



SECRETARIAT

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10 September 2012

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 6 September 2012

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 6 September 2012 with Mr Christopher Chope (*United Kingdom, EDG*) in the Chair, as regards:

- **National security and access to information** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **The protection of minors against sectarian influence** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rudy Salles, France, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of: Mr Georges FENECH, Member of the National Assembly, former President of MIVILUDES (Mission interministérielle de vigilance et de lutte contre les dérives sectaires), France, Mr Maksym YURCHENKO, Lawyer, Family and Personality Protection Society, Ukraine, Ms Sophie van BIJSTERVELD, Member of the Dutch Senate and Professor at Tilburg University, The Netherlands;
- **Revision of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television** (*Rapporteur: Mr James Clappison, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee**: took note of the replies to the following recommendations: “Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity”, “Abuse of state secrecy and national security: obstacles to parliamentary and judicial scrutiny of human rights violations”, and “The Declaration of Principles on Equality and activities of the Council of Europe”;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs** :
  - *Promoting the human rights of prisoners in Council of Europe member States*: appointed Mr Luigi Vitali (Italy, EPP/CD)
  - *Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States*: appointed Mr György Frunda (Romania, EPP/CD)
  - *European institutions and human rights in Europe*: appointed Mr Michael McNamara (Ireland, SOC)
  - *Need to reinforce the independence of the European Court of Human Rights*: held an exchange of views on the Bureau’s decision to refer this subject for inclusion in the report on “*The future of the European Court of Human Rights and the Brighton Declaration*” and decided to return to this point during the Assembly’s October 2012 part-session;
  - *Improving user protection and security in cyberspace* (for opinion): appointed Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera (Spain SOC)
- **Other business**
  - Request from the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs regarding possible “ex officio” status for chairpersons of political groups in committees: held an exchange of views on the subject and unanimously recommended that the status quo should be maintained;

- Hearings: authorised hearings for future reports on the following subjects: “Access to Nationality”, “The participation of non-member States in Council of Europe conventions”, subject to the availability of funds;
- The case of Ramil Safarov – following referral of the subject from the Bureau, the Committee held an exchange of views on this case and decided to submit a request to the Bureau for a current affairs debate on the “Safarov Case” during the Assembly’s October 2012 part-session;
- Ensuring the viability of the Strasbourg Court: structural deficiencies in States Parties (Rapporteur: Mr. Kivalov): decided to ask the Bureau for an extension of the mandate until the end of November 2012.

– **Next meetings**

*Plenary Committee:*

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 4<sup>th</sup> 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:*

- Strasbourg, 30 September 2012, at 2.30pm

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**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 on 5 September 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, and the Russian Federation and adopted its recommendations for the attention of the Bureau of the Assembly with respect to the candidates from these countries;
- **Candidates to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Croatia and the Republic of Moldova:** held an exchange of views with Mr J. Kregar (representing the Croatian Minister of Justice) and then the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Oleg Efrim;
- **Next meeting:** Strasbourg, 30 September 2012, 2.30pm

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna, Aline Usanase

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