

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

23 April 2007

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 20 April 2007 in Strasbourg with Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***2nd Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 16-20 April 2007):***

i. *Debate on the "State of Human Rights and democracy in Europe"*: was informed that the President would address letters:

a. to the Speakers of parliament of Council of Europe member states, asking them to hold a debate on this subject in their national parliament;

b. to the Chairpersons of committees concerned in the national parliaments of Council of Europe member states, asking them to discuss this subject in their committee;

c. to the Chairpersons of national parliamentary delegations, asking them to give wide publicity to the debate on this subject and to the brochure published following the debate, also involving representatives of NGOs;

d. to representatives of civil society, and in particular NGOs, universities and foundations;

ii. *Opinion 262 (2007) "Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union"*: was informed that, subject to the results of the meeting of the CM-Suivi3 to be held on 26 April 2007, the President would address letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Council of Europe member states to inform them about the position of the Assembly concerning the Memorandum of Understanding;

- ***Standing Committee:***

i. *Agendas of the Standing Committee*: following a request by the Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Authorities to establish a rotation in the order in which the Standing Committee debated reports from different committees, agreed to introduce greater flexibility in the setting of Standing Committee agendas so as to ensure greater fairness as between committees while paying due attention to the visibility and priorities of the Assembly;

ii. *Meeting in Belgrade (24 May 2007)*: took note of the draft agenda;

- ***3rd Part of the 2007 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2007):***
 - i. *Draft agenda:* approved the draft agenda, subject to its final adoption at the Bureau's meeting in Belgrade on 23 May 2007;
 - ii. *Preliminary draft order of business:* considered a preliminary draft order of business;
- ***References and transmissions to committees:*** see Appendix I;
- ***Elections:***
 - i. *Parliamentary elections in Armenia (12 May 2007):* took note of a report by Mr Platvoet, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections, on a pre-electoral mission carried out in the country (10-13 April 2007);
 - ii. *Updating of the Guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:* considered a possible amendment to the "Guidelines" regarding the gender dimension in the composition of ad hoc committees to observe elections, and agreed to return to this matter at its next meeting;
- ***Communications:*** heard communications by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe as well as the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- ***Follow-up to the Third Summit:***
 - i. *Forum for the Future of Democracy*
 - a. State of preparation of the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy (Stockholm/Sigtuna, Sweden (13-15 June 2007)): heard a statement by Mr Lindblad;
 - b. Composition of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy (Stockholm/Sigtuna, Sweden (13-15 June 2007)): approved the composition of the ad hoc Committee in question;
- ***European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):*** drew up the following lists of candidates in the order of preference, to be forwarded to the Committee of Ministers:
 - i. *With regard to Azerbaijan:*
 - Mr Latif HUSEYNOV
 - Ms Parvana BAYRAMOVA
 - Mr Vaqif MURSAKULOV
 - ii. *With regard to Belgium:*
 - Mr Marc NEVE
 - Mr Henri HEIMANS
 - Mr John VANACKER
 - iii. *With regard to Italy:*
 - Mr Mauro PALMA
 - Mr Stefano ANASTASIA
 - Mr Antonio MARCHESI

iv. *With regard to Lithuania:*

- Mr Eugenijus GEFENAS
- Mr Gediminas DALINKEVIČIUS
- Mr Justinas ŽILINSKAS

v. *With regard to Montenegro:*

- Mrs Olivera VULIĆ
- Mr Krsto NIKOLIĆ
- Mr Husnija REDŽEPAGIĆ

vi. *With regard to Serbia:*

- Mr Ivan JANKOVIC
- Mr Goran ILIC
- Ms Natasa MRVIC-PETROVIC

- **Joint Parliamentary Assembly-CIS Parliamentary Assembly Conference on "Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue" (St Petersburg, 31 May-1 June 2007):** took note of a draft programme and a draft final declaration; and authorised the President to finalise the draft final declaration in St Petersburg;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** approved a new member as proposed by the Socialist Group, for ratification by the Assembly: Mr Jeftic (Serbia);

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:

i. Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development (of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs): London and Sellafield (United Kingdom), 16-17 May 2007;

ii. Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities: Biel (Switzerland), 30 May 2007;

iii. Committee on Culture, Science and Education: St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), 31 May – 1 June 2007;

iv. Sub-Committee on Migration (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population): Antalya (Turkey), 11-12 June 2007;

v. Sub-Committee on Cultural Heritage (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) Vilnius (Lithuania), 11-13 October 2007;

- **Assembly representatives for official activities:**

i. *Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities: in reply to formal invitations, took the following decisions:*

a. Mr Schreiner (France, EPP/CD): 117th meeting of the Committee of Ministers, Strasbourg, 11 May 2007;

b. Mr Schmied (Switzerland, ALDE): 14th Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Strasbourg, 30 May – 1 June 2007;

c. Ms Jivkova (Bulgaria, SOC): PABSEC Spring Session, Varna (Bulgaria), 12-14 June 2007;

d. Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) and Mr Rigoni (Italy, NR): 16th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Kyiv (Ukraine), 5-9 July 2007;

e. Ms Staponkiené (Lithuania, EDG): 16th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Berlin (Germany), 25-28 August 2007;

ii. “Second Summer University for Democracy” (Strasbourg, 2-6 July 2007): authorised the Secretariat to contact members with a view to representing the Assembly at this event;

- **Parliamentary conference on “Developing the Energy Community in South East Europe” organised by the European Energy Forum (Sofia, 25 May 2007)**: decided to set-up an ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to represent the Assembly at this conference and approved its composition;

- **Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (20 April – 25 June 2007)**: appointed Mrs Lavitzar-Bebler (Slovenia, ALDE) as Rapporteur ;

- **Draft European Convention on the adoption of children**: in order to prepare the Assembly’s opinion on this draft convention, referred it to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee for opinion;

- **Efficiency of the European Court of Human Rights: report of the Group of Wise Persons**: endorsed the views as put forward by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and decided to transmit them to the Committee of Ministers;

- **Code of good practice on referendums as forwarded by the Venice Commission**: referred the Code of good practice on referendums to the Political Affairs Committee for opinion on the follow up to be given;

- **Scholarships granted within the framework of the Parliamentary Assembly’s “Europe Prize” awards for municipalities**: decided to increase, as from 2007, the amount of the scholarships from € 7600 to € 10 000;

- **State of replies to letters from the Chairperson and the Rapporteur on "secret detentions", of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to Chairpersons of national delegations**: heard a statement by Mr Marty on this matter;

- **Visit by the President**: was informed that the President would visit Ukraine on 21 and 22 May 2007;

- **Visit by a Rapporteur**: authorised Mr Rigoni, rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on the situation in Belarus, to carry-out a fact-finding visit to that country for the purposes of his report;

- **Meeting of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities (Biel, 30 May 2007)**: following a request by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities, authorised the committee to invite to this meeting representatives of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in order to consider the reply given by the Committee of Ministers to Assembly Recommendation 1763 (2006) on the “Institutional balance at the Council of Europe”;

- **Date and place of next meetings**: decided to hold the following meetings:

- . Belgrade, Wednesday 23 May 2007 at 4 pm;
- . Strasbourg, Monday 25 June 2007 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday, 29 June 2007 at 8.30 am;
- . Rome, Monday 10 September 2007.

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:

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. Doc. 11168

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Seyidov and others

The protracted conflicts in the GUAM countries, to the Political Affairs Committee and to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*.

2. Doc. 11206

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cilevičs and others

The situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Migration, refugees and population and the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion [PACE priority: Strengthening the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including national and other minorities, migrants, refugees and displaced persons]*

3. Doc. 11213

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Dupraz and others

Ban of cluster munitions, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

4. Doc. 11225

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Preda and others

Promoting political dialogue between the Council of Europe and its neighbour, China, on social values and working conditions, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for information*

5. Doc. 11233

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs de Pourbaix-Lundin and others

The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All – a just society for disabled persons, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*

6. Doc...

Draft European Convention on the adoption of children: to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*.

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

