



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur/ (2014) CB 06

3 October 2014

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2014

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2014, with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **on Monday 29 September 2014 at 2pm,**
  - ***Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: What follow-up on Respect of Human Rights?*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and agreed to postpone the consideration of this item on the basis of a memorandum by the Rapporteur until the next meeting of the Committee in Madrid on 30 October 2014;
  - ***Access to justice through online instruments:*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to change the title of the report to "Access to justice and the Internet: potential and challenges". Authorised a hearing to be held at the next meeting of the Committee in Madrid with the participation of two experts, subject to the availability of funds;
  - ***How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC*): considered a revised introductory memorandum, agreed to authorise the participation of three experts in a hearing at the next meeting in Madrid on 30 October 2014 (subject to the availability of funds) and authorised a questionnaire to be sent to the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). Authorised fact-finding missions to be carried out in Azerbaijan, Hungary and the Russian Federation and agreed to declassify the revised introductory memorandum. ;
  - ***Refusing impunity for the killers of Sergei Magnitsky*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): considered an information note and agreed to transmit it to the President of the Assembly, asking her to transmit the note, Resolution 1966 (2014), Recommendation 2031 (2014), the report and addendum to the Presidents of the Parliaments of all Council of Europe member States and of the European Parliament, and to indicate to the President that in view of recent contacts between the Rapporteur and the chair of the Russian delegation, the Committee would appreciate if she could postpone the transmission of these documents to the intended recipients until after the Committee's meeting on 10 December 2014 in order to give the Committee the opportunity to modify its position if any new developments justify this.
- on Tuesday 30 September 2014 at 2pm,**
- ***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 Rapporteur's comments on the following recommendations on "Accountability of international organisations for human rights violations", "The European Convention on Human Rights: the need to reinforce the training of legal professionals" and "Access to nationality and the effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality". Heard a statement by Mr Beneyto (Spain, EPP/CD) on further follow-up to be given to

his report on "Accountability of international organisations for human rights violations" following the Committee of Ministers' reply.;

- **Drones and targeted killings: the need to uphold human rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Ben Emmerson, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion & protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, London;

Ms Irmina Pacho, Head of Strategic Litigation Programme, Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Warsaw;

Mr Markus Wagner, Associate Professor, School of Law, University of Miami, Florida, USA;

- **Other business:**

- **The situation of human rights defenders in Azerbaijan: upon a proposal** by Ms Mailis Reps (Estonia, ALDE), in her capacity as rapporteur on "Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states", adopted unanimously a statement deploring the recent arrests and convictions of human rights defenders and NGO leaders in Azerbaijan;

- **Sub-committees:** took note that on the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism, Mr Bernd Fabritius (Germany, EPP/CD) would be the alternate to Mr Volker Ulrich (Germany, EPP/CD), that on the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Ms Liv Holm Andersen (Denmark, ALDE) would replace Ms Lone Lokindt (ALDE), and that Mr Andrej Šircelj (Slovenia, EPP/CD) would replace Ms Romana Tomc (Slovenia, EPP/CD) on the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight Against Terrorism as well as on the Sub-Committee on Rule of Law;

- **Invitation to Armenia 2015:** accepted the official invitation received from the head of the Armenian delegation for the Committee to hold a meeting in Yerevan on 21-22 May 2015 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau);

- **World Forum on Democracy:** nominated Mr Konstantinos Triantafyllos (Greece, SOC) to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau attending the Forum on 3-5 November 2014 in Strasbourg;

- **on Thursday 2 October at 8.30am,**

- **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** heard a statement by the Chair with regard to the Sub-Committee's meeting held in Strasbourg on 1 October 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 Irish parliamentary delegation;

- **Other business (continuation):**

- **Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights:** heard a statement by the Chair of the Sub-Committee regarding the proposal of the Sub-Committee to the Assembly;

- **How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC*): agreed to the request of the Rapporteur to invite a fourth expert to the hearing on this report in Madrid on 30 October, subject to the availability of funds;

- **Next meetings:** took note of meetings to be held until the end of the year and confirmed the meeting in Paris on 10 December 2014;

*Plenary Committee:*

*Madrid, 30 October 2014 (followed by a parliamentary seminar on 31 October 2014)*

*Paris, 10 December 2014 (Council of Europe Office)*

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

*Paris, 15-16 January 2015, tbc*

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**The Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 1 October 2014 at 2pm, with Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi (Andorra, ALDE), in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered and made a recommendation on the list of candidates to the CPT in respect of Ireland;
- **Recent human rights developments:** heard a presentation by Mr Denis Krivosheev, Deputy Programme Director for Amnesty International's Europe and Central Asia Programme;
- **Next meeting:** during the Assembly's January 2015 part-session.

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**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 1 October 2014 at 2.30pm, with Lord John Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC), in the Chair, as regards:

- **Submission of candidatures:** held a discussion on the current state of play of candidatures and made a proposal to the Assembly regarding the list of candidates in respect of the Slovak Republic;
- **Next meeting:** 15-16 January 2015 (Council of Europe Office, Paris) tbc.

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