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20 June 2011

Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (16 April 2011 – 20 June 2011)

Progress report

Bureau of the Assembly

Rapporteur: Mr Dariusz LIPIŃSKI, Poland, Group of the European People's Party

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1. Decisions of the Bureau requiring ratification by the Assembly

1. The Bureau met on 20 June 2011 in Strasbourg.

1.1. 2011 Third part-Session (Strasbourg, 20-24 June 2011)

1.1.1. Requests for debates under urgent procedure and current affairs debate

2. Following a request by all political groups, the Bureau decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on the “*Political and humanitarian consequences of the situation in Syria and Libya*” on Thursday 23 June 2011 at 3 pm and appointed Mr Robert Walter to open the debate.

1.1.2. Election of a judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of France

3. The Bureau took note of the recommendations of the Sub-committee on the election of judges to the European Court on Human Rights and decided to transmit them to members of the Assembly.



1.1.3. Updating of the draft agenda

4. The Bureau updated the draft agenda.

1.2. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (16 April – 20 June 2011) (Rapporteur: Mr Dariusz Lipiński, Poland (EPP/CD))

5. The Bureau approved the Progress Report presented by the rapporteur.

1.3. Election observations

1.3.1. "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia": early parliamentary elections (5 June 2011)

6. The Bureau approved the report of the ad hoc committee which observed these elections, presented by Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD), Chairman of the ad hoc committee.

1.3.2. Turkey: parliamentary elections (12 June 2011)

7. The Bureau heard an oral report by Mrs Kerstin Lundgren (Sweden, ALDE), Chairperson of the ad hoc committee which observed these elections¹.

1.3.3. Bulgaria: Presidential election (23 October 2011)

8. The Bureau decided in principle and subject to confirmation of this election and to the receipt of an invitation by the competent authorities of Bulgaria to observe this election. The Bureau constituted an ad hoc committee to observe this election, composed of 11 members from each political group (EPP/CD: 3, SOC: 3; EDG: 2, ALDE: 2, UEL: 1).

1.4. Motions for recommendation and resolution

9. Further to the tabling of motions for recommendations or resolutions by members of the Assembly², the Bureau, on the basis of proposals made by the Presidential Committee, approved the references and modifications to references as presented in appendix 1, subject to ratification by the Assembly.
10. The Assembly is invited to ratify the proposals made by the Bureau.

1.5. Composition of the Monitoring Committee

11. On the basis of proposals from the political groups, the Bureau nominated Lord J.E. Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC) to replace Mrs Sinikka Hurskainen (Finland, SOC) and Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany, UEL) to replace Mr Jaako Laakso (Finland, UEL) and decided to submit these proposals to the Assembly for ratification.
12. The Assembly is invited to ratify the proposals made by the Bureau.

2. Activities of the Bureau not requiring ratification by the Assembly

2.1. Order of speakers for questions to guest speakers

13. The Bureau took note of the memorandum on the establishment of the list of speakers for questions to guest speakers and agreed to the following guidelines (paragraphs 7 and 8 of the document prepared by the Secretariat³) and invited the President to follow these guidelines when drawing up the list of speakers for questions to guest speakers if the situation so requires:

"[...] 7. As the President of the Assembly is ultimately responsible for drawing up the list of speakers, he or she has the power, if the situation so requires and in order to enable the largest possible number of interested delegations to speak, to take any decision that will strengthen this guarantee.

1. The press release is appended to Part I of the progress report.
2. See Rules 23.2.c and 24 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.
3. See AS/Bur (2011) 46.

Time allocated to the Assembly's guest speakers is limited to one hour and the time left for questions from parliamentarians depends on the length of the guest's speech. It would be fair, therefore, to allow as many members from different delegations as possible to put a question. Accordingly, the President, using the powers conferred on him by the Rules of Procedure, could decide that, following the representatives of the five political groups, the first half of a list of speakers for questions to a guest speaker would be taken in the chronological order of their registration, subject to there being only one speaker per national delegation. The rest of the list would follow the customary chronological order without restriction.[...]"

2.2. Communications

14. In the absence of the Secretary General on Monday 20 June 2011, the communications of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe will appear on the agenda of the Bureau meeting to be held on Friday 24 June 2011. The Bureau took note of communications by the President and the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly.

2.3. Cooperation with the European Parliament

15. The Bureau took note of the report on the 2nd meeting of the ad hoc committee to participate in the Joint Informal Body to co-ordinate information sharing in the context of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights which took place on 15 June 2011 in Paris, presented by Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD).

16. The next meeting of the Bureau will be held in Strasbourg on Friday 24 June 2011 at 8.30 am.

Appendix 1

A. REFERENCES TO COMMITTEE

1. The protection of minors against sectarian influence, Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Pourgourides and others, [Doc. 12595](#), reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*
2. Impact of the economic crisis on the media: dangers to the fundamental human rights, Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Čigāne and others, [Doc. 12596](#), reference to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The state of media freedom in Europe” (Ref. 3775)
3. Intercountry adoption: ensuring that the best interests of the child are upheld, Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Rupprecht and others, [Doc. 12597](#), reference to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
4. Circular migration: is this the answer to Europe’s migration dilemma?, Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Iwiński and others, [Doc. 12598](#), transmission to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for information*
5. The impact of increasing social exclusion on democratic institutions and participation: need for strong action, Motion for a recommendation presented by Ms Kaufer and others, [Doc. 12599](#), reference to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report*
6. Towards a new energy strategy in Europe, Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Meale and others, [Doc. 12600](#), reference to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on the “Energy diversification, a common European economic interest” (Ref. 3754)
7. Human rights for the residents of camp Ashraf, Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Binley and others, [Doc. 12602](#), transmission to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*
8. Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict, Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Maury Pasquier and others, [Doc. 12603](#), reference to the Political Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*
9. Integration tests for migrants: a step forward or back? Motion for a recommendation presented by Ms Strik and others, [Doc. 12604](#), reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*

B. REQUESTS TO EXTEND REFERENCES

1. The right of everyone to participate in cultural life, Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Marland-Militello and others, [Doc. 11981](#), extension until 31 January 2012
2. Democracy and the limitation of mandates, Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mota Amaral and others, [Doc. 11863](#), Ref. 3596 of 28 September 2009 - validity: 28 September 2011, extension until 30 June 2012
3. Abuse of state secrecy and national security: obstacles to parliamentary and judicial scrutiny of human rights violations, Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others, [Doc. 11907](#), Ref. 3571 of 29 May 2009 - validity: 30 June 2011 after extension granted on 24 January 2011, extension until 31 October 2011

Appendix 2 – Appointments of representatives of the Assembly for official activities

In reply to formal invitations, the Bureau appointed the following members to represent the Assembly:

- a. Mr Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC), conference “crisis and recovery: bringing solutions in partnership, Strasbourg (France), 20-21 June 2011 at no cost for the Assembly.
- b. Mr Jean-Claude Mignon (France, EPP/CD), 6th summer university, Strasbourg (France), 27 June 2011 at no cost for the Assembly.
- c. Mrs Francine John-Calame (Switzerland, SOC), XXXVIIth session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), 5-8 July 2011, at no cost for the Assembly.
- d. Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD), 20th annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, Belgrade (Serbia), 6-10 July 2011 at no cost for the Assembly.
- e. Mr Jean- Claude Mignon (France, EPP/CD), 67th international session of the European Youth Parliament, Grenoble and Lyons (France), 14-24 July 2011.
- f. Mr Bernard Marquet (Monaco, ALDE), 9th conference of Health Ministers on “child-friendly health care: building a healthy future for and with children”, Lisbon (Portugal), 29-30 September 2011.