



SECRETARIAT

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22 March 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 19 March 2013

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 19 March 2013 with first Mr Cilevičs (*Latvia, SOC*) in the Chair, then Mr Christopher Chope (*United Kingdom, EDG*), as regards:

(with Mr Cilevičs in the Chair)

- **Promoting alternatives to imprisonment** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Follow-up to the meeting of the Bureau (7 March 2013)** - participation at the Joint Conference with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Parliamentary Assembly, St Petersburg, 12 April 2013: appointed the following members to attend as part of an ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly: Ms Marieluise Beck (Germany, ALDE), Ms Patrizia Bugnano (Italy, ALDE), Mr Şaban Dişli (Turkey, EPP/CD), Mr Renato Farina (Italy, EPP/CD), Ms Milica Marković (Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC), Mr Michael McNamara (Ireland, SOC), Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD), Mr Konstantinos Triantafyllos (Greece, SOC), Mr Øyvind Vaksdal (Norway, EDG). Ms Fouzia El Bayed (Morocco) also expressed her interest in participating;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**
 - i. *Human Rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?*: appointed Mr Michael McNamara (Ireland, SOC);
 - ii. *Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states* (Bureau decision) appointed Ms Mailis Reps (Estonia, ALDE);
 - iii. *Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Election of Judges*: appointed Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE);
 - iv. *Witness protection as an indispensable tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe*: appointed Mr Díaz Tejera (Spain, SOC);
 - v. *The abuse by social services of member States of the Council of Europe of their authority to remove children from their parents' custody* (opinion): appointed Mr Volodymyr Pylypenko (Ukraine, SOC);

(with Mr Chope in the Chair)

- **Access to nationality and the effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Professor Zdzisław Galicki, International Law Institute, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw, Poland, formerly Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Nationality (CJ-NA);

(with Mr Cilevičs in the Chair)

- **Draft Protocol No.15 amending the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered a

draft report, unanimously adopted a draft opinion (requested by the Committee of Ministers) and agreed to shorten the title to “Draft Protocol No. 15 to the European Convention on Human Rights”;

(with Mr Choje in the Chair)

– **Nomination of representatives of the Committee:** Mr Michael McNamara (Ireland, SOC) as substitute for Mr. Gross (Switzerland, SOC) at the Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission) and Mr Volodymyr Pylypenko (Ukraine, SOC) at meetings of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) (proposals to be submitted to the Bureau);

– **Corruption as a threat to the Rule of Law (Rapporteur: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE):** held a hearing with the participation of:

Ms Roisin Pillay, Director, Europe Programme, International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, Switzerland

Ms Erica Razook, Associate Legal Officer on Anticorruption, Open Society Justice Initiative, New York, USA

Mr Daniel Smilov, Programme Director, Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia, Bulgaria;

– **Other business**

- Heard a statement by Ms Beck regarding her report on “Threats to the Rule of Law in Council of Europe member states: asserting the Parliamentary Assembly’s authority” and invited the Russian delegation to cooperate in the organisation of a fact-finding visit to Russia;
- Agreed to ask the Bureau for an extension to the deadline for the report by Mr Salles (France, EPP/CD) on “The protection of minors against sectarian influence” until the end of 2013;
- Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights: heard a statement by Mr Klaas de Vries (Netherlands, SOC) regarding his intervention at the Standing Committee related to the procedure for the election of judges. Also agreed to his request to declassify the parts of the recent minutes relating to the four sets of hearings on “Implementation of Strasbourg Court judgments” held in Committee during the past year;
- Took note of the Bureau’s authorisation of the plenary meeting to be held in Izmir, Turkey on 27-28 May 2013;
- Authorised the invitation to experts at the Izmir meeting for a hearing on “Accountability of international institutions for human rights violations” (Rapporteur: Mr José María Beneyto, Spain, EPP/CD) and for an exchange of views on “The effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights: the Brighton declaration and beyond” (Rapporteur: Mr Pozzo di Borgo, France, EPP/CD), subject to the availability of funds;
- Confirmed the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 4 September 2013;

– **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 2nd part-session of 2013 (22-26 April 2013)
- Izmir, Turkey, 27-28 May 2013,
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 3rd part-session of 2013 (24-28 June 2013)
- Paris, 4 September 2013 (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 4th part-session of 2013 (30 September – 4 October 2013)
- Paris, 6 November 2013 (Council of Europe Office) tbc
- Paris, 12 December 2013 (Council of Europe Office) tbc

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Aline Usanase, Matthieu Birker

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