



Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights
Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme

SECRETARIAT

10 June 2011
Synopsis AS/Jur No 2011/04

To the Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis of the meeting held in Oslo, Norway on 6-7 June 2011

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Oslo, Norway:

- on **Monday 6 June** with Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Constitutional Review in Norway: Human Rights Perspectives:*** held a hearing with the participation of :
 - Mr Inge Lønning, Chair of the Select Committee on Human Rights, Storting
 - Mr Anders Anundsen, Chair of the Storting's Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs
 - Mr Arne Fliflet, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Norway;
 - ***National Parliaments: Guarantors of Human Rights in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution, with a view to presenting them at the Assembly's June 2011 part-session;
 - ***The declaration of principles of equality and activities of the Council of Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*) : considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation, with a view to presenting them at the Standing Committee on 25 November 2011;
 - ***Abuse of State Secrecy and National Security: obstacles to Parliamentary and Judicial Scrutiny of Human Rights Violations*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Dick Marty, Switzerland, ALDE*): in the absence of the rapporteur, decided to request the Bureau for an extension of this reference until 31 October 2011;
 - ***Combating all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Tudor Panțiru, Romania, SOC*): considered a revised introductory memorandum;
 - ***Appointment of Rapporteurs:***
 - ***National security and access to information:*** appointed Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, (Spain, SOC);
 - ***Privacy and the management of private information on the Internet and other online media (for opinion):*** appointed Mr Rudy Salles (France, EPP/DC);

- **Drafting an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights: basic standards for national minorities** (*Rapporteur: Mr György Frunda, Romania, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with:
 - Professor Geoff Gilbert, Professor of Law, Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Refugee Law, School of Law and Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, United Kingdom
 - Professor Krzysztof Drzewicki, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Warsaw, former senior legal advisor in the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
 - **on Tuesday 7 June**, as regards:
 - **Other business:**
 - **Request by Committee Vice-Chairperson, Mr Vyatkin : follow-up discussion - report on “The Rule of Law in Council of Europe member states: upholding the authority of the Parliamentary Assembly’s recommendations”**, (*Rapporteur: Ms Marieluise Beck, Germany, ALDE*) : held an exchange of views on the subject and decided to modify the title of the report which shall now be “Threats to the Rule of Law in Council of Europe member states: asserting the Parliamentary Assembly’s authority”;
 - **“The Viability of the ECHR: System in Jeopardy?”**: held a hearing in the context of two reports: “Guaranteeing the authority and effectiveness of the ECHR” (*Rapporteur Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD*) and “Ensuring the viability of the Strasbourg Court: structural deficiencies in States Parties” (*Rapporteur: Mr Serhii Kivalov, Ukraine, ALDE*) on the following subjects with the participation of:
 - (i) The principle of subsidiarity: authority and effectiveness of the Strasbourg Court:
 - Mr Paul Lemmens, member of the Council of State, Professor of Law at the University of Leuven, Belgium
 - (ii) Structural / systemic problems in State Parties:
 - Mr Latif Huseynov, Professor of Law at Baku State University, member of the Venice Commission, Baku, Azerbaijan
 - Mr Dmytro Kotliar, Consultant to the OECD, former Deputy Minister of Justice, Kyiv, Ukraine
 - (iii) Reform in Strasbourg: follow-up of the Interlaken (2010) and Izmir (2011) conferences:
 - Ms Hanne Sophie Greve, Judge in the Gulating Court of Appeal, Bergen, Norway, former judge at the European Court of Human Rights
 - Ms Elisabeth Lambert Abdelgawad, Director of Research at the National Center for Scientific Research, Strasbourg, France; Senior Expert to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
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- **Seminar on “The reinforcement of the Rule of Law in Europe”**, organised by the Norwegian parliamentary delegation to the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: held a seminar on the following subjects:
 - Arbitrary detention: with the participation of Ms Karin Woldseth, Head of the Norwegian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Ales Bialiatski, Chair of the Human Rights Centre, Viasna, Belarus; and Ms Berit Lindeman, NHC;
 - Human Rights Defenders: with the participation of Mr Aage Borchgrevink, NHC; Mr Yuri Dzhibladze, Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, Russian Federation; Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Rights of the Minorities; Ms Khadija Ismailova, Journalist, Azerbaijan;
 - Infringements of the Rule of Law: with the participation of Mr Bjorn Engesland, Secretary General of NHC, Ms Marieluise Beck, rapporteur on “Threats to Rule of Law in Council of Europe member states: asserting the Parliamentary Assembly’s authority”; Mr William Browder, CEO, Hermitage Capital, United Kingdom; Mr Tom Mayne, Global Witness, United Kingdom;

- **“Justice for Sergei”** : showing of a film (ICU Documentaries Netherlands), presented by Mr William Browder, CEO, Hermitage Capital, United Kingdom.
- **Next meetings:**
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2011 (20-24 June)
 - Paris, 7 September 2011 (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2011 (3-7 October)
 - Paris, 16 November 2011 (Council of Europe Office)
 - Paris, 13 December 2011 (Council of Europe Office)

Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights

- Paris, 15 June 2011 (Council of Europe Office)

Sub-Committee on Human Rights

- Paris, 13 December 2011 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna, Roland Klages

- cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
 Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
 Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
 Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
 Observers to the Assembly
- Secretary General of the Congress
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
 Directors General
 Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform
 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