



## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

### Secretariat of the Assembly

#### Synopsis

19 December 2007

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting on Monday 17 December 2007 in Paris with Mr van der Linden, President of the Assembly in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Follow-up to the Standing Committee (Bratislava, 23 November 2007):***

. agreed to modify the 'Additional provisions relating to Assembly debates' (pages 88-99 in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, 2006 Edition) following the adoption of Resolution 1583 (2007) on "Improving the participation of members in Assembly sessions and committee meetings" and Resolution 1584 (2007) on "Application and amendment of various provisions of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;

. took note of the follow-up as proposed by the Secretary General of the Assembly to Resolution 1589 (2007) on "Cooperation between the Assembly and the Conference of INGOs" and to Resolution 1593 (2007) on "Parliamentary Assembly 'Gender Equality Prize'";

- ***1st Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 21-25 January 2008):***

- i. Up-dated the draft agenda and the draft order of business;
- ii. Agreed to invite Mr Frans Timmermans, Minister for European Affairs for the Netherlands, to address the Assembly;
- iii. Draft agenda of the *Joint Committee* (Thursday, 24 January 2008): agreed to include the following items:
  1. State of ratification by CoE member states of leading CoE conventions
  2. The European Court of Human Rights: current and future developments
  3. Role of the Parliamentary Assembly at Council of Europe Ministerial Conferences
  4. Proposal for a CM-Assembly Working Group to assist the Joint Committee in its work

- ***Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights:***
  - i. *Election in respect of Luxembourg:* agreed to propose to the Assembly to invite the Luxembourg authorities to submit a new list of candidates;
  - ii. *Election in respect of Ukraine:* agreed to reiterate its invitation to the Ukrainian authorities to complete the list of candidates already submitted, which was now incomplete following the withdrawal of one candidate;
- ***Annual debate on the “State of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe”:***
  - i. Agreed, as part of an annual alternation between the themes of “Democracy” and “Human Rights”, to devote its June 2008 debate to the “State of democracy in Europe”, and more specifically to the themes of “Political aspects of migration” and “Assessment of the quality of democracy” as proposed by the Political Affairs Committee;
  - ii. Agreed that the 2009 debate would take up the issue of the “State of human rights in Europe”, with specific themes to be proposed in due course by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.
- ***“Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize”:*** approved the revised draft regulations for the Prize;
- ***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 Armenia:
      1. Mr Arman VARDANYAN
      2. Mrs Haykanush PARSAMYAN
      3. Mr Ara USTYAN
    - b. With regard to Greece:
      1. Mrs Haritini DIPLA
      2. Mrs Christina PAPADOPOULOU
      3. Mr Athanasios THEODORIDIS
    - c. With regard to Iceland:
      1. Mr Pétur HAUKSSON
      2. Mrs Gudrun Dogg GUDMUNDSDÓTTIR
      3. Mrs Gudbjorg SVEINSDOTTIR
    - d. With regard to “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”:
      1. Mr Vladimir ORTAKOV
      2. Mr Gordan KALAJDZIEV
      3. Mrs Zoja KATJU
  - ii. with regard to Albania, decided to postpone consideration of the candidatures pending their formal transmission by the Albanian delegation of the PACE;

iii. with regard to Poland, decided to invite the Polish delegation to present a new list of candidates;

- **Observation of elections:**

i. *Parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation (2 December 2007)*: approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee which had observed these elections (Rapporteur: Mr van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD) and decided to declassify it;

ii. *Presidential elections in Georgia (5 January 2008)*:

a. took note of a report on a pre-electoral mission carried out from 5 to 7 December 2007;

b. approved the composition of the Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections;

iii. *Presidential elections in Serbia (20 January 2008)*:

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

b. agreed to establish for this purpose an Ad hoc Committee consisting of ten members – two from each political group; and invited the political groups to make a proposal for the chairmanship of the ad hoc Committee, as the election would be held prior to the next meeting of the Bureau (21 January 2008);

iv. *Parliamentary elections in Monaco (3 February 2008)*: agreed that the Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections would be composed as follows: Mr Slutsky (Russian Federation; SOC); Mr Vareikis (Lithuania; EPP/CD); Mr Marty (Switzerland; ALDE); Mr Hunault (France; EDG) and Mr Laakso (Finland; UEL); and appointed the latter as Chairperson;

v. *Presidential elections in Armenia (19 February 2008)*: approved the composition of the Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections and appointed Mr Prescott (United Kingdom; SOC) as its Chairperson.

vi. *Presidential elections in the Russian Federation (2 March 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 the 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;

- **Role of the Parliamentary Assembly at Council of Europe Ministerial Conferences:**

took note of a letter by Mr Schmied, Chairperson of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, on the role of the Parliamentary Assembly at Council of Europe Ministerial Conferences and agreed to raise this subject at the next Joint Committee meeting to be held on 24 January 2008 (see above);

- **Information:**

i. took note of a communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

ii. took note of a communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meeting: Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Vienna (Austria), end of April 2008 (dates to be indicated);
- **Assembly representatives for official activities:** See Appendix II
- **Other business:**
  - i. *Follow-up to Assembly Recommendation 1599 (2003) on “The cultural situation in the South Caucasus”:* took note of a statement by Mr Legendre, Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, on the unaccomplished study visit by Mr O’Hara to the region;
  - ii. *Vote on the appointment of a Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on developments as regards the future status of Kosovo:* took note of the intention of the Ad hoc Committee set up to investigate this matter to meet during the January 2008 part-session of the Assembly;
  - iii. *Requests for visits by rapporteurs:* postponed its decision on the authorisation of Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC) Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on “request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for Observer Status with the Parliamentary Assembly”, to visit Kazakhstan for the purposes of his report until the receipt of the annual report to be presented to the Bureau by the Kazakhstan parliament in March 2008 regarding the progress achieved in the promotion of principles of parliamentary democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights as well as fundamental freedoms;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:
  - . Strasbourg, Monday 21 January 2008 at 8 am;
  - . Strasbourg, Friday 25 January 2008 at 8.30 am.

Kjell Torbiörn

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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:

#### A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES

1. **Doc. 11405**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Papadopoulou and others**

**The underground economy in the wider Europe**, consultation of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *on the possible follow-up, taking into account the discussion of the Bureau*

2. **Doc. 11409**

**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr de Puig and others**

**The eradication of discrimination based on the principle of "collective guilt" in Europe**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*  
*[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states (fighting against discrimination)]*

3. **Doc. 11410**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Kaikkonen and others**

**Changing the name of the Council of Europe**, consultation of the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *on the possible follow-up*

4. **Doc. 11411 rev.**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Chope and others**

**Threat to human rights from the situation in Zimbabwe**, to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

5. **Doc. 11414**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr de Puig and others**

**Electronic democracy**, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities *for opinion, taking into account the current work of the Council for Democratic elections of the Venice Commission and the preparation of the next Forum for the Future of Democracy in Spain in 2008*  
*[PACE priority: Strengthening democracy, good governance and the rule of law in member states]*

6. **Doc. 11415**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Durrieu and others**

**Stepping up co-operation with Libya and Mauritania**, to the Political Affairs Committee *to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "Strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries"*

7. **Doc. 11418**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Melčák and others**

**Economic impact of the current waste-related legislation**, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*

8. **Doc. 11421**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rochebloine and others**  
**Violation of obligations undertaken by Azerbaijan in respect of the protection of the rights of national minorities**, to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*
9. **Doc. 11422**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Keskin and others**  
**Making multiple nationality an important component of modern integration policy throughout Europe**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
10. **Doc. 11423**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Jurgens and others**  
**Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*  
*[PACE priority: Building a more humane and inclusive Europe; strengthening the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance]*
11. **Doc. 11424**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Beck and others**  
**Right to a fair trial for Yukos executives**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
12. **Doc. 11425**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Prescott and others**  
**For a greater commitment of member states concerning the efficiency and implementation of the Council of Europe Treaty Law**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*  
*[PACE priority: Promoting common fundamental values: human rights, rule of law and democracy; Ensuring compliance with the obligations and commitments entered into by member states]*
13. **Doc. 11427**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Jonker and others**  
**Housing, land and property considerations as part of durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons**, consultation of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *on the possible follow-up, to take into account other motions tabled on related subjects*
14. **Doc. 11428**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mendes Bota and others**  
**Involving men to achieve gender equality**, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report at the Standing Committee*  
*[PACE priority: Reinforcing and expanding the protection of human rights; Responding to common threats to Europeans (violence against women)]*
15. **Doc. 11430**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lotman and others**  
**The situation of human rights in China and Tibet**, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*  
*[PACE priority: Promoting common fundamental values: human rights, rule of law and democracy]*

16. **Doc. 11443**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Evans and others**  
**Growing food or fuel?**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report at the Standing Committee*  
*[PACE priority: Promoting sustainable development (climate, water, energy, pollution)]*
  17. **Doc. 11444**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Huss and others**  
**Noise pollution and the environment**, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*
  18. **Doc. 11338**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Platvoet and others**  
**A study of history teaching in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for a report on history teaching of recent conflicts.*  
*[PACE priority: Developing intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, protecting cultural diversity and strengthening the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance]*
- B. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF A REFERENCE**
1. **Doc. 10773**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Bernard Marquet and others**  
**Child and teenage suicide in Europe: a serious public health issue**  
**Ref. no 3164 of 23 January 2006 – Validity: 23 January 2008**, extension until 23 April 2008
- C. REQUEST TO MODIFY A REFERENCE**
1. **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 Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*  
*[PACE priority: Responding to common threats to Europeans (trafficking in human beings)]*





## **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 Mota Amaral (Portugal, EPP/CD), Fifth session of the Conference of the parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), Cairo (Egypt), 30-31 January 2008;

b. Mr Bodewig (Germany, SOC), Mr Herrmann (Germany, EPP/CD), Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD) and Mr MacShane (United Kingdom, SOC), Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Berlin (Germany), 23 -27 May 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:

. Mr Azzolini (Italy, EPP/CD), who participated in the Second Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, St. Julians (Malta), 22 – 24 November 2007