to the President (opening speech), Rapporteurs, Rapporteurs for opinion, Chairpersons of the three Committees and invited personalities.

14. A speakers list would be open for each thematic block to ensure that the debate is focused. Additionally, the Secretariat could contact invited personalities with a view to encouraging complementary interventions, focused on specific issues covered by the respective reports, and thus avoiding duplication in so far as possible.

List of personalities invited to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the debate on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe, on 18 April 2007

Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr Jean-Paul Costa, President of the European Court of Human Rights

Mr Jean-Michel Belorgey, President of the European Committee of Social Rights

Ms Silvia Casale, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture

Ms Eva Smith Asmussen, President of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

Mr Alan Phillips, President of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on the Protection for National Minorities

Mr Halvdan Skard, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Mr Antonio La Pergola, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

Mr Kofi Annan, outgoing Secretary General of the United Nations

Mr Franco Frattini, Vice-President of the European Commission (Justice, Freedom and Security)

Mr Vaclav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic

Ms Irene Kahn, Secretary General of Amnesty International

Mrs Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch

APPENDIX II

References and transmissions to committees

- a. references to committees
1. **Doc. 11065**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr McIntosh and others
The dangers of creationism in education, reference to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report at the Standing Committee*
2. **Doc. 11066**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others
The need for a global consideration of human rights implications of biometrics, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report at the Standing Committee* and to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for opinion*
3. **Doc. 11068**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Fischer and others
e-Learning and schools, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Vocational education and training, a key factor for lifelong employability"*
4. **Doc. 11069**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mendes Bota and others
Sustainable development and tourism: towards quality growth, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*
5. **Doc. 11070 rev.**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Woldseth and others
Children's right to safely overcoming hyperactivity and attention problems, transmission to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*
6. **Doc. 11071**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Walter and others
Safeguarding freedom of expression and information in the digital media landscape, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "the role of media for democracy"*
7. **Doc. 11072**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Poroković and others
European Convention on the protection of old and traditional crafts, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*
8. **Doc. 11073**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others
The United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*
9. **Doc. 11074**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Zapfl-Helbling and others
Double discrimination of Romani women and girls, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for information*

10. **Doc. 11077**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Pericleous Papadopoulos and others
Reviving the Palestinian economy, to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "the situation in the Middle East"*
11. **Doc. 11084**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others
The problem of environmental refugees, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report at the Standing Committee*
12. **Doc. 11085**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Çavuşoğlu and others
Migration in Europe: a constant challenge, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*
13. **Doc. 11089**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Schmied and others
Euro-Mediterranean agricultural and rural policy, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report at the Standing Committee*
14. **Doc. 11093**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hunault and others
Creation of a European Prisons Observatory, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
15. **Doc. 11100**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
Disappearance of new-born babies for illegal adoption in Europe, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
- b. requests to extend references
1. **Doc. 10174 rev.**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Blankenborg and others
The concept of preventive war and its consequences for international relations
Ref. 2969 of 21 June 2004 – Validity: 31 December 2006 (extended on 30/06/2006),
extension until 30 June 2007
2. **Doc. 9869**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bindig and others
Video surveillance of public areas
Ref. 2864 of 8 September 2003 – Validity: 31 December 2006 (extended on
30/06/2006), extension until 30 June 2007
3. **Doc. 10527**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr McNamara and others
Anti-terrorism legislation in the United Kingdom
- and **Doc. 10248**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mooney and others
Respect for Human Rights in the fight against terrorism
Ref. 2995 of 4 September 2004 – Validity : 31 December 2006, extension until 31
January 2007

c. reply after consultation

1. **Doc. 10901**

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr McIntosh and others

Electronic media without frontiers in Europe, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report [PACE priority: Strengthening relations with the European Union; strengthening freedom of expression and information]*

APPENDIX III

Bureau of the Assembly

State of implementation of the proposals by the Presidential Committee
(following its meeting in Maastricht, 17-18 July 2006)

Medium-term proposals

1. Implementation of priorities agreed by the Assembly

	Agreement in Presidential Committee	Proposal	Body responsible for implementation	Timetable for implementation
1.1	- reduce the number of motions referred for report	- President consults committees on the follow-up to be given to the motions ; Presidential Committee makes a proposal to the Bureau - increase the number of information reports (no debate)	- committees - Bureau - Assembly/Standing Committee - committees	- January 2007 (first circulation) - January 2007 (Bureau's proposal) - March 2007 (Assembly's/Standing Committee ratification) - immediate

2. Participation level at Assembly meetings (Plenary and committees)

	Agreement in the Presidential Committee	Proposal	Body responsible for implementation	Timetable for implementation
2.1	- make public the votes (who voted, in what way)	- list available on the Assembly's internet site	- Assembly/Standing Committee	- Resolution 1529 (2006) adopted by Standing Committee: 17 November 2006 - implementation January 2007 part-session
2.2	- avoid multiplication of sub-committees	- reduce number of sub-committees (changing Rules of Procedure)	- Bureau to refer the matter to AS/Pro - AS/Pro report - Assembly/Standing Committee	- adoption report AS/Pro: first quarter 2007 - immediate implementation after text adoption by Assembly/Standing Committee

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3. Relations with national parliaments and with national delegations

	Agreement in the Presidential Committee	Proposal	Body responsible for implementation	Timetable for implementation
3.1	- better input of national parliaments in Assembly work	- allow national parliaments to submit motions (changing Rules of Procedure)	- Bureau to refer the matter to AS/Pro - AS/Pro - Assembly/Standing Committee	- adoption report AS/Pro: first quarter 2007 - immediate implementation after text adoption by Assembly/Standing Committee

4. The role of political groups of the Assembly: decided to postpone its decision on this matter until after consultation of national delegations;

5. Relations with the Committee of Ministers (CM)

	Agreement in the Presidential Committee	Proposal	Body responsible for implementation	Timetable for implementation
5.1	- spontaneous questions to the Chairperson of CM	- discuss with CM in Joint Committee and then modify Rules of Procedure	- Bureau to refer the matter to AS/Pro - AS/Pro - Assembly/Standing Committee	- discussion in Joint Committee: January 2007 part-session - adoption report AS/Pro: first quarter 2007 - immediate implementation after text adoption by Assembly/Standing Committee
5.2	- improve status of Parliamentary Assembly in the Council of Europe	- change Council of Europe Statute : * Article 13 * Article 15.a * budgetary powers - enhance Assembly's role in the Forum for the future of democracy	- AS/Pro - Assembly - CM - AS/Pol assessment of the Assembly's involvement in last Forum - Bureau - CM	- Recommendation on institutional balance adopted on 2 October 2006 - Ministers Deputies reply: first quarter 2007 - adoption of statutory resolution by CM - discussion in Bureau March 2007

6. Relations with the European Union (EU)
7. Relations with countries bordering CE member States (close neighbourhood) and
8. Media coverage and visibility of the Assembly (and link with guest speakers)
No medium-term proposals
9. Relations with civil society

	Agreement in the Presidential Committee	Proposal	Body responsible for implementation	Timetable for implementation
9.1	- enhance youth participation in PACE work	- organize a youth event on human rights in 2007 in co-operation with Youth Centre	- committees concerned (in particular AS/Cult)	- Presidential Committee and Bureau December 2006 - AS/Cult discussion January 2007 - Youth event in October 2007 part-session