



SECRETARIAT

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10 June 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Izmir, Turkey on 27-28 May 2013

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Izmir, Turkey on 27-28 May 2013 with Mr Christopher Chope (*United Kingdom, EDG*) in the Chair, as regards:

On Monday 27 May 2013, with Mr Christopher Chope (*United Kingdom, EDG*), then with Mr Boris Cilevičs (*Latvia, SOC*) in the Chair, as regards:

(With Mr Christopher Chope in the chair)

– **Judicial reforms in Turkey: recent developments:** held an exchange of views on the subject with the participation of:

Mr Kenan ÖZDEMİR, Deputy Under Secretary, Ministry of Justice
Mr Okan TAŞDELEN, Deputy Director, Department of Human Rights, General Directorate of International Laws and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice
Mr. Engin DURNAGÖL, Deputy Secretary General (High Council of Judges and Prosecutors);

- **Corruption as a threat to the Rule of Law** (*Rapporteur: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Strengthening the institution of Ombudsman in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;

(With Mr Boris Cilevičs in the chair)

- **Draft Protocol No. 16 to the Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered a draft report, and unanimously adopted a draft opinion (requested by the Committee of Ministers);

(With Mr Christopher Chope in the chair)

- **Accountability of international organisations for human rights violations** (*Rapporteur: Mr José María Beneyto, Spain, EPP/CD*): discussed an introductory memorandum which the Committee subsequently agreed to declassify and held a hearing with the participation of:

Ms Marjorie Beulay, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, Paris; Director of Studies, International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France
Mr Rick Lawson, Professor of Human Rights Law, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Leiden, the Netherlands
Ms Nina Vajić, Professor of International Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia, former judge and Section President, European Court of Human Rights

The Committee also decided to replace the word “institutions” by the word “organisations” in the title of the report;

On Tuesday 28 May 2013, with Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Klaas de Vries, the Netherlands, SOC*): considered a progress report and addendum presented by the Rapporteur, approved the new criterion for the selection of states that the rapporteur will include in the scope of the report, agreed the rapporteur would visit four or five of these states (to be determined at a later date, on the basis of observations he is to receive by the end of August 2013 from states referred to in the progress report's addendum), and agreed to declassify the progress report and its addendum;
- **The effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights: the Brighton declaration and beyond** (*Rapporteur: Mr Yves Pozzo di Borgo, France, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views with the participation of:

Ms Nina Vajić, Professor of International Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia, former judge and Section President, European Court of Human Rights

Mr Vit Schorm, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the Reform of the Court (DH-GDR), Government Agent to the European Court of Human Rights, Czech Republic;

– **Other business**

- **Joint Hearing on "Implementation of the Strasbourg Court judgments: the parliamentary dimension"**: agreed to hold a hearing on this subject and to invite four experts during the June part-session 2013, subject to the availability of funds;
- **Revision of the European Convention on transfrontier television** (*Rapporteur, Mr James Clappison, United Kingdom, EDG*): agreed to request the Bureau for an extension of the reference of this report until 31 December 2013 and to the participation of the Rapporteur in a seminar on this subject organised by the Austrian government on 15 November 2013 in Vienna, subject to the availability of funds;
- **National security and access to information** (*Rapporteur, Mr Arcadio Diaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): agreed to the request by Mr Diaz Tejera to participate in a conference organised by the Mexican Federal Institute of Access to Information and the Protection of Data in Mexico City, on 4 July 2013, the travel and stay being covered by the organisers;
- **Protection of human rights defenders and Follow-up to the human rights situation in the North Caucasus region**: agreed to the joint request of the rapporteurs on the two subjects, Ms Reps (Estonia, ALDE) and Mr McNamara (Ireland, SOC), to hold an exchange of views with three lawyers from the North Caucasus region during the June part-session, it being understood that their travel and subsistence costs need not be covered by the Assembly's budget.

– **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2013 (24-28 June 2013)
- Paris, 4 September 2013 (Council of Europe Office) 9 am to 12.30pm
- 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

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

- Paris, 12 June 2013 (Council of Europe Office)

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna, 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