



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2013) 12

25 November 2013

To the members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Vienna on 21 November 2013

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 21 November 2013 in Vienna, with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Meeting of the Standing Committee (Vienna, 22 November 2013):** took note of the revised draft agenda;
- **Communication by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** took note of the communication;
- **First part-session of 2014 (Strasbourg, 27-31 January):** drew up the preliminary draft agenda;
- **Election observation:**
 - . *Presidential election in Azerbaijan (9 October 2013):* approved the final report of the ad hoc committee;
 - . *Presidential election in Georgia (27 October 2013):*
 - . approved the final report of the ad hoc committee;
 - . took note of the opinion of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on "*The case of Mr Vassiliy Likhachev (Russian Federation, UEL), prevented from participating in the pre-electoral mission for the observation of the presidential election in Georgia (23-26 September 2013)*" and decided that the Assembly and its committees should not hold any meetings in Georgia for a period of two years, and that this measure may be lifted earlier by the Bureau if the Georgian authorities guarantee freedom of movement of Assembly members in Georgia when on Assembly business;
 - . *Repeated parliamentary elections in five single member constituencies in Ukraine (15 December 2013):* decided to observe these elections and to constitute an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 5 members, one of each political group, and authorised the President to appoint the Chairperson of this ad hoc committee;
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):** took note of the letter of the President of the Committee of Ministers concerning the list of candidates in respect of Denmark and decided to invite the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly to ask the Danish Parliament to submit a new list of candidates;
- **References and transmissions to committees:** considered and approved the references as presented in the Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;

- **Situation in the Ashraf/Liberty Camps:** adopted the statement "Call to investigate the 1st September killings and to release 7 Iranians presumably held in custody by Iraqi authorities" (see Appendix 2);
- **Situation in Syria:** adopted the statement "PACE Bureau deplores the international community's failure to convene the international peace conference on Syria (Geneva 2)" (see Appendix 3);
- **Composition of the Monitoring Committee:** appointed Ms Unur Brá Konráðsdóttir (Iceland, EDG) and Mr Brynjar Níelsson (Iceland, EDG), on the basis of a proposal submitted by the EDG group, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised the Sub-committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet on 4 February 2014 in London and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet on 11-12 March 2014 in Stockholm;
- **Dates and places of next meetings :**
 - . Monday 16 December 2013, Paris at 9.30 am;
 - . Monday 27 January 2014, Strasbourg at 8 am;
 - . Friday 31 January 2014, Strasbourg at 8.30 am.

Markus Adelsbach

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 1**A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEES**

Doc. 13316, motion for a recommendation, Involuntary placement and treatment of people with psychosocial disability: need for a new paradigm, reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

Doc. 13317, motion for a resolution, Road safety in Europe as a public health priority, reference to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*

Doc. 13318, motion for a resolution, Access to justice through online instruments, reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

Doc. 13319, motion for a resolution, Increasing co-operation against cyberterrorism and other large-scale attacks on the internet, reference to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report*

Doc. 13322, motion for a resolution, Defending the *acquis* of the Council of Europe: preserving 65 years of successful intergovernmental co-operation, reference to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

B. REPLY AFTER CONSULTATION

Doc. 13269, Motion for a resolution, Combat “Down-syndromecide”, no further action

C. REQUESTS TO EXTEND REFERENCES

Doc. 12306 (Ref. 3700 of 4 October 2010 - validity 31 December 2013), motion for a resolution, Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Election of judges,: extension until 31 December 2014

Doc. 12595 (Ref. 3776 of 20 June 2011 – validity: 31 December 2013), motion for a resolution, The protection of minors against sectarian influence: extension until 31 March 2014

Doc. 12844 (Ref. 3839 of 9 March 2012– validity: 9 March 2014), motion for a resolution, Abuse of pre-trial detention in States Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights: extension until 30 June 2014

Bureau decision (Ref. 3823 of 25 November 2011 – validity: 25 November 2013), Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic: extension until 25 November 2014.

APPENDIX 2

Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ashraf/Liberty Camps: Call to investigate the 1st September killings and to release 7 Iranians presumably held in custody by Iraqi authorities

On 1 September 2013, armed men raided the Camp Ashraf in Iraq, which has been for many years home for Iranian political dissidents exiled from their country. At least 52 residents were shot dead. There is credible evidence, including video footage and photographs, that many of the 52 had been shot in the head, some while handcuffed.

The Iraqi government denied responsibility for the attack but promised to investigate the killings. To date, no official results of such an investigation have been made public.

We are appalled that, almost 12 weeks after this deadly raid, the perpetrators of this atrocious crime have not yet been brought to justice. An independent international inquiry must be conducted as soon as possible.

During the same raid, seven Iranian dissidents, six women and one man, all belonging to the Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran, were abducted from Camp Ashraf.

There are indications that these seven people are being held by the Iraqi security forces at a secret detention facility in Baghdad. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment and could be forcibly returned to Iran.

We urge the Iraqi authorities to release these seven Iranians, unless they are duly charged with an internationally recognisable criminal offence; to make sure that they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment; and not to forcibly return them to Iran where their lives would be in danger.

We call on the office of the UN High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) to provide protection to the residents of the Camp Liberty in accordance with its mandate.

APPENDIX 3**Statement by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe****Syria: PACE Bureau deplores the international community's failure to convene the international peace conference on Syria (Geneva 2)**

The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting today in Vienna (Austria), deplored the fact that the organisation of an international peace conference on Syria (Geneva 2), which the Assembly wholeheartedly supported when adopting its Recommendation 2026 (2013) on the situation in Syria last month, has not yet been convened and no date has been fixed. The international community has so far failed to reach agreement both on the participants and the agenda.

The Bureau of the Assembly recalls that whereas the international community's agreement on a process aimed at the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons and the Resolution 2118 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 27 September 2013, had renewed hopes for peace, they did not stop the war, which continues nonetheless with the use of conventional weapons.

Underlying that the possibility of eliminating violence and embracing the change for which so many lives have been sacrificed can only be opened up to Syria through a political solution to the conflict, the Bureau of the Assembly reiterates the urgent need to convene the international peace conference on Syria (Geneva 2) before the end of this year and, in this respect, urges the Council of Europe member States to:

- make use of their bilateral relations with Arab States and other States in the region to secure their support for a ceasefire in preparation of this conference;
- engage in all international efforts aimed at obtaining an agreement on participants as well as on the agenda of the forthcoming peace conference, including efforts aimed at uniting these Syrian opposition groups which favour democracy and tolerance and bring them to the negotiations table;
- show solidarity and share responsibility by taking the necessary measures to cater for Syrian refugees as effectively as possible;
- ensure that the effects of the very widespread use of sexual violence against women, and the wider humanitarian consequences of the Syrian conflict, including the need for urgent international assistance, are put, as a priority, on the agenda of the forthcoming international peace conference on Syria (Geneva 2).

The Assembly will discuss how to organise the international assistance with respect to Syrian refugees at its January 2014 part-session.