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Activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee (24 September 2021)

Progress report
Bureau of the Assembly
Rapporteur: Mr Jacques MAIRE, France, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

1. Decisions of the Bureau of 24 September 2021 requiring ratification by the Assembly

1.1. References and transmissions to committees

The Bureau considered and approved the following references:

1.1.1. References and transmissions to committees

– Doc. 15328, Motion for a resolution, Implementation of Recommendation No. R(2000)13 of the Committee of Ministers and the access of "Trophy" archives of the Russian Federation: transmission to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media *for information*

– Doc. 15329, Motion for a resolution, The role of political parties in fostering diversity and inclusion: a new Charter for a non-racist society*:* reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for report* and to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for opinion*

– Doc. 15330, Motion for a resolution, Towards a transparency register within the Parliamentary Assembly*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– Doc. 15331, Motion for a resolution, Cases of torture and inhumane treatments in Azerbaijani prisons*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– Doc. 15332, Motion for a resolution, The need for renewed, effective and inclusive multilateralism*:* reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

– Doc. 15333, Motion for a resolution, Call for Famagusta's return to its lawful inhabitants*:* reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

– Doc. 15334, Motion for a resolution, The ongoing worsening of the access of Ukraine's national minorities to education in their mother tongues: need for a follow-up to Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2189 (2017) and Doc. 15339, Motion for a resolution, Violation of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine*:* reference to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination *for a single report*

– Doc. 15335, Motion for a resolution, Integration of migrants and refugees: benefits for all parties involved*:* reference to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons *for report*

– Doc. 15336, Motion for a resolution, European Convention on Human Rights and national constitutions*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– Doc. 15337, Motion for a resolution, The challenge of far-right ideology to democracy and human rights in Europe*:* reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

– Doc. 15361, Motion for a resolution, Preventing vaccine discrimination: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report* and to the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development *for opinion*

– Doc. 15373, Motion for a recommendation, Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance: reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

– Doc. 15374, Motion for a resolution, Supporting a European perspective for the Western Balkans: reference to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy *for report*

– Doc. 15289, Motion for a resolution, Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights*:* reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights *for report*

1.2. Election observation

1.2.1. Kyrgyzstan: parliamentary elections (28 November 2021)

The Bureau decided to observe these elections and to set up an ad hoc committee composed of 11 members (SOC-3; EPP/CD-3; EC/DA-2; ALDE-2; UEL-1).

1.3. Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights

The Bureau took note of the report drawn up by the Committee on the Election of Judges concerning the lists of candidates for the posts of judges to the Court in respect of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, including its recommendation to reject the list in respect of Ukraine, subject to ratification by the Assembly in the progress report (Doc. 15375 Addendum 2).

The Assembly is invited to ratify these Bureau decisions.

2. Other decisions by the Bureau

2.1. Fourth part-session of 2021 (Strasbourg, 27-30 September)

2.1.1. Requests for debates under urgent procedure

The Bureau took note of the following requests to hold debates on:

– *Draft Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence*, tabled by the five political groups, and recalled its decision taken at the meeting on 6 September, to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

– *The situation in Afghanistan: consequences for Europe and the region,* tabled by the five political groups, and decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.

– *Increased migration pressure on the borders of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland with Belarus*, tabled by Mr Arkadiusz Mularczyk and 23 members of the Assembly, and decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to refer the matter to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons.

2.1.2. Requests for current affairs debates

The Bureau took note of the following requests to hold debates on:

– *The Western Balkans between democratic challenges and European aspirations: what role for the Council of Europe?*, tabled by the five political groups, decided to recommend to the Assembly to hold this debate and to appoint Mr George Papandreou (Greece, SOC) as first speaker in the debate.

– *Political persecution of indigenous peoples in Crimea by Russia*, tabled by the Ukrainian delegation, and decided to recommend to the Assembly not to hold this debate.

– *The European Court of Human Rights judgment in Carter v. Russia and the actions taken to murder individuals on European soil*, tabled by the delegation of the United Kingdom and took note of the withdrawal of this request.

2.1.3. Draft agenda

The Bureau updated the draft agenda. Taking into account the agenda of the fourth part-session as well as the high number of registered speakers, the Bureau invited the rapporteurs of the Assembly to shorten their speaking time in the Plenary to a total of 10 minutes (7 minutes for the presentation of the report and 3 minutes for the reply).

2.2. References and transmissions to committees

2.2.1. Request for an extension

The Bureau considered and approved the following extension of a reference:

– Doc. 14382, Motion for a resolution, The continuing need to restore human rights and the rule of law in the North Caucasus region, Reference 4333 of 13 October 2017 – validity: 30 September 2021*:* extension until 31 March 2022.

2.3. Progress report of the Bureau of the Assembly and of the Standing Committee (21 June-22 September 2021) (Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire (France, ALDE))

The Bureau approved the Progress report (Doc.15375).

2.4. Elections observation

2.4.1. Morocco: parliamentary elections (8 September 2021)

The Bureau took note of the statement by the observation mission.

2.4.2. Russian Federation: parliamentary elections (19 September 2021)

The Bureau heard an oral statement by the Head of the election assessment mission.

2.5. Communication

The Bureau took note of the communication by the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2.6. Assembly General Rapporteurs: stock-taking

The Bureau took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly, approved its conclusions:

– to invite committees to ensure that the terms of reference of General Rapporteurs correspond to the committee's general mandate and do not overlap with the terms of reference of other existing General Rapporteur;

– to invite committees to ensure that the draft terms of reference of General Rapporteurs are linked to the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, to another Council of Europe key convention, or have an institutional or intra-institutional role, and that they clearly spell out the added value of setting up such a function;

– to invite committees to ensure that General Rapporteurs do not cumulate these functions with that of chairperson of the committee or sub-committee, and to include the mandate of General Rapporteur amongst the limit of five rapporteurships mandates per Assembly member;

– to invite committees to set up no more than three General Rapporteurships;

– to extend the terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on the budget and the intergovernmental programme to four years, to be in line with the four-year cycle of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget;

– to invite committees to take note of the above criteria defined in the memorandum, and to accordingly review the terms of reference of their General Rapporteurs, in due course for the Bureau to reconsider them in January 2022 and, from then, regularly every second year in January.

2.7. Issues raised by committees

2.7.1. Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

The Bureau considered the draft terms of reference of a General Rapporteur on *Missing refugee and migrant children in Europe* and agreed that it did not meet the criteria defined in the memorandum on the Assembly General Rapporteurs approved by the Bureau.

2.8. 2021 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

The Bureau took note of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly; invited Bureau members to propose candidatures for the vacant seat in the Selection Panel and to submit the names and CVs of candidates, together with the justification of fulfilment of the required condition ("recognised moral standing in the field of human rights") to the Secretary General of the Assembly by 15 December 2021, in view of the Bureau taking a decision on the appointment during the January 2022 part-session.

2.9. Institutional representation of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2021

The Bureau approved the appointment of Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga (Romania, EPP/CD) as member to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), as proposed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

2.10. Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities

The Bureau approved the appointment of Mr Simon Moutquin (Belgium, SOC) to participate in the pre-Parliamentary meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), on 8-9 October 2021 in Rome.

2.11. Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris

The Bureau authorised:

– the Sub-Committee on External Relations of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in New-York, United States, in November/December 2021;

– the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy to meet in Chania, Crete, Greece, on 19-20 May 2022.