



SECRETARIAT

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4 November 2014

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Madrid, Spain on 30 October 2014

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Madrid on 30 October 2014 with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Thursday 30 October 2014 at 9.30am:**
- **Opening session on Human rights and the reinforcement of the rule of law in Spain** (open to the media): heard a welcoming address by Mr Jorge Fernández Díaz, Minister of Home Affairs of Spain, and interventions by Mr Ignacio Cosido Gutierrez, Director General of the National Police, and Mr Arsenio Fernández de Mesa, Director General of the Guardia Civil, and held an exchange of views on the subject;
- **Drones and targeted killings: the need to uphold human rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): considered a draft report and requested the rapporteur to revise certain aspects of the draft resolution and draft recommendation, taking into account comments by members which are to be submitted in writing to the secretariat by 30 November 2014. Agreed to re-schedule the adoption of the report by the Committee to January 2015;
- **Witness protection as an indispensable tool in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Arcadio Díaz Tejera, Spain, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - (i) Transparency and openness in European institutions (for report) – appointed Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC;
 - (ii) Urgent need to prevent human rights violations during peaceful protests (for report) – appointed Mr Antti Kaikkonen, Finland, ALDE;
 - (iii) Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards (for report) – appointed Mr Bernd Fabritius, Germany, EPP/CD;
 - (iv) The fate of critically ill prisoners in Turkish prisons (for report) – appointed Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC;
 - (v) Corruption as governance regime: a barrier to institutional efficiency and progress (for opinion) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Michele Nicoletti (Italy, SOC)*) – appointed Mr Robert Neill, United Kingdom, EC;
- **Access to justice and the Internet: potential and challenges** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Arno Lodder, Professor of Internet Governance and Regulation, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Mr Graham Ross, Founder and President of TheMediationRoom.com, member the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Advisory Group appointed by the Civil Justice Council of England and Wales, London;

- **How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Jeremy McBride, Barrister and human rights law expert, London
 - Mr Cyril Ritchie, President of the Expert Council on NGO Law of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg
 - Mr Kirill Koroteev, Senior Lawyer at the International Association « Memorial », Moscow
 - Ms Gulnara Akhundova, Programme Manager, International Media Support (IMS), Copenhagen;
- **Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe: What follow-up on Respect of Human Rights?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD*): considered an information note and agreed to return to this point at the next meeting.

Other business:

- **Extension of reference:** agreed to request the Bureau to extend the following reference until 31 December 2015: "Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights: Election of Judges"; Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE;
- **Human Rights Day – 10 December 2014** – to coincide with the next Committee meeting to be held in Paris agreed to the proposal made by the Chairperson to hold a "brainstorming" with representatives of civil society at the said meeting to pinpoint the most salient human rights issues which need to be addressed by the Committee. To this end, agreed to invite 2-3 experts, subject to the availability of funds. Also noted that the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights would call a meeting in the afternoon of 10 December, in order to continue the exchange of views with representatives of civil society;
- **Council of Europe working committee on prison overcrowding:** appointed Ms Meritxell Mateu Pi, Andorra, ALDE to attend this working committee, to be held in Strasbourg on 8-9 December 2014, at no cost to the Assembly;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings and confirmed the meeting to be held in Paris on 16 March 2015;

Plenary Committee:

Paris, 10 December 2014 (Council of Europe Office)

2015

- Paris, 16 March 2015 (Council of Europe Office)
- Yerevan, Armenia, 21-22 May 2015 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau)
- Paris, 3 September 2015 (Council of Europe Office) tbc
- Paris, 2 November 2015 (Council of Europe Office) tbc
- Paris, 7 December 2015 (Council of Europe Office) tbc

Sub-Committee on Human Rights:

- Paris, 10 December 2014

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

- Paris, 15-16 January 2015, tbc

- **Friday 31 October 2014 at 10am:** Committee members participated in a seminar on the "Role of national parliaments in the implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights", hosted by the Spanish Parliament and organised by the Assembly's Parliamentary Project Support Division.

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