



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

16 March 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday, 12 March 2009 in Paris with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Elections :**

i. *Cooperation with ODIHR* : held an exchange of views with Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE;

ii. *Conclusions of the meeting on 27 January 2009 of Chairpersons and members of ad hoc committees for the observation of elections during the period 2006-2008*: took note of the conclusions of the meeting and authorised their distribution to the participants at the Standing Committee the following day;

iii. *Constitutional referendum in Azerbaijan (18 March 2009)*: took note of the composition of the delegation to be present during the referendum as submitted to the President by the political groups and of the appointment by the President of Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE) as Chairperson of the delegation;

iv. *Presidential election in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (22 March 2009)*, took note:

a. of the press release issued at the end of the pre-electoral mission which took place from 25 to 28 February 2009;

b. of the fact that Mrs Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) had been appointed by the President as Chairperson of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections;

v. *Parliamentary elections in Montenegro (29 March 2009)*, took note:

a. of the invitation letter regarding the observation of these elections from the Montenegrin authorities;

b. of the press release issued at the end of the pre-electoral mission which took place from 24 to 27 February 2009;

c. of the composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections as submitted to the President by the political groups and of the appointment by the President of Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) as Chairperson;

vi. *Parliamentary elections in Moldova (5 April 2009)*, took note:

a. of the press release issued at the end of the pre-electoral mission which took place on 5 and 6 March 2009;

b. of the composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections as submitted to the President by the political groups and of the appointment by the President of Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG) as Chairperson;

- **Standing Committee (Paris, 13 March 2009)**: took note of the updated draft agenda;

- **2nd Part of the 2009 Ordinary Session (Strasbourg, 27-30 April 2009):**
 - i. *Up-dating of the draft agenda* : updated the draft agenda for the part-session;
 - ii. *Draft agenda of the Joint Committee* : agreed to propose to the Committee of Ministers to include the following points on the agenda for the meeting;
 - a. Consultation of the Assembly by the Committee of Ministers on the candidatures for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - b. Council of Europe 2010 budget;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix I;
- **Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize:** in accordance with the regulations for the Prize, approved the recommendation submitted by the Selection Panel proposing “British Irish Rights Watch” as the winner; subject to ratification by the Assembly in the framework of the activity report of the Bureau and the Standing Committee;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. *Belarus* :
 - a. took note of the press release issued at the end of the visit to Belarus by the ad hoc sub-committee of the Political Affairs Committee which took place from 16 to 19 February;
 - b. noted that two members of the parliament of Belarus and two members of the opposition had been invited to the next meeting of the Political Affairs Committee (Paris, 17 March 2009);
 - c. in the absence of the Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee, decided to postpone discussion on the situation in Belarus to one of its future meetings;
 - ii. *Proposals for June and September 2009 part-sessions by the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs:* agreed to take account of the following proposals when drawing up the draft agendas:
 - a. June 2009 part-session: holding of a joint debate on the “Environment and renewable energies” and “Nuclear energy and sustainable development”;
 - b. September-October part-session 2009: to devote half a day to the holding of an extended debate on “The challenges posed by climate change”;
 - iii. *Follow-up to Resolution 1583 (2007) “Improving the participation of members in Assembly plenary sessions and committee meetings”* :
 - a. considered a letter on this subject from the President of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;
 - b. invited the President to forward statistics on participation to the Chairpersons of National Parliamentary Delegations and, in particular, to draw the attention of those having low rates of participation to this situation;
- **Budgetary prospects for the Council of Europe for 2010:** held an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE), in his capacity as Rapporteur on this subject for the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development;
- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe as well as the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Cooperation agreement with the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan:** held an exchange of views with a parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan, led by Mr Alexander Sudin, Vice-

President of the Senate of Kazakhstan, on progress made in the promotion of principles established in the cooperation agreement;

- **Dates of Assembly Part-Sessions (2011 – 2013):** approved the following dates:
 - i. 2011: 24-28 January; 11-15 April; 20-24 June; 3-7 October;
 - ii. 2012: 23-27 January; 23-27 April; 25-29 June; 1-5 October;
 - iii. 2013: 21-25 January; 22-26 April; 24-28 June; 30 September – 4 October;
- **European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments (Cyprus, 10-12 June 2010):** took note of the dates of the conference;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** see Appendix II;
- **Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities:** see Appendix III;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold the following meeting:
 - . Strasbourg, Monday 27 April 2009 at 8 am.

Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau on promoting dialogue between the Georgian and Russian PACE Delegations, meeting in Paris on 12 March 2009 with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair:

- devoted its constitutive meeting to the definition of its objectives and work programme;
- agreed to hold its next meeting in Valencia (Spain) in the margins of the meeting of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe to be held in Valencia on 30 and 31 March 2009.

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

The Bureau approved the following references and modifications of references, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee:

i. Modification of a reference

- 1. The state of human rights in Europe : the need to eradicate impunity**
Bureau decision, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*

ii. Extension of references

- 1. The situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cilevičs and others
Doc. 11206
Reference no. 3340 of 20 April 2007 – validity: 20 April 2009, extension until 31 January 2010
- 2. An internationally recognized status of election observers**
Bureau decision
Reference no. 3322 of 16 March 2007 – validity: 16 March 2009, extension until 31 December 2009
- 3. Request by the Parliament of Kazakhstan for observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly**
Bureau decision
Reference no. 3318 of 16 March 2007 – validity: 16 March 2009, extension until 31 January 2010
- 4. European code of conduct on lobbying including guidelines for politicians, lobbyists and corporations**
Doc. 11105
Reference no. 3335 of 16 April 2007 – validity: 31 April 2009, extension until 31 October 2009;

APPENDIX II

Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the following meetings:

- i. *Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee):* Valencia (Spain), 30-31 March 2009;
- ii. *Ad hoc Sub-committee (of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men):* Athens (Greece), 5-6 May 2009;
- iii. *Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men:* Istanbul (Turkey), 14-15 May 2009;
- iv. *Sub-committee on external relations (of the Political Affairs Committee):* Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation), 14-15 May 2009;
- v. *Committee on Culture, Science and Education:* Copenhagen (Denmark), 8-9 September 2009

APPENDIX III

Appointments of Assembly representatives for official activities

In reply to formal invitations, the Bureau appointed the following parliamentarians:

- i. Mr Austin (United Kingdom, SOC): 120ème Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 5-10 April 2009;
- ii. Mr Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD): Global parliamentary conference on the economic and financial crisis, Geneva (Switzerland), 7-8 May 2009.