



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur/ (2014) CB 05

30 June 2014

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 23-26 June 2014

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg on 23-26 June 2014:

- on **Monday 23 June 2014 at 2pm**, with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair as regards:
 - **Parliamentary contribution to solving the Western Sahara conflict** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Maria Teresa Bertuzzi, Italy, SOC*), considered a report tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and approved the Committee's opinion including 11 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Child-friendly juvenile justice: from rhetoric to reality** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Kristien Van Vaerenbergh, Belgium, NR*) considered a report tabled by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development and approved the Committee's opinion including 5 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **World Forum on Democracy – From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?** nominated 2 members to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau attending the World Forum on Democracy on 3-5 November 2014 in Strasbourg: Mr Charles Kennedy (United Kingdom, ALDE) and Mr Rafael Huseynov (Azerbaijan, ALDE);
 - **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc.:** heard reports by the following representatives on the events they attended below:
 - 98th plenary session of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), 21-22 March 2014 and 99th plenary session, 13-14 June 2014: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC;
 - 44th plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), 31 March – 4 April 2014, Strasbourg: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD;
- on **Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 2pm**,
 - **Improving the protection of whistleblowers** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held a hearing on the subject with the participation of:

Mr Edward Snowden (via video-link);
Ms Anna Myers, Expert on Whistleblower Protection, Whistleblowing International Network (WIN), London;
 - **Next meetings:** took note of meetings to be held until the end of the as follows:

Plenary Committee:

- 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:

- Paris, Thursday 18 September 2014, tbc;

- **on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at 2pm,**

- ***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 on “The long-term future of the ECHR system” with:

Mr Vit Schorm, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Government Agent to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the Czech Republic;

Mr Morten Ruud, Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the Reform of the Court (DH-GDR), Senior Advisor to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice;

- ***Threats to the Rule of Law in Council of Europe member states: asserting the Parliamentary Assembly's authority*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Marieluise Beck, Germany, ALDE*) in the absence of the invited expert, Mr Yuriy Lutsenko, former Minister of Interior of Ukraine, heard a statement by the Rapporteur; and noted that she was still prevented from carrying out the authorized information visit to the Russian Federation and would present her final report regardless, at one of the following meetings.

- ***Appointment of rapporteurs:***

- ***How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe:*** appointed Mr Yves Cruchten (Luxembourg, SOC), following the resignation of Ms Nataša Vučković, (Serbia, SOC), as rapporteur;

- ***Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: What follow-up on Respect for Human Rights?:*** appointed Mr Pedro Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD);

- **on Thursday 26 June 2014 at 2pm,**

- ***Reinforcement of the independence of the European Court of Human Rights*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): noted that no amendments had been tabled to this report;

- ***Other business:***

- ***Extension of references:*** agreed to request the Bureau to extend the references of “Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights” (*Rapporteur Mr Klaas de Vries, Netherlands, SOC*) until 31 May 2015 and of “Human Rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?” (*Rapporteur: Mr Michael McNamara, Ireland, SOC*) until 31 October 2015;

- ***Participation in the CDCJ meeting, 29-31 October 2014, on “Regulation of lobbying: preliminary draft study on the feasibility of a Council of Europe legal instrument”:*** designated Ms Chiora Taktakishvili (Georgia, ALDE) to attend The European Committee on Legal Cooperation of the Council of Europe's 89th plenary meeting between 29-31 October 2014 in Strasbourg, subject to the availability of funds;

- ***Sub-Committees:*** agreed to changes requested by the Greek delegation as regards sub-committees whereby Mr Epameinondas MARIAS is replaced by Mr Konstantinos TZAVARAS on the Sub-Committee on Human Rights; Mr Konstantinos TZAVARAS is replaced by Ms Foteini PIPILI on the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism; Mr Konstantinos TZAVARAS is replaced by Ms Foteini PIPILI on the Sub-Committee on Rule of Law;

- ***Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states:*** heard a report by Mr Boriss Cilevičs, (Latvia, SOC), who attended on behalf of the

rapporteur, Ms Mailis Reps (Estonia, ALDE), a conference on “The OSCE and Human Rights Defenders: The Budapest Document 20 Years On”, organised by the OSCE/ODIHR and the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, in Bern (Switzerland) on 10-11 June 2014;

- **Committee meeting in 2015:** was invited by Ms Arpine Hovhannisyanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), on behalf of the Armenian delegation, to hold a meeting in Yerevan, in May 2015;

The **Sub-Committee on the Rule of Law** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 23 June 2014 at 2.50pm, with Mr Mahoux (Belgium, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** in the absence of eligible candidates for the Bureau, decided to return to this matter later in the year;

The **Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 26 June 2014 at 2.45pm, with Lord John Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Advisory Panel of experts on candidates for election as judge to the Court:** took note of the CDDH's report on the work of the advisory panel of experts set-up by the Committee of Ministers and requested its Chairperson to forward its views to the Assembly's President;
- **Transmission of candidatures to the Assembly (Article 22, ECHR):** held a discussion as to how current procedures are respected by States Parties;
- **Next meeting:** 18 September 2014 (Council of Europe Office, Paris), tbc.
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Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna, Anne-Katrin Speck

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