



## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

### Secretariat of the Assembly

#### Synopsis

27 November 2007

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Thursday 22 November 2007 in Bratislava with first Mr René van der Linden, President of the Assembly, and then Mr Göran Lindblad, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Standing Committee (Bratislava, 23 November 2007):** updated the draft agenda;
- **1<sup>st</sup> Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 21-25 January 2008):**
  - i. adopted the draft agenda and drew up a preliminary draft order of business;
  - ii. following a proposal by the Political Affairs Committee, agreed to invite Mr Bouteflika, President of the Algerian Republic, to address the Assembly;
- **Election of judges to the European Court of Human rights:** following the withdrawal of the last candidate submitted by the authorities of Ukraine – and in accordance with Article 22, paragraph 1, of the European Convention on Human Rights and paragraph 2 of the Appendix to the Resolution 1432 (2005) - decided to ask the Ukrainian authorities to complete the list of candidates;
- **Monopolisation of the electronic media and the possible abuse of power in Italy:** agreed to propose to the Assembly that a monitoring procedure concerning the monopolisation of the electronic media and the possible abuse of power in Italy should not be opened at this stage, but that legislative developments in that country should instead be followed in the Monitoring Committee's periodic reports, assisted, where necessary, by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- **Annual debate on the "State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe":** asked the Chairpersons of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to propose specific themes for the 2008 debate so as to enable the Bureau to take a decision at its next meeting on 17 December 2007;
- **Annual award of the Parliamentary Assembly for outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights:** held a preliminary discussion and agreed to return to the matter at its next meeting;
- **Forum on the Future of Democracy:** took note of the summary and conclusions of the meeting of the Advisory Board on the Forum on the Future of Democracy which took place on 5 October as well as the revised Guidelines;

- ***Vote on the appointment of a Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on developments as regards the future status of Kosovo:***

- i. agreed that the ad hoc Committee should be composed as follows: Mr Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC); Mr Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD); Ms Lavtizar-Bebler (Slovenia, ALDE); Mr Malins (United Kingdom, EDG); and Mr Laakso (Finland, UEL);
- ii. recommended that the ad hoc committee meet before the end of 2007 under the chairmanship of Mr Mota Amaral;

- ***Draft co-operation agreement between the Assembly and the European Parliament:***

- i. agreed to the draft co-operation agreement as amended by the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament;
- ii. noted that the President would sign the agreement together with the President of the European Parliament on 28 November 2007;

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

- ***European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):***

- i. drew up lists of candidates on the basis of the order of preference recommended by the Sub-committee on Human Rights and as endorsed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, with regard to the following countries:

a. With regard to Malta:

1. Mr Mario FELICE
2. Mr Ian Spiteri BAILEY
3. Ms Mary Anne AGIUS

b. With regard to San-Marino:

1. Mrs Maria Rita MORGANTI
2. Mr Lino ZONZINI
3. Mr Emanuele D'AMELIO

c. With regard to Latvia:

1. Mrs Ilvija PŪCE
2. Mrs Jolanta VAMZE
3. Mr Vitolds ZAHARS

d. With regard to the Czech Republic:

1. Mrs Anna ŠABATOVÁ
2. Mr František VALEŠ
3. Mr Jiri KOPAL

- ii. with regard to Cyprus, decided to ask the Cypriot delegation to present a new list;

- ***Motion for a resolution on the "Request for an investigation to clarify the allegedly suspicious death of former President Trajkovski of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"":***

- i. took note of an information note on this matter prepared by Mr Gross on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and decided to declassify it;

ii. following a proposal contained in the above-mentioned information note, invited the delegation of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to propose to the Macedonian parliament the setting up of a committee of inquiry into the death of former President Trajkovski;

iii. referred the motion for a resolution to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for a report;

- **Observation of elections:**

i. Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (30 September 2007): approved the report of the ad hoc Committee which had observed these elections (Rapporteur: Mrs Severinsen (Denmark, ALDE));

ii. Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (2 December 2007):

a. took note of a report on a pre-electoral mission carried out on 8 and 9 November 2007;

b. took note of an invitation letter from Mr Boris Gryzlov, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, to observe these elections;

c. confirmed its decision to observe these elections and invited the Chairpersons of the political groups to encourage members to participate in the observation, with a view to the dispatch of a delegation consisting of 55 members;

iii. Presidential elections in Serbia (date to be confirmed):

a. decided to observe these elections subject to the receipt of an invitation;

b. agreed to set-up an ad hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members in accordance with the "D'Hondt system";

c. authorised a pre-electoral mission consisting of five members - one from each political group who were also members of the Ad Hoc Committee – on the understanding that it should take place approximately one month ahead of the elections;

iv. Presidential elections in Georgia (5 January 2008):

a. took note of an invitation letter from Mrs Nino Burjanadze, Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, to observe these elections;

b. decided to observe this election;

c. agreed to set-up an ad hoc Committee to observe the elections composed of 30 members, in accordance with the "D'Hondt system" and appointed Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE) as its Chairperson;

d. authorised a pre-electoral mission consisting of five members - one from each political group who were also members of the Ad Hoc Committee – to be carried out from 5 to 7 December 2007; and authorised the President to decide on the composition of the pre-election mission, since it would be carried out prior to the next meeting of the Bureau on 17 December 2007;

v. Parliamentary elections in Monaco (3 February 2008):

a. took note of an invitation letter from Mr Jean-Paul Proust, Minister of State of Monaco, to observe these elections;

b. decided to observe these elections;

- c. agreed to set-up an ad hoc Committee to observe the elections composed of five members, one from each Political Group;
- vi. Presidential elections in Armenia (19 February 2008)
  - a. decided to observe these elections subject to the receipt of an invitation;
  - b. agreed to set-up an ad hoc Committee to observe these elections composed of 30 members, in accordance with the “D’Hondt system”;
  - c. authorised a pre-electoral mission consisting of five members - one from each political group who were also members of the Ad Hoc Committee – on the understanding that it should take place approximately one month ahead of the elections;

- **Information:**

- i. took note of a communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- ii. held an exchange of views on the medium term strategy of the Council of Europe and decided to return to this question in the light of future developments;
- iii. took note of a communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;

- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments (Strasbourg, 22 – 23 May 2008):** approved the draft programme of the conference;

- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** see Appendix II;

- **Follow-up to paragraph 14 of the Resolution 1535 (2007) on “Threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists”:** noted that the Committee on Culture, Science and Education has appointed Mr McIntosh (United Kingdom, SOC) to follow this subject;

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

- . Paris, Monday 17 December 2007 at 9 am;
- . Strasbourg, Monday 21 January 2008 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 25 January 2008 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

### 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

1. **Doc. 11398**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Frunda and others**  
**Secret detention centres: clarifying the allegations**, postponed
2. **Doc. 11399**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Cliveti and others**  
**Centenary of the birth of Simone de Beauvoir (2008): VIPs committed to promoting equality between women and men**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for information*
3. **Doc. 11400**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Pernaska and others**  
**For a Europe-wide sex offenders register**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*  
*[PACE priority: Strengthening the security of European citizens, responding to common threats to Europeans]*
4. **Doc. 11401**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others**  
**The role of parliamentarians in promoting the rapid entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its ratification by as many states as possible**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report at the Standing Committee meeting on 14 March 2008* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*  
*[PACE priority: Responding to common threats to Europeans: trafficking in human beings]*
5. **Doc. 11402**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Sasi and others**  
**The role and relevance of the world economic institutions in an era of globalisation**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*
6. **Doc. 11404**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bemelmans-Videc and others**  
**Allegations of politically-motivated abuses of the criminal justice system in Council of Europe member states**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*  
*[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states]*
7. **Doc. 11172**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others**  
**Request for an investigation to clarify the allegedly suspicious death of former President Boris Trajkovski of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*;

## **II. REQUESTS TO EXTEND REFERENCES**

- 1. Doc. 10717**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cortajarena and others**  
**Immigration from Sub-Saharan Africa**  
**Ref. no. 3148 of 25 November 2005 – validity: 25 November 2007, extension until 30 May 2008.**
- 2. Doc. 10536**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Torosyan and others**  
**Göçeada/Imbros and Bozcaada/Tenedos**  
**Ref. no. 3171 of 27 January 2006 – validity: 27 January 2008, extension until 30 June 2008.**
- 3. Doc. 10782**  
**Letter by Mr Mercan**  
**Riots in European Cities: lessons and Council of Europe response**  
**Ref. no. 3166 of 23 January 2006 – validity: 23 January 2008, extension until 30 June 2008.**
- 4. Doc. 10640**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Jurgens and others**  
**Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships in Europe**  
**Ref. no. 3134 of 1 September 2005 – validity: 31 December 2007 (extended on 25 June 2007), extension until 31 March 2008.**
- 5. Doc. 10714**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others**  
**Freedom of religion and other human rights for non-Muslim minorities in Turkey**  
**Doc. 10724**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mercan and others**  
**The plight of the Turkish muslim minorities in Western Thrace, Greece**  
**Ref. no. 3203 of 17 March 2006 – validity: 31 March 2008, extension until 31 December 2008.**

## APPENDIX II

### Assembly representatives for official activities

- i. Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities: in reply to formal invitations, appointed the following Assembly members:
  - a. Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD) : Second session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta, 22-24 November 2007 ;
  - b. Mr Ates (Turkey, EPP/CD): 4<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary meeting on the future of Europe, Brussels (Belgium), 3-4 December 2007;
  - c. Mrs Lavtižar-Bebler (Slovenia, ALDE): Second seminar for Members of Parliamentary Committees on the Status of Women and other Committees dealing with Gender Equality, Geneva (Switzerland), 6-8 December 2007;
  - d. Committee on Environment, Agriculture, and Local and Regional Authorities to appoint a representative: 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Zaragoza (Spain), 3-6 February 2008;
  - e. Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD): Winter meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Vienna (Austria), 21-22 February 2008.
  
- ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation in official activities: took note of the following reports and decided to refer them to the competent committees:
  - a. Ms Lilliehöök (Sweden, EPP/CD) who participated in the Parliamentary Conference on "Security through cooperation in south-eastern Europe: the role of Parliamentarians", Portoroz (Slovenia), 29-30 September 2007;
  - b. Mr Björnstad (Norway, SOC) who participated in the Session of the Nordic Council, Oslo (Norway), 30 October – 1 November 2007;