



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur/ (2013) CB 08

8 November 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 6 November 2013

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 6 November 2013 with Mr Christopher Chope (*United Kingdom, EDG*) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Accountability of international organisations for human rights violations** (*Rapporteur: Mr José Maria Beneyto, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Draft Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs** (*Rapporteur: Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD*): the Committee considered a report tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs and Sustainable Development and unanimously approved the opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and three amendments to the draft opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs and Sustainable Development, presented by Ms. Marina Schuster in the absence of the Rapporteur ;
- **Need to reinforce the independence of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Stefan Trechsel, former President of the European Commission of Human Rights and *ad litem* Judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Bern, Switzerland;
 - Ms Françoise Tulkens, former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights, Brussels, Belgium;
 - Mr Erik Fribergh, Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**
 - i. How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe? – appointed Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC;
 - ii. Additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights on the protection of whistle-blowers who disclose governmental action violating international law and fundamental rights – appointed Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD;
 - iii. Massive eavesdropping in Europe - appointed Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD;
 - iv. Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan (for opinion) – appointed Mr James Clappison, United Kingdom, EDG
 - v. Situation in Hungary following the adoption of Assembly Resolution 1941 (2013) (for opinion) – appointed Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:** took note of the reply to the following recommendation: “Reinforcing the selection processes for experts of key Council of Europe human rights monitoring mechanisms”;

– **Other business:**

i) Extension of reports

Agreed to request the Bureau for the extension of references of the following reports:

Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: election of judges (*Rapporteur, Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ADLE*) until 31.12.2014

The protection of minors against sectarian influence (*Rapporteur, Mr Rudy Salles, France, EPP/CD*) until 31.03.2014

Abuse of pre-trial detention in States Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights (*Rapporteur, Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*) until 30.06.2014;

ii) Participation of GRECO representative at seminar on counter corruption in parliaments on 2 December 2013 in Belgrade:

Noted that the Committee's GRECO representative, Mr Robert Neill, (United Kingdom, EDG), had been invited to attend a seminar on Counter Corruption in Parliaments, organised by the PACE Project Support Division on 2 December 2013 in Belgrade;

iii) "Prosecution of the Labour Party (Darbo Partija) in Lithuania": decided to await the outcome of the pending court case before further discussion of the matter;

iv) "Additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights on the protection of whistle-blowers who disclose governmental action violating international law and fundamental rights and "Massive eavesdropping in Europe" (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): discussed possible invitees to a hearing and decided to revert to this subject on the basis of an introductory memorandum to be presented by the Rapporteur at a forthcoming meeting;

v) Measures to prevent abusive use of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ETS no. 112) (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): agreed to the proposal by the Rapporteur to invite an expert for an exchange of views on this subject during the Committee's meeting on 12 December 2013, subject to the availability of funds;

vi) "Annual ticket" for 2014: invitation by the Finnish delegation

The Committee thanked the Finnish delegation and agreed to meet in Helsinki on 26-27 May 2014, beginning on 26 May 2014 in the afternoon;

– **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings

Plenary Committee:

- Paris, 12 December 2013 (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session of 2014 (27–31 January 2014)

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

- Paris, 11 December 2013

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, 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