



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

27 April 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 27 April 2009 in Strasbourg, with Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **2009 2nd ordinary part-Session (Strasbourg, 27-30 April 2009):**

i. *Requests for debates under urgent procedure:*

a. “Draft Protocol n°14 bis to the Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms” (submitted by the Committee of Ministers): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter and proposed to refer it to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report;

b. “The functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova” (submitted by the Socialist Group): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter and proposed to refer it to the Monitoring Committee for report;

c. “The process of the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe” (submitted by the Group of the European People’s Party): decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter and proposed to refer it to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs for report;

ii. *Request for a current affairs debate:*

a. “The process of the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe” (submitted by the European Democrat Group): in case the Assembly were to decide not to hold a debate under urgent procedure on this matter, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate and to appoint Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) to open the debate;

iii. *Draft agenda:* approved the updated draft agenda in which the report “women in prison” appeared as the last item on Tuesday afternoon, instead of the report “funding of public service broadcasting”;

iv. *Joint Committee (Wednesday 29 April 2009):* agreed to propose to the Committee of Ministers to hold the discussion on “Consultation of the Assembly by the Committee of Ministers on the candidatures for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe” *in camera*;

- **Standing Committee (Ljubljana, 29 May 2009):** took note of the draft agenda;

- **Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (30 January–27 April 2009):** the Bureau approved the Progress report;

- **Elections**

i. *Constitutional Referendum in Azerbaijan (18 March 2009):* took note of a memorandum prepared by Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE), Head of the delegation present during the referendum;

- ii. *Presidential election in “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (22 March and 5 April 2009):* approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections (Rapporteur: Mrs de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD));
- iii. *Parliamentary elections in Montenegro (29 March 2009):* approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections (Rapporteur: Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC));
- iv. *Parliamentary elections in Moldova (5 April 2009):* approved the report of the Ad hoc Committee to observe these elections (Rapporteur: Mr Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG));
- v. *Parliamentary elections in Albania (second half of June 2009):*
 - a. subject to receipt of an invitation, decided to observe these elections;
 - b. decided to set-up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections composed of 20 members, according to 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;
- vi. *Parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (June - beginning of July 2009, date to be confirmed):*
 - a. subject to receipt of an invitation, decided to observe these elections;
 - b. decided to set-up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections composed of 20 members, according to the “D’Hondt” system;
- vii. *Schedule of elections in 2009:* took note of the elections which will take place in 2009;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** postponed consideration of this item to its next meeting;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the following meetings:
 - a. Sub-Committee on the media (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education): Reykjavik (Iceland), 27-29 May 2009;
 - b. Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs: London (United Kingdom), 11- 12 June 2009;
 - c. Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee: London (United Kingdom), 11- 12 June 2009;
- **Forum for the Future of Democracy (Kyiv, 21-23 October 2009):** appointed Mr Daems (Belgium, ALDE) as general rapporteur of the Assembly for the Forum;
- **Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2009:** appointed Mr Holovaty (ALDE, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) as substitute to the European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission;
- **Appointments of Assembly Representatives for official activities:** in reply to formal invitations, the Bureau took the following decisions:
 - a. Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE): First meeting of the Assembly network for contact parliamentarians, Istanbul (Turkey), 15 May 2009 (no cost for the Assembly);
 - b. Ms Hurskainen (Finland, SOC): Debate on Belarus at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Congress of the Council of Europe, Brdo (Slovenia), 10 June 2009;
 - c. Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE): 20th anniversary of the opening of the Hungarian-Austrian border, Budapest (Hungary), 27 June 2009 (no cost for the Assembly);

- ***Date and place of next meetings:*** decided to hold the following meetings:

- . Madrid, Monday 11 May 2009 at 4pm;
- . Ljubljana, Thursday 28 May 2009 at 3pm;
- . Strasbourg, Monday 22 June 2009 at 8 am;
- . Strasbourg, Friday 26 June 2009 at 8.30 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