

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

6 October 2008

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Friday 3 October 2008, in Strasbourg with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- 4th Part of the 2008 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 29 September – 3 October 2008):

i. Follow-up to be given to Resolution 1633 (2008) on “The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia”, decided:

- to ask the Presidential Committee, led by the President, to visit Tbilisi and Moscow for meetings at the highest level with the authorities concerning the implementation of Resolution 1633 (2008);

- to place an item on the agenda of the Standing Committee in Madrid (28 November 2008) concerning “Follow-up given to Resolution 1633 (2008)”;

- to place on the agenda of the January 2009 part-session a report on the “Implementation of Resolution 1633 (2008)” and to refer the matter to the Monitoring Committee for report, and to the Political Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for opinion;

- to ask the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population to prepare a report on the “Humanitarian consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia”, which could be debated during the January 2009 part-session;

- entrusted the Political Affairs Committee with the task of formulating proposals for the organisation of an international conference on early warning systems and mechanisms for conducting parliamentary diplomacy, as well as considering other questions such as the setting-up of an international committee of inquiry and the consequences of the conflict the stability of the region.

- to ask the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to examine questions relating to human rights in the region;

- to set up an Ad Hoc Committee in order to promote dialogue between the Russian and Georgian parliamentary delegations and to return to the question of the composition and working methods of the Ad Hoc Committee at the Bureau’s next meeting;

ii. Follow-up to be given to Resolution 1627 (2008) on “Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights”: asked the President to contact the Maltese authorities to request that they submit a list of candidates;

iii. asked the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to prepare a report proposing modifications to the Rules of Procedure as a result of questions which had arisen relating to the interpretation of the Rules of Procedure during the part-session;

- **Standing Committee (Madrid, 28 November 2008)**: took note of the draft agenda and the draft programme;

- **2009 First part-Session (26-30 January 2009)** : drew up a preliminary draft agenda ;

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

- **Forum for the Future of Democracy (Madrid, 15-17 October 2008)**: took note of the programme for the Forum;

- **Debates on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe**: registered its agreement with the proposals made in document AS/Bur (2008) 62 prepared by the Secretariat;

- **Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize** :

i. Drawing by lot of two independent experts from the jury whose term of office will be for 5 years: following the draw, took note that the term of office of Mrs Vermot Mangold and Mr Nowicki would be 5 years;

ii. Extension of the deadline for submitting nominations: exceptionally, the deadline would be 31 December 2008 for the 2009 prize;

- **Visits by Rapporteurs** :

i. following a request by the Political Affairs Committee, authorised Mr Pavlidis, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East, to carry out a fact-finding visit to the Middle East in the framework of preparations for the next Tripartite Forum;

ii. following a request by the Political Affairs Committee, authorised Mr Gross, Rapporteur on “United Nations – Reform and the Council of Europe member states” to conduct a fact-finding visit to Ottawa and New York (UN Headquarters) in the framework of the preparation of his report and took note that the report would be presented at the meeting of the Political Affairs Committee on 16 December 2008;

- **Appointment of a rapporteur for the Progress Report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee (3 October 2008 – 26 January 2009)**: appointed Mr Wille (ALDE, Belgium) as Rapporteur;

- **Joint Conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2009**:

- i. took note of a letter from Mr Mironov, President of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly , proposing that the next joint conference between the Assembly and the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly be devoted to the subject of “Ecological security”;
 - ii. signalled its agreement in principle with the proposal to organise this joint conference with the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS in 2009 and with the subject suggested;
 - iii. asked the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs to make more detailed proposals as to specific topics for the conference;
- ***Petition by the Chief Prosecutor of Turkey to ban the DSP Party:*** took note of a declaration by the President on this subject;
 - ***Conference organised by the EFI (European Friends of Israel), Paris, 6 November 2008:*** set up an Ad Hoc Committee composed of 5 members, one from each political group, to attend the conference;
 - ***Communications:*** took note of the communications of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe as well as of the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - ***Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:*** approved the new members as proposed by the political groups, for ratification by the Assembly:
 - i. Monitoring Committee: Mrs Herasym'yuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD); Mr Jensen (Denmark, ALDE), Mrs Konecna (Czech Republic, UEL) and Mrs Taktakishvili (Georgia, ALDE);
 - ii. Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs: Mr Saar (Estonia, SOC) and Mr Schram (Iceland, SOC);
 - ***3rd World Holocaust Forum commemorating the seventy years since the Kristallnacht, Brussels, 10 November 2008:*** approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee to participate in the Forum;
 - ***Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2009:*** see Appendix II;
 - ***Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:*** authorised the following meetings:
 - i. Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights): Limassol (Cyprus), 24 November 2008;
 - ii. Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter and Employment and Sub-Committee on Health (of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee): Geneva (Switzerland), 24-25 November 2008;
 - iii. Sub-Committee on Violence against women (of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men): Madrid (Spain), 27 November 2008;
 - iv. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population: Las Palmas (Spain), 11-12 December 2008;

- **Assembly representatives for official activities** : see Appendix III;
- **Date and place of the next meetings:** decided to hold the following meetings:
 - . Madrid, Thursday 27 November 2008 at 4pm;
 - . Barcelona, Friday 9 January 2009 at 9.30 am.

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:

i. references to committees

1. **Doc. 11713**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Čurdová and others
Decent pensions for women to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*
2. **Doc. 11714**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Stump and others
Action against sexist representations in the media, to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*
3. **Doc. 11716**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hancock and others
The protection of Camp Ashraf residents, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*

ii. modification of a reference

1. **Doc. 11581**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Prescott and others
The challenges posed by climate change, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*, and to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population and the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for opinion*

iii. reply after consultation

1. **Doc. 11602**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Dorić and others
The obligation of member states of the Council of Europe to co-operate in prosecution of war crimes, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

iv. decision postponed

1. **Doc. 11715**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Err and others
Extending the "most favoured European woman clause" to all Council of Europe member states, postponed its decision

Appendix II

Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2009

Preliminary proposals for dates¹

Friday 9 January, 9.30 am, Barcelona	Bureau
Monday 26 January, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 30 January, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 12 March, 3 pm, Paris	Bureau
Friday 13 March, 9.00 am, Paris (to be confirmed)	Standing Committee
Monday 27 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Tuesday 5 May, (time and place to be confirmed)	Bureau
May, Ljubljana (date to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 22 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 26 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 7 September, 9.30am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 28 September, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 2 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
November, Bern (date to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 14 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau

¹ Dates of meetings due to be held elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris are subject to the conclusion of a formal agreement with the Parliament of the country concerned.

Appendix III

Appointments of Assembly Representatives for official activities

In reply to formal invitations, the Bureau took the following decisions:

- i. Mr Mignon (France, EPP/CD): International Session of the European Youth Parliament, Rennes (France), 24 October – 2 November 2008;
- ii. Mr Biberaj (Albania, EPP/CD): 60th Nordic Council Plenary Session, Helsinki (Finland), 27-29 October 2008;
- iii. Mr Cosarciuc (Moldova, ALDE): 30th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly, Chisinau (Moldova), 3-5 November 2008 (no cost for the Assembly);
- iv. Mrs Jonker (Netherlands, EPP/CD): High level Conference on human rights in culturally diverse societies, The Hague (Netherlands), 12-13 November 2008 (no cost for the Assembly);
- v. A member of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education: European Youth Forum General Assembly, Rotterdam (Netherlands), 13-15 November 2008;
- vi. Mr Gross (Switzerland): UniDem Seminar on “the cancellation of election results”, Malta, 14-15 November 2008;
- vii. Mr MacShane (United Kingdom, SOC): 54th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Valencia (Spain), 14-18 November 2008 (no cost for the Assembly);
- viii. Mr Berényi (Slovak Republic, EPP/CD): 4th Plenary Assembly of the European Roma and Travellers Forum, Strasbourg (France), 24 November 2008;
- ix. Mr Greenway (United Kingdom, EDG): International Conference on International Humanitarian Law, Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation) 28 November 2008.