



SECRETARIAT

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22 April 2016

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 18-21 April 2016

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 18 to 21 April 2016 with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- on Monday 18 April 2016 at 2 pm,
 - **Evaluation of the Partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council (follow-up to Resolution 1969 (2014))** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Şaban Dişli, Turkey, EPP/CD*) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and considered and approved the Committee's opinion;
 - **Human Rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michael McNamara, Ireland, SOC*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- on Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 8.30 am with Mr Morten Wold 3rd Vice-Chairperson (Norway, EC), in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Co-operation with the International Criminal Court: towards a concrete and expanded commitment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Alain Destexhe, Belgium, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum. Agreed to the request of the Rapporteur to hold a hearing with two experts at the next Committee meeting, subject to the availability of funds;

Then with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair as regards:

- **Meeting in Rome on 17-18 May 2016 "Annual Ticket"**: the Committee was informed that the Bureau had approved this meeting and that information pertaining to it would be sent to members before the end of the week;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**

For report:

- Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the "Cairo Declaration"?: appointed Ms Meritxell Mateu (Andorra, ALDE) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:** took note of the reply from the Committee of Ministers to Assembly Recommendation 2079 (2015) on "Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights";

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc.:** heard reports by the following representatives on the events they had attended:
 - The Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission) 10 March 2016: Ms Eka Beselia (Georgia, SOC)
 - 106th plenary session of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), 11-12 March 2016: Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium SOC)
 - 71st plenary meeting of GRECO, 14-18 March 2016: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD);
- **Other business:**
 - Sub-committees: appointed Mr Şaban Dişli (Turkey, EPP/CD) member of the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism;

Then with Mr Morten Wold (Norway, EC) in the Chair as regards:
- **Human Rights compatibility of investor-State arbitration in international investment protection agreements** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Alfred de Zayas, UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Switzerland
 Mr Nikos Lavranos, Secretary General of EFILA (European Federation for Investment Law and Arbitration), the Netherlands
 Mr Peter Schneiderhan, Prosecutor, member of the Bureau of the German Association of Judges (Deutscher Richterbund) and Chairman of its Commission on European Law, Germany;

 - **on Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 2 pm** with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) and Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), (Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy), chairing:
- **The conflict in Eastern Ukraine: political and human rights concerns:** held a joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy. Heard statements on the joint fact-finding visit to Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Mariupol from 4 to 7 April 2016 by Ms Kristýna Zeličková (Czech Republic, ALDE), Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the *Political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine* and Ms Marieluise Beck (Germany, ALDE), Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the *Legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities* and held an exchange of views with:

Mr Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
 Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Special Advisor of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (SASG) for Ukraine;

 - **on Thursday 21 April 2016 at 08.30 am** with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair,
- **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** heard a report from the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting it held in Strasbourg on Wednesday 20 April 2016 and endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the list submitted by the delegation of Azerbaijan;
- **Other business:**
 - Václav Havel Human Rights Prize: the Committee was reminded of the 30 April 2016 deadline for the submission of applications for the Prize;
 - Strengthening the rule of law in South-East European countries through targeted reform of the legal system (*Rapporteur: Mr Bernd Fabritius, Germany, EPP/CD*): the Committee authorised the Rapporteur to undertake fact-finding visits to Bulgaria, Romania and the Republic of Moldova, subject to the availability of funds;
 - Sub-committees: appointed Mr Orsat Miljenić and Mr Domagoj Hajduković as full members of the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism and Mr Domagoj Hajduković as a full member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights;

The Committee was informed that the election of Mr Şaban Dişli (Turkey, EPP/CD) as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and Fight against Terrorism at the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Monday 18th April 2016 was void owing to the fact that he is already Vice-Chairperson on the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs (See Rule 46.4 of the Rules of Procedure). The election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee would be on the agenda again at the June 2016 part-session;

- **The crash of Polish Air Force Tu 154 transporting the Polish delegation on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michael McNamara, Ireland, SOC*): agreed to the request by the Rapporteur to declassify the extracts of the minutes pertaining to this subject at the meetings of 7 March 2016 and 29 September 2015 as well as the introductory memorandum prepared by the previous Rapporteur with a view to the preparation of a compilation document for the next Committee meeting;
- **Exchange of views with the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the Justice Committee of the House of Commons**: held and exchange of views with the Chairs and members of the JCHR and Justice Committee;
- **Next meetings**: took note and confirmed its forthcoming meetings. The Committee was alerted to the fact that the date and place of the December meeting may change;

Plenary Committee:

- Rome, 17-18 May 2016
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2016 (20-24 June 2016)
- Paris, 6 September 2016 (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2016 (10-14 October 2016)
- Paris, 8 November 2016 (Council of Europe Office)
- Paris, 13 December 2016 (Council of Europe Office), tbc.

The Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 18 April 2016 at 2.50 pm, with Mr Phillippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau**: elected Mr Şaban Dişli (Turkey, EPP/CD) as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee¹;
- **Next meeting**: during the June part-session 2016.

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on 20 April 2016 at 2 pm, with Ms Inese Lībiņa-Egnere (Latvia, EPP/CD), as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)**: considered and made recommendations to the plenary committee for the list of candidates to the CPT in respect of Azerbaijan;
- **Next meeting**: during the June part-session 2016.

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna, Isild Heurtin

¹ Mr Dişli's election was later declared void owing to the fact that he is already Vice-Chairperson on the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs (see Rule 46.4 of the Rules of Procedure).

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Director 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