



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Cult (2020) CB 04**

29 September 2020

## To the members of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held by videoconference on Friday, 25 September 2020

The **Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**, meeting by videoconference on 25 September 2020 from 9.30 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 4.30 pm, with Mr Olivier Becht (France ALDE) in the chair,

as regards:

- **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights and the rule of law** (*Rapporteur Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD; Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Bogusław Sonik, Poland, EPP/CD*): took note of the explanatory memorandum, and then adopted the conclusions of the committee and two amendments to the draft resolution on “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights and the rule of law”, thereby approving the opinion; took note of the declarations of Mr Andrey Epishin (Russian Federation, NR) and of Ms Tadeia Šuštar (Slovenia, EPP/CD) and of their decisions to transmit to the Secretariat their dissenting opinions by Tuesday, 29 September 2020 at midday; decided to declassify the document AS/Cult/Inf (2020) 02 to make it public;

- **Threats to academic freedom and autonomy of universities in Europe:** (*Rapporteur: Mr Koloman Brenner, Hungary, NR*): approved the request of the rapporteur to change the title of the report to “Threats to academic freedom and autonomy of higher education institutions in Europe”; took note of the explanatory memorandum, then adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, thereby approving the report; decided to declassify the expert report AS/Cult/Inf (2019) 06 to make it public;

- **Composition of Sub-committees:** approved the following changes:

Sub-Committee on Culture, Diversity and Heritage: Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) becomes member and Mr Konstantin Kuhle (Germany, ALDE) becomes his alternate;

Sub-Committee on education, youth and sport: Mr Manuel Miranda (Spain, SOC) becomes member replacing Mr José Cepeda who has left the Assembly;

Sub-Committee on media and information society: Mr Manuel Miranda (Spain, SOC) becomes member replacing Mr José Cepeda who has left the Assembly;

- **Committee work programme:**

#### References to the committee and appointment of rapporteurs:

- heard the declaration of absence of conflict of interest from Mr Sos Avetisyan (Armenia, SOC), rapporteur on “The control of online communication: a threat to media pluralism, freedom of information and human dignity” ([Doc. 15041](#));
- appointed Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) rapporteur on “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and culture” ([Doc. 15119](#)), subject to his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- appointed Mr Olivier Becht (France, ALDE) rapporteur on “Research policies and environment protection (Decision by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly), and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;

- decided to postpone the appointment of a rapporteur for opinion on “For an assessment of the means and provisions to combat children's exposure to pornographic content” (Doc. 15077) to the next meeting to be held on 14 October 2020;
- **Council of Europe Museum Prize:** reappointed Mr Roberto Rampi (Italy, SOC) as the representative of the committee for the Museum Prize 2021, subject to his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Information from the committee Chairperson:**
  - **Results of the written consultation of the committee concerning the report “Media freedom, public trust and the people’s right to know”** (Rapporteur: Mr Roberto Rampi, Italy, SOC): took note that the proposals contained in the introductory memorandum of the rapporteur have been approved by consensus;
  - **Follow-up to letters addressed to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and to the Chairperson of the committee regarding the decision to transform Hagia Sofia into a mosque:** heard a declaration from Mr Alexandros Triantafyllidis (Greek, UEL) and decided to postpone this item to the agenda of the committee meeting to be held on 14 October 2020;
  - **Reply to the invitation to the committee from the Mayor of Palermo:** decided to thank Mr Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, for his invitation to meet in Palermo the 19 and 20 October 2020, and to reply to him that unfortunately it is not possible to organise a meeting for the dates mentioned in the present circumstances;

**The Artificial Intelligence and the Human:** held a hearing with the participation of Mr Fredrik Heintz, Associate professor of Computer Science at Linköping University, Sweden; Ms Karen Yeung, Professor of Law, Ethics and Informatics, Birmingham Law School and School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom; Mr Daniel Leufer, Artificial Intelligence Policy Fellow – Access Now, Belgium; Ms Joanna Bryson, Professor at the University of Bath, United Kingdom; and Mr Johann Čas, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Technology Assessment, Academy of Sciences, Austria; and Mr Laurent Alexandre, Entrepreneur and writer, France;

**Next meetings:** decided the next dates for the meetings of the committee as follows:

- 14 October 2020, from 2.30 pm to 5 pm, meeting by videoconference
- 6 November 2020, from 9.30 am to 12 pm, meeting by videoconference (to be confirmed)
- 3-4 December 2020, Paris or by videoconference (to be confirmed)

Roberto Fasino, Dana Karanjac, Ivi-Triin Odrats, Eugen Cibotaru

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cc: Secretary General of the Assembly  
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations  
Secretary General of the Congress  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights  
Director of Communication  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe