

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

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

14 April 2008

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday, 14 April 2008 with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **2nd Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 14-18 April 2008) :**

i. Request for debate under urgent procedure

a. **“The functioning of democratic institutions in Armenia”** (submitted by the five chairpersons of the Assembly’s Political Groups, on behalf of their groups): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate under urgent procedure and proposed to refer this matter to the Monitoring Committee for report;

ii. Requests for current affairs debate

a. considered the following requests

. **“Situation in the Middle East”** (submitted by Mr Lindblad and others);

. **“Situation in Tibet”** (submitted by Mrs Danuta Jazlowiecka, Chairperson of the Polish delegation, on behalf of the delegation) ;

. **“Consequences of the Declaration of Independence by the Kosovo Assembly”** (submitted by Mr von Sydow, Vice-President of the Swedish delegation, on behalf of the delegation).

. **“The independence of Kosovo”** (submitted by Mr Reimann, President of the Swiss delegation, on behalf of the delegation);

b. decided, in conformity with the Rule 52.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on the **“Consequences of the Declaration of Independence by the Kosovo Assembly”** and appointed Mr von Sydow (Sweden, SOC) as the opening speaker;

- iii. *Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights*: took note of the report of the Sub-Committee on the elections of judges including the recommendations contained in it and decided to forward it to the Assembly members;
- iv. *Up-dating of the draft agenda* : approved the up-dated draft agenda;
- v. *Meeting with Chairpersons of parliamentary national delegations (Wednesday, 16 April 2008, from 5.30 to 7.00 pm)*: took note of the draft agenda of this meeting and of the change of time to fit in with the agenda of the part-session;
- ***Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (25 January – 14 April 2008)***: approved the Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee;
- ***References and transmissions to committees***: see Appendix I;
- ***Presidential elections in Armenia (19 February 2008)***: approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee (Rapporteur : M. Prescott (Royaume-Uni, SOC));
- ***Presidential elections in Montenegro (6 April 2008)***: approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee (Rapporteur : M. Wilshire (Royaume-Uni, EDG));
- ***Parliamentary elections in Serbia (11 May 2008)***: approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee and confirmed the appointment of Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
- ***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;
- ***Joint Conference of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (St Petersburg, 4 April 2008)***: took note of the final declaration adopted at the end of the conference;
- ***Date and place of the next meetings***: decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Strasbourg, Friday 18 April 2008 at 8.30 am;
 - . Stockholm (Sweden), Thursday 29 May 2008 (time to be confirmed)

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 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. 11398**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Frunda and others
Secret detention centres: clarifying the allegations, consultation of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *on a possible follow-up*
2. **Doc. 11510**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hovannisian and others
The state of cultural heritage in Turkey, no further action
3. **Doc. 11511**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Hovannisian and others
The present state of Armenian cultural treasures in Turkey, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*
4. **Doc. 11512**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Wohlwend and others
The need for international condemnation of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*
5. **Doc. 11514**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Korobeynikov and others
Setting up a European Centre for Balanced Development of Pupils, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*
6. **Doc. 11515**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Beényi and others
Fight against extremism: achievements, deficiencies and failures, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*
7. **Doc. 11516**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rigoni and others
Improving the physical and mental health of children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster: developing and strengthening solidarity in Europe, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for information*
8. **Doc. 11517**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Hurskainen and others
Strengthening measures to protect and revive highly endangered languages, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*

9. **Doc. 11518**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Chelemendik and others
Drawing up a report on allegations made about the death of Zurab Zhvania,
to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for information*
10. **Doc. 11519**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cilevičs and others
Readmission agreements: a mechanism for returning irregular migrants,
to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*
11. **Doc. 11520**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bilozir and others
European expatriates: relations to their countries of origin, consultation of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *on a possible follow-up*
12. **Doc. 11521**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger and others
The need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
13. **Doc. 11522**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Austin and others
The protection of witnesses as cornerstone for justice and reconciliation in the Balkans, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
- B. MODIFICATION OF A REFERENCE**
1. **Doc. 11404**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Bemelmans-Vidéc and others
Allegations of politically-motivated abuses of the criminal justice system in Council of Europe member states
Ref. 3385 of 23 November 2007, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Political Affairs Committee and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*.
2. **Doc. 11409**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr de Puig
The eradication of discrimination based on the principle of “collective guilt” in Europe
Ref. 3386 of 21 January 2008, consultation of the Political Affairs Committee on the proposal by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.
3. **Doc. 11505**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr McIntosh and others
Respect for media freedom, to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for a separate report*.

4. **Doc. 11507**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Badé and others
Euro-Mediterranean: call for a Council of Europe strategy, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*, and to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for opinion*.

C. REPLY AFTER CONSULTATION

1. **Doc. 11481**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Gross and others
Threshold levels in parliamentary elections, and their impact on representativity of parliaments in Council of Europe member states, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*.

D. EXTENSION OF REFERENCES

1. **Doc. 10674**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Gardetto and others
The fight against harm to the environment in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
Ref. 3219 of 29 May 2006 – Validity: 29 May 2008, extension until 29 November 2008.
2. **Doc. 10898**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Huss and others
Environment and health: towards better prevention of environment-related health hazards
Ref. 3234 of 26 June 2006 – Validity: 26 June 2008, extension until 26 December 2008.