



AS/Bur/CB (2012) 12

3 December 2012

To the members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Andorra la Vella on 29 November 2012

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 29 November 2012 in Andorra la Vella, with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Standing Committee meeting (Andorra la Vella, 30 November 2012):** considered and took note of the revised draft agenda and decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold a debate on current political issues including a discussion on “*The case of Malala Yousafzai and the right to education for young women*”, to be introduced by Mr Luca Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD);
- **First part-session of 2013 (Strasbourg, 21-25 January 2013):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references and modifications to references as presented in Appendix I, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Election observation:**
 - i. **Guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly:** considered the revised Guidelines and decided to come back to this item at its next meeting in the light of a revised text;
 - ii. **Meeting of the Chairpersons of Ad Hoc Committees for the observation of elections, 22 January 2013:** took note of the draft agenda;
 - iii. **Georgia: parliamentary elections (1 October 2012):** approved the report issued by the ad hoc committee;
 - iv. **Montenegro: early parliamentary elections (14 October 2012):** approved the report issued by the ad hoc committee;
 - v. **Ukraine: parliamentary elections (28 October 2012):** approved the report issued by the ad hoc committee;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - i. **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media:** held an exchange of views on follow-up to be given to the Bureau’s declaration of 5 October 2012 on “The North-South Centre and the Arab countries in transition”; decided that the Assembly would participate in the open-ended Ad hoc Working Party of the Committee of Ministers on the future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) and agreed to proceed to the nomination of members at its next meeting;

ii. *Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights*: took note of the Committee's decision to merge the reports on "The European Convention on Nationality: application and solution proposals" and "Access to Nationality", with a deadline of 3 October 2013 for the merged report;

- **Co-operation with the European Parliament**: heard statements by the President and the Secretary General of the Assembly on the Joint meeting between the Presidential Committee and the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament (Brussels, 7 November 2012);

- **Draft Declaration of the Standing Committee on the International day for the elimination of violence against women (25 November 2012)**: approved the draft Declaration to be submitted for adoption by the Standing Committee (Appendix II);

- **Seminar on the control exerted by Parliaments on governments' actions, organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at the invitation of the Parliament of Morocco (Rabat, 8 November 2012)**: took note of the report;

- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee**: nominated Lord John Prescott (United Kingdom, SOC) and Mr Vyacheslav Fetisov (Russian Federation, EDG) to the Monitoring Committee, on the basis of proposals submitted by political groups, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;

- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris**: see Appendix III

- **Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities**: see Appendix IV;

- **Next meetings**:

decided to hold the following meetings:

Paris, Monday 17 December 2012 at 9.30;

Strasbourg, Monday 21 January 2013 at 8 am;

Strasbourg, Friday 25 January 2013 at 8.30 am.

Ivi-Triin Odrats

cc.

Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Appendix I

References and transmissions to committees

Doc No.	Nature of document	Title of document	Committee concerned
13014	Motion for a Resolution	The promotion of media content on the Internet	reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media <i>for taking into account in the preparation of the report on "The right to Internet access" (Ref. 3892 of 1 October 2012)</i>
13046	Motion for a Resolution	Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice	reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination <i>for report</i>
13074	Motion for a Resolution	Towards a new European Social Model: which social vision for Europe of tomorrow?	reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development <i>for report</i>
13075	Motion for a resolution	Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children: mid-term review of the ONE in FIVE campaign	reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development <i>for report</i>
	Bureau decision	The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2012-2013	Reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy <i>for report</i>
	Bureau decision	Young people's access to fundamental rights	reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media <i>for report</i> and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development <i>for opinion</i>

Modification of references

1. Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity, Doc. 12932, Ref. 3877 of 25 June 2012

Reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*

2. The future of the European Court of Human Rights and the Brighton Declaration, Ref. 3864 of 27 April 2012 and Need to reinforce the independence of the European Court of Human Rights, Ref. 3880 of 29 June 2012

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for two separate reports*

Extensions of references (for information)

Nature of document	Title of document	Committee concerned	Reference No.	New validity date
Bureau decision	Harmonisation of regulatory and para-regulatory provisions of monitoring and post-monitoring dialogue procedures	Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs	3673	30 April 2013

Appendix II
Draft Declaration of the Standing Committee on the International day for the elimination of violence against women

International Day for the elimination of violence against women (25 November 2012)

Countering violence against women: the economic crisis shall not put it on hold

Violence against women is a human rights violation. States should not relent in their efforts to prevent it, assist its victims, and prosecute offenders, even at a time of economic crisis. This is moreover crucial at this juncture, as statistics indicate an increase in the number of cases of violence against women and domestic violence, probably linked to the higher unemployment rate and the difficult socio-economic conditions of many households.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calls on member states to continue allocating adequate funding to shelters and assistance programmes for victims of violence.

In addition, the Assembly calls on member states to place more emphasis on preventive measures, including through activities and campaigns that reach out to the general public and can contribute to the evolution of mentalities. The human and financial cost of preventing violence is much less than the cost of tackling violence after it has taken place.

Finally, the Assembly reiterates its appeal to member states to demonstrate their commitment to combating violence against women also by signing, if they have not yet done so, and ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). Once it enters into force, the Istanbul Convention will give a tangible contribution to the protection of human rights, and help save thousands of lives.

Appendix III

Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised the following meetings:

- . Ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to meet in Greece (border with Turkey) on 14-16 January 2013;
- . Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in Rabat (Morocco) on 21-22 March 2013;

Appendix IV

Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities

The Bureau appointed the following members:

- . Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG), Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the CEPEJ, Strasbourg, 6 December 2012;
- . Mr Pietro Marcenaro (Italy, SOC), 7th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law celebrating 10 years of the Rome Statute, Rome, 10-11 December 2012 (at no cost to the Assembly);
- . Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), Regional Conference on the Prevention and Combat of Violence against Women, Helsinki, 17-18 January 2013.