



SECRETARIAT

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20 March 2015

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 18 March 2015

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2015, with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Improving the protection of whistleblowers** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Judicial Corruption: urgent need to implement the Assembly's proposals** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Administrative Detention** (*Rapporteur: Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD*): took note that Mr Conde stepped down as Rapporteur owing to commitments in the Spanish Parliament, and agreed to appoint a new rapporteur at the Committee's next meeting;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
 - The crash of Polish Air Force Tu-154 transporting the Polish delegation on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory (for report): appointed Mr Robert Neill (United Kingdom, EC);
 - Legal remedies to human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities (for report): appointed Ms Marieluse Beck (Germany, ALDE);
 - The Social services in Europe: legislation and practice of the removal of children from their families in Council of Europe member States (for opinion) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Ms Olga Borzova (Russian Federation, NR)*), re-appointment following the departure of Mr Volodymyr Pylypenko (Ukraine, SOC) from the Assembly: appointed Ms Olena Sotnyk (Ukraine, NR);
 - Freedom of speech on the internet: promoting a uniform approach (for opinion) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Adele Gambaro (Italy, ALDE)*): appointed Ms Arpine Hovhannisyán (Armenia, EPP/CD);
 - Draft Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (for possible debate under urgent procedure during the April part-session 2015): appointed Lord Tomlinson (United Kingdom, SOC), subject to the Assembly being seized for opinion by the Committee of Ministers;
- **Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bernd Fabritius, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and authorized the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the headquarters of Interpol in Lyon (France);
- **Exchange of views with the President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture:** held an exchange of views with Mr Latif Hüseyinov, former President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture;

- **Respect for human rights and the threat of terrorism:** held an exchange of views with Mr Ivan Koedjikov, Head of Department and Counter-terrorism Co-ordinator, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe, and Mr Dick Marty, former Swiss Senator, former Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:** took note of the reply from the Committee of Ministers on the “Reinforcement of the independence of the European Court of Human Rights”, and requested the Chairperson to write to the Chairperson of the Portuguese PACE delegation concerning his country’s non-ratification of the 6th Protocol to the Council of Europe’s Agreement on Privileges and Immunities;
- **Other business:**
 - **Illegal CIA detentions:** took note of the exchange of letters between the Chairperson of the Committee and the Secretary General with regard to the Secretary General’s predecessor’s inquiry under Article 52 of the European Convention on Human Rights on illegal CIA detentions, which is still formally open, in light of recent disclosures by the United States Senate, and invited the Chairperson to write to the Secretary General again, asking him to request further information from the authorities of, in particular, states concerned by relevant cases before the European Court of Human Rights;
 - **How to prevent inappropriate restrictions on NGO activities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC*): agreed to request the Bureau to extend the reference for this report until 31 December 2015;
 - **Human Rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michael McNamara, Ireland, SOC*): agreed to a request by the Rapporteur to invite up to three other experts to replace the representatives of the regional authorities invited to the hearing in Yerevan in case the latter are unable to participate, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **Transparency and openness in European institutions** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC*): agreed to a request of the Rapporteur to invite two experts to a hearing on the subject during the June 2015 part-session, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **Urgent need to prevent human rights violations during peaceful protests** (*Rapporteur: Mr Antti Kaikkonen, Finland, EPP/CD*): agreed to a request of the Rapporteur to invite two experts to a hearing on the subject during the June 2015 part-session, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **Sub-committees:** agreed to the following changes:
 - Belgium: Mr Philippe Mahoux (SOC) to be a titular member and Ms Sabien Lahaye-Battheu (ALDE) to be his alternate member on the Sub-committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Spain: Mr José María Beneyto (EPP/CD) to be added to the Sub-committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Ukraine: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (EPP/CD) to be added to the Sub-committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Italy: Mr Jonny Crosio (NR) to be replaced by Mr Sergio Divina (NR) on the Sub-committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism following changes to the composition of the Italian delegation. Also agreed to replace Mr Sandro Gozi (SOC) with Mr Michele Nicoletti as titular member on the Sub-committee on Human Rights and to add Ms Maria Teresa Bertuzzi (SOC) to the waiting list for the Sub-committee on the implementation of judgments to the European Court of Human Rights;
- **Georgia:** heard a statement by Ms Chiora Taktakishvili (Georgia, ALDE) on alleged recent attacks on members of the Opposition in her country;

- **Written questions to the Committee of Ministers:** heard a statement by Mr Pieter Omtzigt on the lack of timely and substantive replies, by the Committee of Ministers, to written questions posed by parliamentarians;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the forthcoming meetings:

Plenary Committee:

Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2015 (20-24 April 2015)

Yerevan, Armenia, 19-20 May 2015

Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2015 (22-26 June 2015)

Paris, 3 September 2015 (Council of Europe Office) tbc

Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2015 (28 September – 2 October 2015)

Paris, 2 November 2015 (Council of Europe Office) tbc

Paris, 7 December 2015 (Council of Europe Office) 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