

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

23 January 2007

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 22 January 2007 in Strasbourg with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **1st Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 22-26 January 2007):**

i. Requests for debate under urgent procedure:

a. *“Current tensions between Russia and Georgia”* (submitted by Mr Lintner on behalf of the Monitoring Committee): recommended to the Assembly not to hold this debate under urgent procedure; and invited the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee to continue their work on this matter;

b. *“Threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists”* (submitted by Mr Legendre on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure and proposed to refer this matter to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education for report; and to the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;

ii. Requests for current affairs debates:

a. considered the following requests:

. *“Effectively combating violence in everyday life”* (submitted by Mrs Cliveti and supported by 21 other parliamentarians);

. *“Threat to the European Court of Human Rights: urgent need for Russia to ratify Protocol 14”* (submitted by Mr Marty on behalf of the Swiss parliamentary delegation);

. *“Promoting an international moratorium on the death penalty by the Council of Europe members states”* (submitted by Mr Rigoni on behalf of the Italian parliamentary delegation);

b. decided, in conformity with the Rule 52.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to propose to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on “Threat to the

European Court of Human Rights: urgent need for Russia to ratify Protocol 14” and chose Mr Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) as the opening speaker;

iii. Up-dating of the draft order of business: approved the up-dated draft order of business and decided to reduce the speaking time to 4 minutes on Tuesday 23 January and Wednesday 24 January;

iv. Meeting of the Joint Committee (Thursday, 25 January 2007 at 6:30 pm): following a letter from the Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies, took note of the intention of the Ministers’ Deputies to raise the question of the non-ratification of Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights by the State Duma of the Russian Federation under the point of the agenda concerning the follow-up to the Third Summit;

v. Meeting with Chairpersons of parliamentary national delegations (Tuesday, 23 January 2007, from 5.30 to 7.00 pm): took note of the draft agenda of this meeting;

- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (6 October 2006 – 22 January 2007):** approved the Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee, covering the period from 6 October 2006 to 22 January 2007;

- **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix I;

- **Ratification of Protocol 14 by the Russian Federation:** took note of the President’s proposal to invite the Chairpersons of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Monitoring Committee to visit Moscow for consultation with the relevant committees of the State Duma possibly also with the President of the European Court of Human Rights;

- **Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2007:** took note of the list of candidatures for the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for 2007;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** approved the list of the new members as proposed by the political groups for ratification by the Assembly;

- **Parliamentary elections in Serbia (21 January 2007):** took note of a memorandum prepared following the pre-electoral mission in Serbia, which took place from 18 to 21 December 2006;

- **Communications:** took note of the 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:

. Strasbourg, Friday 26 January 2007 at 8.30 am;

. Paris, Thursday, 15 March 2007 at 3 pm.

Kjell Torbiörn/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

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

APPENDIX I

References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau approved the following references and modifications of references, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

- i. references to committees
 - a. **Doc. 11099**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rigoni and others
Solidarity programmes for the health recovery of children affected by Chernobyl nuclear disaster, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*
 - b. **Doc. 11103**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others
Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report at the Standing Committee [PACE priority: strengthening the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees and displaced persons]*
 - c. **Doc. 11105**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Gacek and others
European Code of conduct on lobbying including guidelines for politicians, lobbyists and corporations, to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*
- ii. extension of references
 - a. **Doc. 10388**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lloyd and others
The United States of America and international law
Ref. 3041 of 24 January 2005 – Validity: 24 January 2007, extension until 31 January 2007