



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur/ (2014) CB 04

2 June 2014

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Helsinki, Finland on 26-27 May 2014

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Helsinki on 26-27 May 2014 with Mr James Clappison (*United Kingdom, EDG*) in the Chair, as regards:

- **on Monday 26 May 2014 at 2pm,**
 - **Opening session:** heard a welcoming address by Mr Eero Heinäluoma, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament and an opening statement by Ms Maria Guzenina-Richardson, Chairperson of the Finnish PACE delegation;
 - **The effectiveness of the ECHR system: challenges for the future:** held an exchange of views with:

Ms Pauliine Koskelo, President of the Supreme Court, Helsinki
Mr Matti Pellonpää, Justice of the Supreme Administrative Court, Helsinki, former Section President of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - **Reinforcement of the independence of the European Court of Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Fight against torture: the role of national monitoring bodies:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:

Ms Silvia Casale, former President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, London
Mr Jari Pirjola, Legal Advisor in the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Finnish member for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture;
- **on Tuesday 27 May 2014 at 9.30am,**
 - **Prevention and eradication of corruption within the judiciary**
 - (i) **Judicial Corruption: urgent need to implement the Assembly's proposals** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Sir Nicolas Bratza, Advisory Committee, European Human Rights Association, Strasbourg, former President of the European Court of Human Rights
Ms Monica Macovei, MEP, former Minister of Justice of Romania, Bucharest;
 - (ii) **The role of national parliaments in strengthening judicial capacity and accountability co-organised with the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs:**

heard a statement by Ms Anna-Maja Henriksson, Minister of Justice of Finland and held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr. David Kosař, Professor of Law, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Mr Kaarlo Tuori, Professor of Jurisprudence, University of Helsinki, Finnish member of the Venice Commission;

- **Measures to prevent abusive use of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ETS no. 112)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;

- **Witness protection as an indispensable tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Diaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Christian Bauer, Project Coordinator for Witness Protection, Europol, the Hague

Mr Gábor Ihász, Head of Department, Riot Police, Witness Protection Unit, Budapest

Mr Frank Debije, Chief Inspector, National Police of the Netherlands;

- **How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC*): in the absence of the Rapporteur decided to postpone detailed consideration of her introductory memorandum until the June 2014 session and agreed to declassify it; noted that the Rapporteur withdrew from her mandate.

- **Appointment of rapporteur:**

Clear definition of the criteria of political persecution (for report): appointed Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi (Andorra, ALDE);

- **Abolition of the death penalty:** heard a statement by the General Rapporteur, Ms Marietta Karamanli (France, SOC). Agreed to ask the Bureau for authorisation of her proposed information visits to Morocco and Tunisia, subject to the availability of funds, and agreed to organise a hearing at one of the forthcoming Committee meetings in Paris with the participation of Mr Badinter;

- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:** took note of the replies from the Committee of Ministers and of the Rapporteurs' comments on the following recommendations: "European Union and Council of Europe Human Rights Agendas: Synergies not Duplication" and "National Security and Access to Information";

- **Other business**

- **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights:** heard a statement by the rapporteur, Mr Klaas de Vries (Netherlands, SOC) following his fact-finding visit to Turkey on 24-25 April 2014;

- **Meeting in Madrid, Spain on 30-31 October 2014:** noted that this meeting had been approved by the Bureau and that it would comprise a one day plenary meeting of the committee and a seminar on the second day on 'The role of national parliaments in the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights' organised in conjunction with the Parliamentary Project Support Division;

- **Prolongation of references:** decided to request the Bureau to prolong the reference of the "Abuse of pre-trial detention in States Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights" (Rapporteur: Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD) and on Administrative Detention (Rapporteur: Agustin Conde, Spain, EPP/CD) until 31 March 2015;

– **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2014 (23-27 June 2014)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2014 (29 September – 3 October 2014)
- Madrid, 30-31 October 2014
- Paris, 10 December 2014 (Council of Europe Office) tbc

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

- Strasbourg, 22 June 2014

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