

Parliamentary **Assembly** **Assemblée** parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

28 January 2008

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 25 January 2008 in Strasbourg, with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Follow-up to the 1st Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 21-25 January 2008)***: agreed to return to this issue at its next meeting on the basis of a Secretariat note;
- ***Standing Committee (Paris, 14 March 2008)***: decided to cancel this meeting;
- ***2nd Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 14-18 April 2008)***:
 - i. drew-up the preliminary draft agenda;
 - ii. decided to invite Mrs Tymoshenko, Prime Minister of Ukraine, to address the Assembly;
- ***References and transmissions to committees***: see Appendix I;
- ***Elections***:
 - i. ***Schedule of elections for 2008***: took note of the list of elections to be held in 2008;
 - ii. ***Presidential elections in Serbia: 2nd round (3 February 2008)***: approved the composition of the ad hoc Committee which would observe these elections and appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as its Chairperson;
 - iii. ***Presidential elections in the Russian Federation (2 March 2008)***:
 - a. approved the composition of the ad hoc Committee which would observe these elections and appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as its Chairperson;
 - b. approved the composition of a pre-electoral delegation;

iv. *Presidential elections in Montenegro (6 April 2008) :*

- a. took note of a letter from Mr Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, inviting the Assembly to observe the presidential elections in Montenegro,
- b. decided to observe these elections;
- c. agreed to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to observe these elections, composed of 5 members, one from each political group;

v. *Parliamentary elections in Georgia (Spring 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 the sending of a pre-electoral mission composed of 5 members, one from each political group, who were also members of the Ad Hoc Committee – on the understanding that the mission should take place approximately one month ahead of the elections;

- ***European Court of Human Rights : recent developments:*** agreed to postpone consideration of this point until its next meeting;

- ***Application to initiate a monitoring procedure to investigate electoral fraud in the United Kingdom:***

- i. took note of the opinion of the Monitoring Committee on this matter [AS/Mon (2007) 38] and decided to declassify it;
- ii. agreed to postpone consideration of this item until its next meeting;

- ***Vote on the appointment of a rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on developments as regards the future status of Kosovo:*** was informed about the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee set up to investigate this matter; marked its agreement with the proposal to close the enquiry; and took note of the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee had thereby ceased to exist;

- ***Re-constitution of ad hoc Committees of the Bureau:*** agreed to renew the following ad hoc Committees of the Bureau:

- i. *Ad hoc Committee on the implementation of Resolution 1416 (2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference;*
- ii. *Ad hoc Committee to participate in the Forum for the Future of Democracy;*

- ***Budgetary questions:***

- i. *Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the 2008 financial year:* took note of a Secretariat memorandum on this matter;

ii. *Proposal for the apportionment of the allocation to political groups for 2008:* agreed to postpone consideration of this matter until its next meeting;

- ***Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2008:*** see Appendix II;

- ***Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:*** approved new members as proposed by political groups for ratification by the Assembly;

i. *for the Monitoring Committee:* Mr Adonts (Armenia, ALDE) ; Mr Aligrudic (Serbia, EPP/CD) ; Mr Branger (France, EPP/CD) ; Mr Correia (Portugal, EDG); Mr Haibach (Germany, EPP/CD) ; Mr Hovannisian (Armenia, EPP/CD) ; Mr Keskin (Germany, UEL) ; Mr van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD) ; Mr Loutfi (Bulgaria, ALDE) ; Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) ; Mr Wach (Poland, EPP/CD) and Mr Woldseth (Norway, EDG) ;

ii. *for the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:* Mr Cebeci (Turkey, EPP/CD) ; Mr Chope (United Kingdom, EDG) ; Mr Lintner (Germany, EPP/CD) ; Mr Rowen (United Kingdom, ALDE) and Mr Turkes (Turkey, EDG) ;

- ***European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or 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 endorsed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, with regard to the following countries:

a. With regard to Albania:

1. Ms Dajena POLLO
2. Mr Viktor GUMI
3. Mr Lulzim LELÇAJ

b. With regard to Cyprus :

1. Mr Petros MICHAELIDES
2. Mr Stelios GEORGIU
3. Ms Despina MERTAKKA

ii. decided to ask the Slovak parliamentary delegation to present a new list ;

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

i. Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (*of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*): Athens (Greece), 28-29 March 2008;

ii. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population: Brussels (Belgium), 6-7 March 2008;

iii. Sub-Committee on Migration (*of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population*): St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), 3-4 April 2008;

- iv. Political Affairs Committee: Stockholm (Sweden), 15-16 May 2008;
- v. Committee on Economic Affairs and Development: Tromsø (Norway), 1-2 June 2008;
- vi. Sub-Committee on the Middle East (*of the Political Affairs Committee*): Rhodes (Greece), 9-10 June 2008;

- **Assembly representatives for official activities:**

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

a. Ms Hägg (Sweden, SOC) and Ms McCafferty (United Kingdom, SOC) : 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations, New York (United States of America), 27 February 2008 (Ms McCafferty at no cost to the Assembly);

b. Mr Mirzazada (Azerbaijan, EDG): 68th Rose-Roth Seminar: Security in the Caspian Region, Baku (Azerbaijan), 6-7 March 2008 (at no cost to the Assembly);

ii. Reports by Assembly representatives on their participation in official activities: took note of the report from Ms Staponkiené (Lithuania, EDG), following her participation in the 13th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), held in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 10 to 12 December 2007.

- **Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (25 January – 14 April 2008):** appointed Mr Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG) as rapporteur;

- **Visit by a rapporteur:** authorised Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC), rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee for “The United Nations – reform and the Council of Europe member states” to visit the United Nations headquarters in New York for the purposes of his report, at no cost to the Assembly;

- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on Thursday 13 March 2008 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

Secretary General of the Congress

Directors General

Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and Deputy 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

Doc. No.	Nature of document	Title of document	Proposals
11480	Motion for a resolution	The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights <i>for report</i>
11481	Motion for a recommendation	Threshold levels in parliamentary elections, and their impact on representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states	Consultation of the Political Affairs Committee <i>on the possible follow-up</i>
11482	Motion for a resolution	Parliamentary Governance of Migration and Integration	Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population <i>to take it into account in the preparation of the report on "Migration in Europe a constant challenge"</i>
11483	Motion for a recommendation	Human rights implications for voluntary return policies and programmes for irregular migrants	Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population <i>for report</i>
11484	Motion for a resolution	Biodiversity and climate change	Reference to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs <i>for report</i>

Modification of references

Doc. No.	Nature of document	Title of document	Proposals
11342	Motion for a recommendation	Guaranteeing a right to schooling for children with illnesses or disabilities	Reference to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee <i>for report</i> <i>(Modification of Ref. 3372 of 1st October 2007)</i>
11427	Motion for a recommendation	Housing, land and property considerations as part of durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons	Reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population <i>for report</i> <i>(Modification of the Bureau decision of 17 December 2007)</i>

11405	Motion for a recommendation	The underground economy in the wider Europe	Reference to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development <i>for report</i> <i>(Modification of the Bureau decision of 17 December 2007)</i>
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Extension of references

Doc. No.	Nature of document	Title of document	Committee(s) concerned	Reference No.	New validity date
10775	Motion for a recommendation	Palliative care	Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee	3206	30 September 2008
10653 rev.	Motion for a resolution	Investigation of crimes allegedly committed by high officials during the Kuchma rule in Ukraine	Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	3142	30 September 2008
10641	Motion for a resolution	Protection of human rights in emergency situations	Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	3230	31 December 2008
10640	Motion for a recommendation	Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships in Europe	Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights	3134	31 December 2008

APPENDIX II

Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2008:

- i. European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission: Mr Pourgourides (EPP/CD); a representative of the President of the Assembly; and as substitute Ms Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (ALDE, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);*
- ii. Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission): Mrs Durrieu (SOC, Political Affairs Committee), Mr Gross (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Van den Brande (EPP/CD, Monitoring Committee) and as substitutes: Mr Cilevics (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), *the substitutes for AS/MON and AS/POL to be proposed at the next meeting;**
- iii. European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North-South Centre: Mr Wodarg (SOC, Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and Mr Sasi (EPP/CD, Committee on Economic Affairs and Development);*
- iv. European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – ECRI: Mr Szabo (SOC, Political Affairs Committee), Mr Cilevics (SOC, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Pollozhani (ALDE, Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and as substitute Mr Berenyi (EPP/CD, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);*
- v. Advisory Board for the Future of Democracy: Mr Lindblad (EPP/CD, Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee) and the Chairperson or a member of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Forum for the Future of Democracy (according to availability);*
- vi. High-level group entrusted with examining the follow-up to the Juncker report: the President of the Assembly or his representative;*
- vii. Group of States against Corruption – GRECO: Mr Marty (ALDE, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and as substitute Mr Sasi (EPP/CD, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);*
- viii. European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice - CEPEJ: Mr Hunault (EDG, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights);*
- ix. Council of Europe Committee for Works of Art: Mr Daems (ALDE, Committee on Culture, Science and Education) and Mr O'Hara (SOC, Rapporteur on the European Museum Prize);*
- x. Pan-European Federation for Heritage – Europa Nostra: Mr Nachbar (EPP/CD, Committee on Culture, Science and Education).*