



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretariat of the Assembly

Synopsis

23 November 2009

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 19 November 2009 in Bern with Mr Mignon, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Standing Committee Meeting (Bern, 20 November 2009):** took note of the changes made to the draft agenda;
- **1st ordinary Part-Session of 2010 (Strasbourg, 25-29 January 2010):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda for the part-session and decided to reconsider this item at its next meeting;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** see Appendix I;
- **Observation of elections:**
 - i. **Ukraine: presidential election (17 January 2010):**
 - a. took note of the letter from the Ukrainian authorities inviting the Assembly to observe this election;
 - b. approved the composition of the ad hoc committee to observe the election and took note of the appointment by the President of the Assembly of Mr Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE) as Chairperson;
 - ii. **Elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council and for the Presidency of the Palestinian Authority (24 January 2010, subject to confirmation):**
 - a. decided to observe these elections, subject to receipt of an invitation;
 - b. set up an ad hoc committee to observe these elections, composed of 11 members: (3 EPP/CD; 3 SOC; 2 EDG; 2 ALDE; 1 UEL) and left it up to President of the Assembly to appoint the Chairperson of the ad hoc committee;
 - 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 about one month ahead of the elections;
- **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;
- **Forum on early warning in conflict prevention (Strasbourg, 24-25 September 2009):** heard an account by Mr Wilshire, Chairperson of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau on the Forum, regarding the conclusions of the Forum and asked the Political Affairs Committee to follow-up these conclusions by setting-up a sub-committee if this was thought to be necessary;

- **Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize:** changed the regulations for the Prize (see Appendix II);
- **Joint Parliamentary Assembly/Interparliamentary Union conference on "Migration and violence against women in Europe" (Paris, 10 and 11 December 2009):** approved the composition of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in this conference and appointed Mr Wille (Belgium, ALDE) as Chairperson;
- **Forum for the future of Democracy (Kyiv, 21-23 October 2009):** took note of the conclusions of the Forum and asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare a document, in time for the next meeting, with proposals for the follow-up to these conclusions by the Assembly's committees;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:**
 - i. authorised the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to meet in London on 7 December 2009;
 - ii. Modification of the rule on meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees of the Assembly elsewhere than in Strasbourg or Paris: held an exchange of views on this issue and decided to come back to this item at its next meeting;
- **Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (2 October 2009 – 25 January 2010):** appointed Mr de Puig, (Spain, SOC) as rapporteur;
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:** approved the changes in the list of members of each committee;
- **Appointment of Assembly Representatives for official activities:** in reply to formal invitations, appointed:
 - i. Mr Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD): 28th session of the Baltic Assembly and 15th session of the Baltic Council, Vilnius (Lithuania), 26-28 November 2009 (without cost for the Assembly);
 - ii. Mr Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD): enlarged session of the steering committee of the parliamentary conference of the World Trade Organisation, Geneva (Switzerland), 1 December 2009 (without cost for the Assembly);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:**
 - . Monday 14 December 2009 in Paris (France) 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 Standing Committee:

A. References to committees

1. **Implementation of the fundamental principle of the rule of law**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Keleş and others
Doc. 12036, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*
2. **Combating selective abortion**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Volonte' and others
Doc. 12047, to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and to the Committee for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for information*
3. **The milk crisis and its impact on farming**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Marin and others
Doc. 12048, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*
4. **Preventing natural disasters**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Marin and others
Doc. 12049, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report at the Standing Committee*
5. **The European Union Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Evans and others
Doc. 12050, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for information*
6. **Draft Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (ETS 127) ***
Request for an opinion by the Committee of Ministers, to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

B. Replies after consultation

1. **The definition of political prisoners**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Agramunt and others
Doc. 11922, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
2. **Drafting an additional protocol to the European Convention for Human Rights : basic standards for national minorities**
Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Frunda and others
Doc. 11897, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*
3. **The inadmissibility of restrictions on freedom of movement as punishment for political positions**
Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others
Doc. 11903, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

* Subject to the Committee of Ministers having transmitted the draft text to the Assembly for opinion.

C. Modification of a reference

1. Situation in Belarus

Bureau decision of 7 September 2009

Reference 3594 of 28 September 2009, to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*

The Bureau decided to extend the following references:

D. Extensions of references

1. Military waste and the environment

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Ivanov and others

Doc. 11462

Reference 3404 of 21 January 2008 – validity: 30 June 2010, extension until 31 July 2010

2. An internationally recognised status of election observers

Decision by the Bureau

Reference 3322 of 16 March 2007 – validity: 31 December 2009, extension until 30 June 2010

3. European charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr de Puig and others

Doc. 11480

Reference 3406 of 25 January 2008 – validity: 25 January 2010, extension until 30 June 2010

4. Migrants and Refugees: a continuing challenge for the Council of Europe

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Cavusoglu and others

Doc. 11085

Reference 3298 of 21 January 2007 – validity: 31 December 2009, extension until 30 April 2010

5. Request for an investigation to clarify the allegedly suspicious death of former President Boris Trajkovski of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gross and others

Doc. 11172

Reference 3329 of 23 November 2007 – validity: 23 November 2009, extension until 31 January 2010

6. The need for a global consideration of human rights implications of biometrics

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others

Doc. 11066

Reference 3288 of 22 January 2007 – validity: 31 January 2010, extension until 30 June 2010

7. For a greater commitment of member states concerning the efficiency and the implementation of the Council of Europe Treaty Law

Doc. 11425

Reference 3395 of 21 January 2008 – validity: 21 January 2010, extension until 31 March 2010

Appendix II

Regulations for the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize¹

Article 1: The Prize

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize shall be awarded **on the occasion of the Parliamentary Assembly's biennial debate on "The State of Human Rights in Europe"**, in order to reward outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe.

Article 2: Nature

The Prize shall consist of a sum of ten thousand euros, which may be subject to periodic adjustment by the Bureau, a **plaque** and a diploma commending the Prizewinner's outstanding contribution to the cause of human rights.

Article 3: Eligibility

Individual members of civil society or non-governmental organisations or institutions who are active in the defence of human rights in Europe may be eligible for consideration.

Article 4: Nominations

1. Nominations for the Prize must reach the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly by 30 September each year. They shall be signed by at least five sponsors, other than the nominee, on the special form appended to these Regulations.
2. Nominations shall provide details of the nominee's action(s) in the defence of human rights and specify the reasons why the nominee's action(s) can be considered to be outstanding. All relevant supporting documents shall be provided.
3. Nominations may be submitted in one of the two official languages of the Parliamentary Assembly: English or French.

Article 5: Selection Panel

1. A selection panel comprising the President of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and four independent persons with recognised moral standing in the field of human rights shall examine the nominations and make a recommendation to the Bureau as to the Prizewinner for the year in question.
2. The four independent experts referred to in the preceding paragraph shall not be current members of the Assembly. They shall be appointed by the Bureau for a five-year period, renewable once. In order to ensure a reasonable rotation and continuity, the term of two of the experts shall be limited to three years on the occasion of the first appointment made by the Bureau. The names of the experts concerned shall be drawn by lot by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly.
3. The selection panel shall be chaired by the President of the Assembly.
4. In the event that the selection panel considers that none of the nominations put forward is sufficiently outstanding, it shall inform the Bureau accordingly.

¹ As modified by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at its meeting in Bern, Switzerland, on 19 November 2009. **Modifications in bold**

Article 6: Decision on the Prizewinner

1. The decision on the Prizewinner shall be taken by the Bureau by an absolute majority of the votes cast.
2. The Bureau's decision on the Prizewinner shall be subject to the endorsement of the Parliamentary Assembly by means of the Bureau's progress report.

Article 7: Award Ceremony

1. The Prize shall be awarded at a ceremony which shall take place in principle during the part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly following the Assembly's endorsement of the Prizewinner.
2. The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly shall approve the modalities of the ceremony.