



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2019) 06

27 May 2019

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 23 May 2019

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Thursday 23 May 2019 in Paris, with Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communications:** took note of the communications by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- **Standing Committee meeting (Paris, 24 May 2019):** took note of the draft revised agenda;
- **Third part-session of 2019 (Strasbourg, 24-28 June):** drew up the draft agenda;
- **Follow-up to the 129th Ministerial Session (Helsinki, 16-17 May 2019):** held an exchange of views on the Committee of Ministers' decisions on *A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe – Ensuring respect for rights and obligations, principles, standards and values* and decided to ask the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to take them into account in the preparation of the report on *Strengthening the decision-making process of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning credentials and voting* (Rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC);
- **References and transmissions to committees:** approved the references and transmissions as set out in Appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize :** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and, following a vote, appointed Ms Anne Brasseur and Mr Nils Muižnieks as members of the Selection Panel of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize for a mandate of two years starting on 1 June 2019;
- **Election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** interviewed Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić and Mr Didier Reynders, candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe (*in camera*);
- **Formation of a new political group: New European Democrats/Europe of Nations and Freedom (NED/ENF):** took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Immunities and Institutional Affairs and, following a vote, decided not to acknowledge the formation of the Group of the New European Democrats/Europe of Nations and Freedom (NED/ENF);

- **Election observation:**
 - i. *Ukraine: presidential election (31 March and 21 April 2019):* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
 - ii. *North Macedonia: presidential election (21 April and 5 May 2019):* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
 - iii. *Kazakhstan: early presidential election (9 June 2019):* took note of the invitation and decided not to observe this election;
 - iv. *Ukraine: parliamentary elections (21 July 2019):* subject to receiving an invitation, decided to observe these elections and constituted an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 40 members (EPP/CD: 13; SOC: 12, EC: 6, ALDE: 6, UEL: 2, FDG: 1 - in accordance with the D'Hondt system) as well as of the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee and authorised a pre-electoral mission;
 - v. *Guidelines for the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly: proposed amendment:* took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and approved the revised guidelines, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;
 - vi. *Repeated local elections in Istanbul (23 June 2019) – request by the Monitoring Committee:* took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee asking the Bureau to explore the possibility for PACE members, in particular the co-rapporteurs on Turkey, to be associated to the election observation mission of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, subject to receiving an invitation, and decided not to give a follow-up to this proposal;
- **Procedure for considering motions for resolutions and recommendations:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and approved the guidelines for consideration of motions for resolutions and recommendations (Appendix 2);
- **Rules on exhibitions in the Assembly lobby:** took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly and decided to come back to this issue at one of its next meetings;
- **Issues raised by committees:**
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy:* authorised Mr Corneliu Cozmanniciu (Romania, EPP/CD) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) by the end of May/beginning of June 2019, in the framework of the preparation of his report on *The evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic*;
 - Monitoring Committee:* took note of the letter by the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee asking the Bureau to request an opinion of the Commission on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on its individual periodic review procedure, agreed to this request while asking the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to also examine the decision-making processes developed by Committees and assess their conformity with the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly;
- **Composition of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:** subject to ratification by the Standing Committee;
 - on the basis of a proposal by the SOC Group, appointed Mr Piero Fassino;
 - on the basis of a proposal by the UEL Group, appointed Mr Hişyar Özsoy;
- **2019 World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November):** took note of the concept paper and decided to set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum, subject to ratification by the Assembly through the Progress report;

- **Dates and places of next meetings**

Monday, 24 June 2019, Strasbourg, at 8 am
Friday, 28 June 2019, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am
Tuesday, 3 September 2019, Bern, at 9.30 am
Monday, 30 September 2019, Strasbourg, at 8 am
Friday, 4 October 2019, Strasbourg, at 8.30 am
Thursday, 28 November 2019, Tbilisi
Friday, 13 December 2019, Paris, at 9 am

Isild Heurtin, Kateryna Gayevska

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly
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 and transmissions to committees

- [Doc. 14864](#), Motion for a resolution, *Gender aspects and human rights implications of pornography: reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for report*;
- [Doc. 14873](#), Motion for a resolution, *Persecution of Christians worldwide – how to tackle the issue: transmission to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for information*.

B. Request for an extension of reference

- [Doc. 14380](#), Motion for a resolution, *Defining guidelines for international NGOs (new title: Rights and obligations of NGOs assisting refugees and migrants in Europe)* (Reference 4331 of 10 October 2017 (extended on 15 March 2018)) – validity: 10 October 2019: extension until 30 April 2020.

Appendix 2

Guidelines for consideration of motions for resolutions and recommendations

1. New motions – following their tabling and provided they are in order – shall be submitted to the nearest meeting of the Presidential Committee. The Presidential Committee shall consider motions and make proposals to the Bureau of the Assembly on a possible follow-up.
2. Proposals of the Presidential Committee shall be subsequently distributed to committee chairpersons for information in time before the second Bureau meeting following the Presidential Committee meeting mentioned in paragraph 1.
3. The Bureau, at its second meeting following the said Presidential Committee meeting, shall consider and take position on all motions, and decide their reference for report, transmission for information to committees, or that no further action is needed (in line with Rule 26). The Bureau may also decide to refer a motion to a committee to be taken into account in the preparation of an ongoing report.
4. Titles of motions tabled cannot be modified by the Bureau. However, the Bureau may decide on a merge of several motions concerning the same or a similar subject under a new title.
5. The Bureau decisions on references shall be submitted to the nearest sitting of the Assembly or of the Standing Committee for ratification.
6. If a decision taken by the Bureau on a motion is successfully challenged in the Assembly or the Standing Committee, the motion will be referred back to the Bureau for reconsideration.
7. References – once ratified by the Assembly/Standing Committee – cannot be subsequently challenged or modified (except in the case of additional reference to a committee for opinion).
8. The delays or postponements in consideration of references by the Presidential Committee or the Bureau shall not be allowed (a request for a consultation by the committee concerned before the decision on a reference is taken by the Bureau shall not be considered as a postponement; the decision of the Bureau, taken on Monday morning meeting during a part-session, to postpone consideration of the references initially scheduled on that day to its meeting of Friday morning the same week, will not be considered as a postponement as well).
9. References shall remain valid for the time foreseen in the Rules of Procedure (Rule 26.4). The Bureau of the Assembly shall not accept any request for the prolongation of the validity of references.
10. When considering new motions the Presidential Committee and the Bureau shall respect the following guidelines:
 - a. the motion shall fall within the scope of the Council of Europe's competences;
 - b. the relevance of a motion should be taken into account, especially when it concerns new issues and challenges, with the aim of enhancing the political relevance and visibility of the Assembly; paragraph 11 of Resolution 2277 (2019) shall be used as a guiding line in this respect;
 - c. the previous work of the Assembly in given field concerned should be taken into account;
 - d. as well as the existence of previous motions tabled which are still under consideration by the committees.