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Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (30 April-22 June 2009)

Progress report

Bureau of the Assembly

Rapporteur: Mr Davit HARUTYUNYAN, Armenia, European Democrat Group

1. Introduction

1. The Bureau met on 11 May in Madrid and on 28 May in Ljubljana. The Standing Committee met on 29 May in Ljubljana.

2. Functioning of the Assembly

2.1. Progress Report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (30 April-22 June 2009)

2. On 11 May, the Bureau appointed Mr Harutyunyan (Armenia, EDG) as rapporteur.

2.2. Follow-up to be given to texts adopted at the Standing Committee meeting (Paris, 13 March 2009)

3. On 11 May, in accordance with paragraph 16.6 of the [Resolution 1656 \(2009\)](#) "Mobilising parliaments for Africa's development", the Bureau asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to take steps to implement the Assembly's co-operation agreement with the Pan-African Parliament and to ensure that the Assembly's committees make use of the co-operation agreement with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

2.3. Follow-up to be given to texts adopted during the 2009 2nd ordinary part-Session of the Assembly (Strasbourg, 27-30 April 2009)

4. On 11 May, the Bureau:

- a. [Resolution 1660 \(2009\)](#) "The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states": entrusted the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights with the follow-up to be given to paragraph 16 of this resolution;
- b. [Resolution 1664 \(2009\)](#) on "The humanitarian consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia: follow-up given to [Resolution 1648 \(2009\)](#)": in accordance with paragraph 23, decided that the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population would continue to follow this issue;
- c. [Resolution 1665 \(2009\)](#) on "The election process for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe": in accordance with paragraph 9, decided to entrust the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs to submit proposals to the Bureau concerning changes to the Rules with regard to the appointment of the three senior officers of the Council of Europe;



- d. [Resolution 1666 \(2009\)](#) "The functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova": in accordance with paragraph 11, decided to instruct the Monitoring Committee to continue to follow this matter.

2.4. Standing Committee (Ljubljana, 29 May 2009)

2.4.1. Draft agenda

5. On 11 May, the Bureau took note of the updated draft agenda.
6. On 28 May, the Bureau took note of the updated agenda.

2.4.2. Request for a current affairs debate

7. On 28 May, the Bureau took note of the request submitted by the Chairpersons of the Political Groups on behalf of their groups to hold a current affairs debate on the "election process of the Secretary General"; decided to recommend to the Standing Committee to hold this current affairs debate and appointed Mr Gross (Switzerland, SOC) to open it.

2.4.3. Meeting of the Standing Committee

8. On 29 May, the Standing Committee:
- a. heard a welcome address by Mr Pavel Gantar, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia;
 - b. held an exchange of views with Mr Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and Mr Aleš Zalar, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia;
 - c. ratified the credentials of new members of the Assembly submitted by the delegations of Hungary and Iceland;
 - d. ratified the changes in the composition of Assembly committees in respect of the delegations of Hungary and Iceland, and in the composition of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) with regard to the EPP/CD and UEL political groups, as well as of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs with regard to the EPP/CD political group;
 - e. held a current affairs debate on "the election process for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe" following a request from the Assembly political groups, presented by Mr Gross (Switzerland, Socialist Group) and adopted a statement (see Appendix hereafter).

2.5. Adopted texts

9. On 29 May, the Standing Committee unanimously adopted, on behalf of the Assembly, the following texts:

[Opinion 272 \(2009\)](#): Budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial year 2010

[Opinion 273 \(2009\)](#): Expenditure of the Parliamentary Assembly for the financial year 2010

[Recommendation 1870 \(2009\)](#): Protecting financial aid granted by Council of Europe member states to poor countries against financial funds known as "vulture funds"

[Recommendation 1871 \(2009\)](#): Ban on cluster munitions

[Recommendation 1872 \(2009\)](#): The rights of today's girls: the rights of tomorrow's women

[Recommendation 1873 \(2009\)](#): Sexual violence against women in armed conflict

[Resolution 1668 \(2009\)](#): Ban on cluster munitions

[Resolution 1669 \(2009\)](#): The rights of today's girls: the rights of tomorrow's women

[Resolution 1670 \(2009\)](#): Sexual violence against women in armed conflict

2.6. 2009 Third ordinary part-Session of the Assembly (22-26 June 2009)

2.6.1. Draft agenda

10. On 11 May, the Bureau adopted the preliminary draft agenda and decided to invite Mr Kälin, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, to address the Assembly in the framework of the debate on the report "Protecting the human rights of long-term displaced persons in Europe".

11. On 28 May, the Bureau updated the draft agenda and following a request from the Political Affairs Committee, decided to invite a representative of the parliament of Belarus and a representative of the extra-parliamentary opposition of Belarus to participate in the Assembly's debate on the "Situation in Belarus".

2.6.2. Joint Committee

12. On 28 May, the Bureau left it to the President to convene any possible meeting and to determine, if necessary, the subjects to be discussed.

2.7. 2009 Fourth ordinary part-Session of the Assembly (28 September – 2 October 2009)

13. On 28 May, the Bureau indicated its agreement with the proposal by the Political Affairs Committee to hold a general policy debate on the future of the Council of Europe in the light of its 60 years of experience during the autumn 2009 part-session, on the basis of a report presented by this committee.

2.8. References and transmissions to committees

14. On 29 May, the Standing Committee ratified the following references and modifications to references:

2.8.1. references to committees

– Piracy and hostage-taking on the high seas

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Keleş and others, [Doc. 11803](#)

Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others, [Doc. 11837](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for one report* on "Piracy – a crime and a challenge for democracies"

– Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): a solution for the future?

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Cousin and others, [Doc. 11816](#), to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

– Tourism for elderly people

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Cortajarena and others, [Doc. 11817](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

– Reconciliation and political dialogue between the countries of the former Yugoslavia

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marcenaro and others, [Doc. 11818](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

– Framing a proactive policy for public authorities in Europe aimed at preventing overweight and achieving regulation

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Karamanli and others, [Doc. 11825](#), to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on the "*Prevention of obesity and type 2 diabetes and promotion of healthy nutritional habits among children and the young*" (ref. 3517 of 26 January 2009)

– *Transport of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by river and river-sea going vessels as an efficient facility solving the present gas crisis*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Melčák and others, [Doc. 11827](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report* and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for opinion*

– *The impact of the European Union Eastern Partnership on economic growth in Eastern Europe*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Rigoni and others, [Doc. 11828](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

– *The Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership of the European Union*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lindblad and others, [Doc. 11843](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

– *International Convention for the Protection of all persons from enforced disappearances*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Gardetto and others, [Doc. 11830](#), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– *Lack of appropriate follow-up, by the Committee of Ministers, to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others, [Doc. 11831](#), to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs *for report*

– *Impact of the financial crisis upon pensioners*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Baroness O'Cathain and others, [Doc. 11834](#), to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on "*The social impact and the human dimension of the financial and economic crisis in the Council of Europe's member states*" (ref. 3527 of 30 January 2009)

– *Gender budgeting as a tool for safeguarding women's health*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Circene and others, [Doc. 11836](#), to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report at the Standing Committee* and to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for opinion*

– *Re-engaging in the parliamentary dialogue with the United States*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others, [Doc. 11851](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

– *The European civil aviation industry confronted with the global financial and economic crisis*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Braun and others, [Doc. 11852](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

– *Sixty years of European co-operation*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Wodarg and others, [Doc. 11853](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

– *The need to combat economic crime in times of economic crisis*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Huseynov and others, [Doc. 11856](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report*

– *Monitoring of commitments concerning social rights*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Marquet and others, [Doc. 11875](#), to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee *for report* and to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for opinion*

– *The protection of journalists' sources of information*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Ukkola and others, [Doc. 11881](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*

– *The ethics of science*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs de Melo and others, [Doc. 11886](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*

– *Education against violence at school*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Flego and others, [Doc. 11889](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for report*

– *The impact of the economic and financial crisis on women*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Ms Wurm and others, [Doc. 11891](#), to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men *for report*

– *The need for independent and credible environmental assessments*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Preda and others, [Doc. 11892](#), to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

– *The potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Huss and others, [Doc. 11894](#), to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

– *Expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Jensen and others, [Doc. 11895](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

– *Economic importance of raw materials contained in "end-of-life products" including their energy potential*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Melčák and others, [Doc. 11896](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for report* and to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for opinion*

– *The interception and rescue at sea of asylum seekers, refugees and irregular migrants*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Díaz Tejera and others, [Doc. 11880](#)

Dismantling fortress Europe – actively protecting the lives of refugees in the Mediterranean Sea

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Keskin and others, [Doc. 11905](#), to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for one report*

– *20th anniversary of the European Committee against Torture: time to take stock*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Gardetto and others, [Doc. 11906](#)

– *The need to establish effective, independent national mechanisms for monitoring places of detention*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Hunault and others, [Doc. 11874](#), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for one report*

– *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](#), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– *Iran's nuclear program: the need for an effective international response*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others, [Doc. 11908](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for report*

– *Ukraine disregarding basic obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights: annulment of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Assembly delegation's credentials*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Marty and others, [Doc. 11921](#), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report on Reconsideration on substantial grounds of previously ratified credentials of the Ukrainian delegation (Rule 9 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure) and to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs for opinion ¹

– The humanitarian consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia: implementation of [Resolution 1648 \(2009\)](#) and [Resolution 1664 \(2009\)](#), to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for report*

– The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia: implementation of [Resolution 1633 \(2008\)](#) and [Resolution 1647 \(2009\)](#), to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) *for report*

– *Draft Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the Right to Participate in the Affairs of a Local Authority*

Committee of Ministers' request for an opinion, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

– *Draft Protocol No. 3 to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities concerning Euroregional co-operation groupings (ECGs)*

Committee of Ministers' request for an opinion, to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs *for report*

– *The future of the Council of Europe in the light of its 60 years of experience*

Bureau decision, to the Political Affairs Committee for report, for a debate on general policy during the Assembly 4th part-session 2009 (28 September – 2 October 2009)

2.8.2. transmission for information

– *Preserve the Monastery of Mor Gabriel in Turkey*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Omtzigt and others, [Doc. 11820](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*

– *New human rights: regulatory frameworks on ethically sensitive issues and implementation thereof*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Farina and others, [Doc. 11832](#), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

1. According to Rule 9.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau decides on the reference to the competent Committee for report; the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs is automatically seized for opinion.

– *The evaluation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact approaching its 70th anniversary*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Zingeris and others, [Doc. 11833](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

– *Learning lessons from "colour revolutions"*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lindblad and others, [Doc. 11850](#), to the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

– *Democracy and the limitation of mandates*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Mota Amaral and others, [Doc. 11863](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

– *Non-recognition by Romania of the Moldovans' right to national identity*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Petrenco and others, [Doc. 11603](#), to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for information*

– *The 20th anniversary of collapse of totalitarian regimes in Europe*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Lipinski and others, [Doc. 11882](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

– *Supporting the initiative of the creation of a transnational Eurasian information superhighway*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Seyidov and others, [Doc. 11885](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*

– *Improving the exchange of tax information among Council of Europe member states*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Omtzigt and others, [Doc. 11887](#), to the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development *for information*

– *A European policy for European citizens resident outside their country of origin*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Ducarme and others, [Doc. 11890](#), to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population *for information*

– *The bilateral relations between Moldova and Romania*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Petrenco and others, [Doc. 11899](#), to the Political Affairs Committee *for information*

– *Conferment of the Council of Europe Cultural Route Label on the Cistercian sites route across Greater Europe*

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Durrieu and others, [Doc. 11900](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*

– *Co-ordination of the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes programme with the European Union's "European Heritage" label and encouragement of their application in Eastern Europe*

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Durrieu and others, [Doc. 11901](#), to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education *for information*

2.8.3. modification of a reference

– The compliance of the International Court of Justice decision in the Avena case

Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Van den Brande and others, [Doc. 11606](#), Ref. 3461 of 23 June 2008

– The death penalty in Council of Europe member and observer countries – an unacceptable violation of human rights

Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Wohlwend and others, [Doc. 11675](#), Ref. 3481 of 29 September 2008, both motions to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for one report*

2.8.4. extension of a reference

– Improving the quality and consistency of asylum decisions in the Council of Europe member states

Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Vermot-Mangold and others, [Doc. 11103](#), Ref. 3305 of 22 January 2007 – validity: 30 April 2009, *extension* until 31 October 2009

2.9. Procedure for referring motions to committees

15. On 11 May, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to present proposals with a view to improving this procedure.

2.10. Composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs

16. On 11 May, the Bureau approved the changes to the lists of members for both committees.

2.11. Appointments of Assembly Representatives for official activities

17. On 11 May, in reply to a formal invitation, the Bureau appointed Mr van der Linden (the Netherlands, EPP/CD) to participate in the international “*Karlspreis*” ceremony in Aachen on 21 May 2009 (without cost for the Assembly).

18. On 28 May, in reply to formal invitations, the Bureau took the following decisions:

- a. Mr Wille (Belgium, EPP/CD) to participate in the 33rd PABSEC Plenary Session, Bucharest (Romania), 12-13 June 2009 (without cost for the Assembly);
- b. Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) to participate in the 18th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Vilnius (Lithuania), 29 June – 3 July 2009 (without cost for the Assembly).

2.12. Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris

19. On 28 May, the Bureau authorised the following meeting: Sub-committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights): Florence (Italy), 18-19 September 2009.

3. Conferences

3.1. Possibility of holding a Youth Assembly to mark the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe

20. On 11 May, the Bureau pronounced itself to be in favour of the holding of such an Assembly during the October part-session and was informed by Mr Mignon, Chairperson of the French delegation, of his contacts with the European Youth Parliament and of his intention to submit, at the next Bureau meeting, a proposal as to the possible involvement of this association in this event.

21. On 28 May, the Bureau owing to budgetary constraints, decided to postpone the possible organisation of this event until 2010.

3.2. Nevsky International Ecological Congress (Saint Petersburg, 15 May 2009)

22. On 11 May, the Bureau took note of the draft declaration due to be adopted during the Nevsky International Ecological Congress.

3.3. Forum on early warning in conflict prevention (Strasbourg, 24-25 September 2009)

23. On 11 May, the Bureau decided to set up an ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum comprising members of the Political Affairs Committee and members of other committees concerned.

3.4. Forum for the Future of Democracy (Kyiv, 21-23 October 2009)

24. On 11 May, the Bureau approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the above-mentioned Forum.

4. Relations with other bodies of the Council of Europe

4.1. Committee of Ministers

25. On 28 May, the Bureau:

- a. took note of the speech made by the President to the Committee of Ministers as well as the declaration which was adopted during the 119th Ministerial Session (Madrid, 12 May 2009).
- b. examined the Resolution CM/Res(2009)4 on the appointment of the Secretary General adopted by the Committee of Ministers at the 119th Ministerial Session.

4.2. European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

26. On 11 May, the Bureau approved the lists of candidates with respect to Denmark and Hungary for transmission to the Committee of Ministers on the basis of the order of preference recommended by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and as endorsed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:

4.2.1. with regard to Denmark:

- a. Mr Jørgen Worsaae RASMUSSEN
- b. Mr Leif HERMANN
- c. Ms Elisabeth ARNOLD

4.2.2. with regard to Hungary:

- a. Ms Anna MOLNÁR
- b. Mr András SZÜCS
- c. Mr Gergely FLIEGLAUF

4.3. Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe

27. On 11 May, the Bureau:

- a. took note of the draft code for civil participation prepared by the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe;
- b. transmitted the draft to the Political Affairs Committee for it to prepare comments which should reach the Bureau in time for its next meeting in order for the Bureau to give its opinion on this subject in the next progress report.

5. Relations with non-member states

5.1. Belarus

28. On 11 May, the Bureau set up an ad hoc committee of the Bureau comprising Mr Rigoni (Italy, ALDE), rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee on the situation in Belarus; Mr Lindblad (Sweden, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Political Affairs Committee and Mrs Hurskainen (Finland, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Belarus, to attend the opening ceremony of the Infopoint of the Council of Europe in Minsk on 8 and 9 June.

6. Elections

6.1. Parliamentary elections in Albania (28 June 2009)

29. On 11 May, the Bureau approved the list of members of the ad hoc committee put forward by the political groups and appointed Mrs Jonker (the Netherlands, EPP/DC) as Chairperson.

6.2. Parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (5 July 2009)

30. On 11 May, the Bureau invited the political groups to make proposals as to the composition of the ad hoc committee for the observation of these elections.

31. On 28 May, the Bureau, subject to receipt of an invitation, approved the list of members for the ad hoc committee put forward by the political groups and appointed Mr Iwinski (Poland, SOC) as Chairperson.

7. Budgetary matters

7.1. Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2008

32. On 28 May, the Bureau took note of the document prepared by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development.

8. Other business

8.1. European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe

33. On 11 May, the Bureau indicated its agreement with the draft memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Assembly and this association, to be included in the next progress report.

8.2. Communications

34. On 11 May, the Bureau took note of 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.

35. On 28 May, the Bureau took note of 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.

Appendix – Statement by the Standing Committee

1. At its meeting on 12 May 2009, the Committee of Ministers decided to transmit to the Parliamentary Assembly a list of two candidates for the election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, despite the request by the Assembly contained in a resolution adopted during the April 2009 part-session, to be able to choose among the four existing candidates.
2. The Assembly will discharge its statutory responsibility to elect the next Secretary General as soon as realistically possible.
3. However, for the following procedural reasons, the Standing Committee disagrees with the decision by the Committee of Ministers:
 - i. the change in the procedure by the Ministers' Deputies during the period of submission of candidatures;
 - ii. the adoption by the Ministers' Deputies on 23 April of a draft resolution restricting the number of candidates which effectively pre-empted the possibility of genuine consultation of the Assembly through the Joint Committee on 29 April 2009;
 - iii. the use of the so-called "Juncker criteria", to eliminate two candidates from the short-list;
 - iv. the failure of the Committee of Ministers to give reasons for its choice.
4. Moreover such a short-list deprives the Assembly of a political choice since both remaining candidates are of a similar political orientation.
5. In these circumstances, the Standing Committee is not in favour of accepting, in its current form, the proposal of the Committee of Ministers as it limits the possibility to proceed with the election of the Secretary General at the June part session. The Standing Committee therefore believes that the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly must urgently engage in a dialogue in order to avoid an institutional crisis.
6. The Standing Committee is of the opinion that there has been no real consultation between the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers, in the process for electing the Secretary General, as foreseen in the Rules.
7. The Standing Committee considers that the new Secretary General should enjoy the support of both organs of the Council of Europe.
8. There is a consensus within the Assembly on the need for both organs of the Council of Europe to progress together to resolve such issues in a spirit of co-operation and dialogue.
9. The Standing Committee therefore believes that a period of reflection and joint discussion is necessary before the election takes place and therefore confirms the willingness of its Presidential Committee to engage in a dialogue with the Committee of Ministers, preferably before the June 2009 part session.