



## Bureau of the Assembly

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20 January 2014

# Election of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly in January 2014

## Memorandum drawn up by the Secretary General of the Assembly

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Rule 14.1 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure provides that

*The President of the Assembly shall be elected after the credentials of the representatives and substitutes have been examined under Rule 6. No representative may stand as a candidate for the office of President unless nominated in writing by ten or more representatives or substitutes at least forty-eight hours before the opening of the session or part-session.*

2. As of today, the candidature of Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) has been received in writing. On 17 January 2014, I was informed of the decision by Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EDG) to be a candidate.

3. Rule 14.2 furthermore provides that

*The President shall be elected by secret ballot. Two tellers chosen by lot shall count the votes cast, assisted by the Secretariat. If, after two ballots, no candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the representatives of the Assembly, the candidate who on the third ballot receives the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, the older candidate shall be declared elected.*

4. The Assembly currently has 317 representatives, as one seat is vacant for Cyprus. The absolute majority of the representatives of the Assembly is therefore 159. In order to be elected, a candidate has to obtain a minimum of 159 votes in the first or second round. In the third round, a simple majority ("the greatest number of votes") is required.

### II. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AND TIMING IN THE CHAMBER

5. It is therefore proposed that the first sitting of the January 2014 Part-Session has the following sequence of events and timing.

**11.30 am** – opening by the provisional President (Mr Iwinski-the longest-serving member of the Assembly), examination of credentials and drawing by lot of two tellers.

**11.45 am** – start of the **first ballot**

**12.30 pm** – end of the **first ballot**

**1 pm** – announcement of the result of the first ballot

6. ***If absolute majority of representatives is obtained on the first ballot:***

Continuation of the first sitting to deal with the election of Vice-Presidents, appointment of members of committees and adoption of the agenda (until approximately 1.15 pm, end of the sitting)

**2 pm** - Committee meetings

**3 pm** – Start of the second sitting, Communication from the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers

**4 pm** – Progress Report (Free debate postponed to Tuesday 28 January at 12 noon)

**5 pm** – End of second sitting and start of meetings of political groups until 7 pm.

7. ***No absolute majority is obtained on the first ballot:***

**1 pm** – start of the **second ballot**

**1.45 pm** – end of the **second ballot**

**2.15 pm** – announcement of the result of the second ballot

8. ***If absolute majority of representatives is obtained on the second ballot:***

Continuation of the sitting to deal with the election of Vice-Presidents, appointment of members of committees and adoption of the agenda (until approximately 2.30 pm)

**2.30 pm** – Progress Report

**3.30 pm** – Communication from the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers (Free debate postponed to Tuesday 28 January at 12 noon)

**4.30 pm** – Committee meetings (postponed from 2 pm)

**5.30 pm** – End of committee meetings and start of meetings of political groups until 7.30 pm.

9. ***No absolute majority is obtained on the second ballot:***

**2.15 pm** – start of the **third ballot**

**3 pm** – end of the **third ballot**

**3.30 pm** – announcement of the result of the third ballot

10. ***Simple majority of those voting is obtained on the third ballot:***

Continuation of the sitting to deal with the election of Vice-Presidents, appointment of members of committees and adoption of the agenda (until approximately 4 pm)

**4 pm** – Communication from the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers

(Progress Report postponed to Tuesday 28 January at 12 noon and Free debate postponed to Wednesday 29 January at 7.30 pm).

**5 pm** – Committee meetings (postponed from 2 pm)

**6 pm** – End of committee meetings and start of meetings of political groups until 7.30 pm.

### **III. PROCEDURE OF VOTING**

11. The simultaneous voting by all representatives of the Assembly requires special organisation to regulate the flow of members as efficiently as possible, while respecting the rules adopted by the Bureau for all elections. It is therefore proposed that members should queue in the two aisles leading to the rostrum for invited guests, where they will find four tables with the signature sheets divided in four groups: Representatives with surnames from A-D, E-J, K-O and P-Z. Substitutes who are validated to vote for that sitting must find their name under the surname of the Representative they substitute for. Members will be given their ballot paper after having signed the signature sheet. They will have at their disposal polling booths if needed, and will then be invited to cast their ballot in the urn in the Chamber. A diagram with the proposed arrangements and flow of members in the Chamber will be provided.

### **IV. DECISION**

12. The Bureau is invited to approve the modalities and procedure for election of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly as well as the organisation of the Monday sitting of the Assembly as described in the above memorandum.