



SECRETARIAT

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3 July 2012

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 25-28 June 2012

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg with Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG), in the Chair,

- **On Monday 25 June 2012 at 2pm**, as regards:
 - **The Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:** heard a statement by the Chair, Mr Klaas de Vries, (Netherlands, SOC) on the meeting held in Paris on 13-15 June 2012;
 - **Strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum, held an exchange of views with Mr Nikiforos Diamandouros, European Ombudsman and authorised two fact-finding visits of the Rapporteur to Denmark and Turkey, subject to the availability of funds;
- **on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 8.30am** as regards:
 - **Hearing: Implementation of Strasbourg Court judgments by Bulgaria:** held a hearing with the head of the Bulgarian delegation, Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, in the context of two reports under preparation on “Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (*Rapporteur: Mr Klaas de Vries, Netherlands, SOC*)” and “Ensuring the viability of the Strasbourg Court: structural deficiencies in States Parties (*Rapporteur: Mr Serhii Kivalov, Ukraine, ADLE*)”;
 - **The definition of Political Prisoners** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christoph Strässer, Germany, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 2pm** as regards:
 - **The follow-up to the issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christoph Strässer, Germany, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
- **on Wednesday 27 June 2012 at 3pm** as regards:
 - **The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states** (*Rapporteur: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Human rights and family courts** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the chair, considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;

– **Other business**

- **Joint Informal Body of the Assembly and the European Parliament:** took note of a press release issued after the meeting of this joint body in Paris on 19 June 2012;
 - decided to request the Bureau for an extension to the report on the “Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: the Election of Judges” (Rapporteur: Mr Serhiy Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE) until 31 December 2013 ;
 - **The protection of minors against sectarian influence** (Rapporteur: Mr Rudy Salles, France, EPP/CD), agreed to hold a hearing on this topic at the meeting in September, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **National security and access to information** (Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC): agreed to hold a hearing on this topic at a future meeting, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **55th and 56th Plenary meetings of GRECO:** took note of a written statement by Mr Oliver Heald, United Kingdom, EDG, Committee Representative to GRECO, concerning his participation in these meetings;
 - **Venice Commission, Venice, 15-16 June 2012:** heard an account of the meeting by the Committee’s Representative to the Venice Commission, Mr Serhiy Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE;
- **on Thursday 28 June 2012 at 9.15 am** as regards:
- **Hearing: Implementation of Strasbourg Court judgments by the Russian Federation:** held a hearing with the representative of the head of the delegation of the Russian Federation, Mr Dmitry Vyatkin, parliamentary representative to the Constitutional Court in the context of two reports under preparation on “Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights” (Rapporteur: Mr Klaas de Vries, Netherlands, SOC) and “Ensuring the viability of the Strasbourg Court: structural deficiencies in States Parties” (Rapporteur: Mr Serhii Kivalov, Ukraine, ADLE);
- **Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states:** agreed to request the Bureau, in the framework of Rule 25.2, to seize the Committee for a new report on this subject following the adoption of Resolution 1891;
- **on Thursday 28 June 2012 at 2.15pm** as regards:
- **Visit to the European Court of Human Rights:** took part in a visit to the Strasbourg Court and held an exchange of views on the work and organisation of the Court with Sir Nicolas Bratza (President), Mr Erik Fribergh (Registrar) and Mr Michael O’Boyle (Deputy Registrar);
- **Next meetings**

Plenary Committee:

- Paris, 6 September 2012, 9am - 1pm (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 4th part session of 2012 (1-5 October 2012)
- Paris, 12 November 2012, 9am - 5.30pm (Council of Europe Office)(to be confirmed)
- Paris, 11 December 2012, 9am - 5.30pm (Council of Europe Office)(to be confirmed)

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

- Paris, 5 September 2012, 8.30am – 7pm (Council of Europe Office).

The Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Paris from 13 to 15 June 2012, with Mr Klaas de Vries (Netherlands, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Hearings:** held hearings with the candidates to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United Kingdom and adopted its recommendations for the attention of the Bureau of the Assembly with respect to the candidates from these countries;
- **Next meeting:** Paris, 5 September 2012, 8.30am-7pm (Council of Europe Office)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2012 at 2.45pm, with Ms Elsa Papadimitriou (Greece, EPP/CD), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee Chair:** elected Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD) Chairperson by acclamation;
- **Election of the Sub-Committee Vice-Chair:** decided to return to this item at the next meeting;
- **Next meeting:** during the October 2012 part-session

The Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 28 June 2012 at 8.30am, with Ms Marietta Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Work Programme:** held an exchange of views and proposed to hold a hearing on pre-trial detention in cooperation with the competent rapporteurs of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Mr. Agramunt and Ms Beck, at the plenary Committee's meeting in December 2012 and authorised the Chair to liaise with the Committee Rapporteurs on this subject;
- **Next meeting:** left it to the Chairperson to convene the next meeting.

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, 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