



SECRETARIAT

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14 April 2014

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 7 to 10 April 2014

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 7 to 10 April 2014:

- on Monday 7 April 2014 at 2pm, with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair as regards:
  - **Improving user protection and security in cyberspace** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*) considered a report tabled by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and approved the Committee's opinion including three amendments to the draft resolution;
  - **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
    - i. Freedom of religion and religious practices (for opinion): Rapporteur for Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Mr Rafael Huseynov (Azerbaijan, ALDE): Sir Edward Leigh (United Kingdom, EDG);
    - ii. Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council (follow-up to Resolution 1969 (2014)) (for opinion): Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE: appointed Mr Şaban Dişli (Turkey, EPP/CD);
  - **Judicial Corruption: urgent need to implement the Assembly's proposals** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD*) considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to hold a hearing at the next meeting in Helsinki, with two experts, subject to the availability of funds;
  - **Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*) considered a report tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and approved the Committee's opinion including ten amendments to the draft resolution;
  - **Other business:**
    - **"Fight against torture: the role of national monitoring bodies"**: authorised an exchange of views with the participation of two experts at the forthcoming meeting in Helsinki, subject to the availability of funds;
    - **Need to reinforce the independence of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): agreed at the request of the Rapporteur to change the title of this report to "Reinforcement of the independence of the European Court of Human Rights." and to declassify the minutes pertaining to the hearing on this subject held on 6 November 2013;
    - **Extension of deadlines:** agreed to request the Bureau to extend the references of "Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states" (*Rapporteur: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE*) until 31 March 2015 and "European institutions and human rights in Europe" (*Rapporteur: Mr Michael McNamara, Ireland, SOC*) until 31 January 2015;

- **Vaclav Havel Prize:** took note of the call for candidatures and the upcoming deadline;
  
- **on Tuesday 8 April 2014 at 2pm**, with Mr McNamara (Ireland, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Mass Surveillance** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*) : held a hearing with the participation of:
 

Mr Edward Snowden (via video-link)  
 Mr Hansjörg Geiger, former Head of Bundesnachrichtendienst (German Federal Intelligence Service), former State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Justice, Berlin  
 Mr Douwe Korff, Professor of International Law, London Metropolitan University
  
  - **on Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 1.45 pm**, with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair as regards:
    - **Decent work for all** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*) considered a report tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and decided not to submit an opinion following rejection of the amendments proposed by the Rapporteur for opinion;
  
    - **Access to nationality and the effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): took position on 8 amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;
  
    - **Hearing on “The need to eradicate Statelessness” jointly organised by UNHCR, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:** held a hearing on the themes below with interventions by the following experts:
      - i) Focus on stateless children:
 

“Overview and challenges”: Diane Goodman, Deputy Director UNHCR Bureau for Europe, Geneva  
 “Country feedback”: Prefetto Riccardo Compagnucci, Deputy Head of the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, Italian Ministry of Interior
      - ii) Good practices - suggested solutions
 

“Preventing childhood statelessness in Europe: some issues, gaps and good practices”: Ms Laura van Waas, Steering Committee member of the European Network on Statelessness (ENS), Manager of the Statelessness Programme, Tilburg Law School, The Netherlands

Conclusions on good practices and challenges: Mr Mark Manly, Head of UNHCR’s Statelessness Unit, Division for International Protection, Geneva
  
  - **on Thursday 10 April 2014 at 8.30am**, with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair as regards:
    - **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** heard a statement by the Chair with regard to the Sub-Committee’s meeting held in Strasbourg on 8 April 2014 and endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the list of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the parliamentary delegations of Armenia and Denmark.
  
    - **Urgent need to deal with new failures to co-operate with the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD*): took position on 4 amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;
  
    - **The protection of minors against sectarian influence** (*Rapporteur: Mr Rudy Salles, France, EPP/CD*): took position on 58 amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation;
  
    - **Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Mr Pavlo Petrenko:** held an exchange of views;

– **Other business:**

- **Statement on Egyptian death sentences:** approved a joint statement to be issued on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on death sentences handed down in Egypt against more than 500 supporters of former President Morsi;

• **on Thursday 10 April 2014 at 2pm,**

– **Joint Hearing with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on “Removal of children from their parents: legislation and practice”:** held a hearing with the participation of:

Ms Maria Herczog, Rapporteur of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Hungary), via video link

Ms Karen Reid, Registrar of the Filtering Section, European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg)

– **Other business:**

- **Recent developments in Turkey:** approved a draft statement proposed by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights;

– **Next meetings:**

*Plenary Committee:*

- Helsinki, Finland, 26-27 May 2014 (Finnish Parliament): the meeting will start in the afternoon of 26.05.2014
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of 2014 (23-27 June 2014)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of 2014 (29 September – 3 October 2014)
- Madrid, end of October 2014 (date to be confirmed; subject to Bureau authorisation)
- Paris, 10 December 2014 (Council of Europe Office) tbc

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

- Paris, 12 June 2014, tbc

**The Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 8 April 2014 at 9.15am, with Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi (Andorra, ALDE), in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered and approved its recommendations for the lists of candidates to the CPT in respect of Armenia and Denmark;
- **Individual applications to the European Court of Human Rights from Crimea: jurisdictional issues:** held an exchange of views with Mr Michael O'Boyle, Deputy Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights;
- **Recent developments in Turkey:** proposed a draft statement for approval by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights;
- **Next meeting:** during the Assembly's June 2014 part-session.

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