



Doc. 13031

29 September 2012

Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (29 June – 30 September 2012)

Progress report

Bureau of the Assembly

Rapporteur: Ms Tina ACKETOFT, Sweden, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Contents	Page
1. Introduction	2
2. Activities of the Bureau since the last part-session	2
2.1. Follow-up to the third part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2012)	2
2.2. Fourth part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 1-5 October 2012)	2
2.3. Election observation	2
2.4. Issues raised by committees	3
2.5. References and transmissions to committees	4
2.6. Communications	4
2.7. Relations with the European Parliament	4
2.8. Visit of the Presidential Committee to Romania (18 and 19 July 2012) and subsequent developments	4
2.9. Resolution 1115 (1997)	5
2.10. Information by the Chairperson of the delegation of Armenia to the Parliamentary Assembly on the case of Ramil Safarov	5
2.11. International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2012 (Interparliamentary Union)	5
2.12. European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, 20-21 September 2012)	5
2.13. Youth Assembly 2012 (Strasbourg, 5-7 October 2012)	5
2.14. World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 5-11 October 2012)	5
2.15. 2013 Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize: proposed extension of deadline for the submission of nominations	5
2.16. Composition of the Monitoring Committee	5
2.17. Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2011	5
2.18. Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2013	5
2.19. Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris	6
2.20. Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities	6
3. Decisions of the Bureau requiring ratification by the Assembly	7
3.1. References and transmissions to committees	7
3.2. Composition of the Monitoring Committee	7



1. Introduction

1. At its meeting on 29 June 2012, the Bureau appointed me rapporteur for this report. Since then, the Bureau has met once, on 3 September 2012 in Nice (France).
2. In line with the previous reports, this progress report covers the period outside of Assembly sessions, leaving aside the decisions which have already been ratified by the Assembly. Thereby this report presents the Bureau's activities since the end of the 3rd part-session (25-29 June 2012) up until the 4th part-session (1 – 5 October 2012).
3. The Bureau will hold its next meetings in Strasbourg during the October part-session, i.e. on Monday 1 October 2012 and Friday 5 October 2012, and then on 29 November 2012 in Andorra la Vella.

2. Activities of the Bureau since the last part-session

2.1. Follow-up to the third part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2012)

4. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the following proposals made by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly:
 - *Follow-up to the current affairs debate on European institutions and human rights in Europe*: the Bureau decided to refer this issue to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for report. It also asked the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to prepare a report on "The memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union - evaluation 5 years after" and another report on "Challenges of a "federal Europe". These decisions are subject to ratification by the Assembly;
 - [Resolution 1891 \(2012\)](#) on *the situation of human rights defenders in the Council of Europe member states*: the Bureau decided to seize the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for a report on "Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States", subject to ratification by the Assembly;
 - [Resolution 1885 \(2012\)](#) on *the young generation sacrifices: social economic and political implications of the financial crisis*: the Bureau decided to make use of the Assembly's state of democracy and human rights debates to assess progress made and the effectiveness of measures taken by member States in improving access to social rights;
 - [Resolution 1889 \(2012\)](#) on *the portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns*: with reference to paragraph 12, the Bureau requested the Venice Commission to carry out a study on the portrayal of migrants and refugees during election campaigns, with a view to possibly amending the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters;
 - [Resolution 1893 \(2012\)](#) on *political transition in Tunisia*: the Bureau decided to seize the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy for a report on "Political transition in Tunisia", subject to ratification by the Assembly.

2.2. Fourth part-session of 2012 (Strasbourg, 1-5 October 2012)

5. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau drew up the draft agenda of the part-session in question.

2.3. Election observation

2.3.1. Revised Guidelines for the observation of elections

6. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the amendment to the revised Guidelines on the observation of elections by the Assembly as regards the inclusion of the rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the countries concerned as "ex officio" members of the ad hoc committees.

2.3.2. Parliamentary elections in Georgia (1 October 2012)

7. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the final composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections and decided to include the two rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, in their capacity as *ex officio* members of the ad hoc committee, in the composition of the pre-electoral mission. The election date having been confirmed at a later date, the Bureau approved further changes to the final composition of the ad hoc committee at its meeting on 3 September.

2.3.3. Early parliamentary elections in Montenegro (14 October 2012)

8. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau decided to observe these elections and to constitute an ad hoc committee for this purpose composed of 11 members: EPP/DC: 3, SOC: 3; ALDE: 2; EDG: 2; UEL: 1, as well as the two rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee.

2.3.4. Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (28 October 2012)

9. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the final composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections and decided to include the two co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee, in their capacity as *ex officio* members of the ad hoc committee, in the composition of the pre-electoral mission. On 3 September 2012, it approved the changes to the final composition of the ad hoc committee to observe these elections.

2.3.5. Schedule of elections 2012/2013

10. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly.

2.4. Issues raised by committees

2.4.1. Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

11. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau authorised the fact-finding visit of Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) to Egypt, in the second half of the year, in the context of the preparation of a report on "Political transition in Egypt". At its following meeting, the Bureau authorised the fact-finding visit of Mr Luca Volontè (Italy, EPP/CD) to Egypt, in the context of the preparation of a report on "Violence against religious minorities", joining Mr Gardetto. It also authorised the fact-finding visit of Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) to the Palestinian Territories and Israel, in the second half of the year, in the context of the preparation of a report on the "Evaluation of the partnership for democracy with the Palestinian National Council", as well as a representative of the committee to attend the conference on the abolition of the death penalty to be held in Morocco on 10 July 2012.

2.4.2. Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

12. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau took note of the opinion of the Venice Commission on the intended suspension of the constitutional amendment procedure in Belgium and decided accordingly that no further action should be taken by the Assembly on this matter.

2.4.3. Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

13. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau authorised Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to conduct a fact-finding visit to Morocco, on 8 and 9 July 2012, in his capacity of general rapporteur on violence against women.

2.5. References and transmissions to committees

2.5.1. References approved by the Bureau

14. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the following references, which were subsequently ratified by the Assembly:

- [Doc. 12940](#), Motion for a resolution, *Need to reinforce the independence of the European Court of Human Rights*, to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “The future of the European Court of Human Rights and the Brighton Declaration” (Ref. 3864 of 27 April 2012);
- [Doc. 12941](#), Motion for a resolution, *Fathers and their influence on children’s well-being*, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, *for information*;
- [Doc. 12946](#), Motion for a resolution, *Migrants: a benefit or a burden for our society?*, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;
- [Doc. 12947](#), Motion for a resolution, *Addressing age discrimination on the labour market*, to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*;
- [Doc. 12979](#), Motion for a resolution, *The war between Georgia and Russia: the humanitarian situation in the war-affected areas*, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*.

15. The references approved by the Bureau on 3 September 2012, requiring ratification by the Assembly, are presented in Chapter 3.

2.5.2. Request for modification of a reference

16. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau modified the following reference, which was subsequently ratified by the Assembly:

- Ref. 3845 of 9 March 2012, *The activities of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2011- 2012*, to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*.

2.5.3. Requests for extension of references

17. The Bureau approved the extension of the following references:

- Ref. 3629 of 25 January 2010, *Measures to improve the democratic character of elections in the Council of Europe member States*, Bureau decision of 14 December 2009, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy until 31 December 2012;
- Ref. 3700 of 4 October 2010, *Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Election of judges*, to Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights until 31 December 2013.

2.6. Communications

18. The Bureau took note of communications by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at both meetings.

2.7. Relations with the European Parliament

19. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau took note of the synopsis of the meeting of the Joint PACE/EP Informal Body held on 19 June 2012 and of an information memorandum on the relations between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from January to June 2012.

2.8. Visit of the Presidential Committee to Romania (18 and 19 July 2012) and subsequent developments

20. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau heard an information by the President and members of the Presidential Committee on their visit to Romania and held an exchange of views.

2.9. Resolution 1115 (1997)¹

21. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau decided to refer the issue of a possible modification of [Resolution 1115 \(1997\)](#) with a view to introducing a time limit for consideration by the Monitoring Committee on whether or not to open a monitoring procedure on a member State, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs for report and to the Monitoring Committee for opinion.

2.10. Information by the Chairperson of the delegation of Armenia to the Parliamentary Assembly on the case of Ramil Safarov

22. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau took note of a statement by the Chairperson of the Armenian delegation and invited the Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to deal with this matter at their forthcoming meetings.

2.11. International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2012 (Interparliamentary Union)

23. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau adopted a declaration to be published in the framework of the International Day of Democracy.

2.12. European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (Strasbourg, 20-21 September 2012)

24. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau took note of the draft programme of the Conference.

2.13. Youth Assembly 2012 (Strasbourg, 5-7 October 2012)

25. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau took note of a Memorandum on the state of preparation of the Youth Assembly prepared by the Secretariat of the Assembly, decided to set up an ad hoc committee subject to approval by the Assembly, and approved the composition of an ad hoc committee to participate in the event.

2.14. World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 5-11 October 2012)

26. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the final composition of an ad hoc committee to participate in the Forum and appointed the President of the Assembly as its Chairperson. At its meeting on 3 September, the Bureau updated the final composition of the ad hoc committee.

2.15. 2013 Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize: proposed extension of deadline for the submission of nominations

27. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau approved the extension of the deadline for the submission of nominations until 31 January 2013.

2.16. Composition of the Monitoring Committee

28. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau nominated Mr Mikuláš Dzurinda (Slovenia, EPP/CD) on the basis of a proposal submitted by the EPP/CD group, which was subsequently ratified by the Assembly.

2.17. Analysis of the use made by the Assembly's political groups of their allocations for 2011

29. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau approved the report submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs.

2.18. Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2013

30. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau approved the following schedule of meetings in 2013:

Monday 21 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 25 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 7 March, 3.00 pm, Paris	Bureau
Friday 8 March, 9.00 am, Paris (to be confirmed)	Standing Committee

1. Setting up of an Assembly committee on the honouring of obligations and commitments by member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Monday 22 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 26 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
May, Armenia (date and place to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 24 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 28 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 2 September, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 30 September, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 4 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
November, Austria (date and place to be confirmed)	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Presidency)
Monday 16 December, 9.30 am, Paris	Bureau

2.19. Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris

31. On 29 June 2012, the Bureau authorised the following meetings:
- the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Sighișoara (Romania) on 21 July 2012;
 - the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Corciano (Italy) on 12 August 2012;
 - the Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Relations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in London on 5 September 2012;
 - the Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to meet in Ljubljana and Maribor (Slovenia) on 21 September 2012;
 - the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development to meet in Moscow on 19-20 November 2012.

2.20. Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities

32. The following members were appointed during the reference period:
- Ms Carmen Quintanilla (Spain, EPP/CD) to attend the Conference “The gender approach in the development of Women in the Mediterranean”, organised by the Association “Voix de femmes”, Women’s Tribune and the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe), in Tetouan (Morocco) on 7 July 2012;
 - Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD) to attend the International Session of the European Youth Parliament in Tallinn from 27 July to 5 August 2012;
 - Mr Paolo Corsini (Italy, SOC) to attend the Council of Europe 2012 Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue on the theme: “Taking responsibility for tomorrow’s Europe: the role of young people in the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue” in Durrës (Albania) on 3-4 September 2012;
 - the Chair of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media or a member of the delegation of Albania to attend a tribute from the European youth to the people who saved the honour of humanity during the Holocaust in Tirana on 5 September 2012;
 - Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) to attend the European Roma and Travellers Forum, opening ceremony of the 2012 Plenary Session in Strasbourg on 6 September 2012;
 - Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD) to attend the World e-Parliament Conference, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in Rome from 13 to 15 September 2012;
 - Mr Bernard Marquet (Monaco, ALDE) to attend a conference on “Renewable Energy: the Future of the Mediterranean”, organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in Ouarzazate, Morocco from 14 to 15 September 2012;

- Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to attend the Regional Conference on the Prevention and Combat of Violence against Women, organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Moroccan government, in Rabat, Morocco from 24 to 25 September 2012;
- Ms Carina Ohlsson (Sweden, SOC), to attend the 2nd Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Social cohesion “building a secure future for all”, in Istanbul (Turkey) from 11 to 12 October 2012;
- Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) to attend the 81st Rose Roth Seminar, organised by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, in Sveti Stefan (Montenegro) from 15 to 17 October 2012.

3. Decisions of the Bureau requiring ratification by the Assembly

3.1. References and transmissions to committees

33. On 3 September 2012, the Bureau approved the following references, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

- [Doc. 12983](#), Motion for a resolution, *The young migrant generation in Europe*, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Integration of migrants: is Europe failing?” ([Doc. 12498](#), Ref. 3748) and in the preparation of the report on “Unaccompanied migrant children: what rights at 18?” ([Doc. 12678](#), Ref. 3800);
- [Doc. 12985](#), Motion for a resolution, *The right to Internet access*, to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for report* and to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for opinion*;
- [Doc. 12986](#), Motion for a resolution, *So-Called “honour” crimes in the North Caucasus*, to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report*;
- [Doc. 13001](#), Motion for a resolution, *Resettlement of refugees: an efficient tool for greater solidarity in Europe*, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*;
- [Doc. 13006](#), Motion for a resolution, *Reporting suspected sexual violence against children: legislative and political measures required to protect victims and professionals*, to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for report*.

3.2. Composition of the Monitoring Committee

34. On 3 September, 2012, the Bureau nominated Ms Nataša Vučković (Serbia, SOC) and Mr Vilmos Szabó (Hungary, SOC) on the basis of proposals by the Socialist group, subject to ratification by the Assembly.