



SECRETARIAT

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3 July 2017

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 26-29 June 2017

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 26 to 29 June 2017, as regards:

- on Monday 26 June 2017 at 2.00 pm (with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair),
  - **Parliamentary Seminar on the “European Court of Human Rights: the way forward, achievements and challenges”**: decided to open the seminar, scheduled for Tuesday 27 June, to the public and to broadcast and video-record it;
  - **Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Vusal Huseynov, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD*) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Michele Nicoletti, Italy, SOC*): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and considered and approved the Committee’s opinion;
  - **Human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC*) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement of no conflict of interest from the Rapporteur; considered a report tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons; approved some of the amendments proposed in the draft opinion and decided to return to the opinion the following morning owing to lack of time;
- on Tuesday 27 June 2017 at 8.30 am (with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair),
  - **Human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC*) (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Greece, EPP/CD*): continued the consideration of the report tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons; approved the remaining amendments proposed in the draft opinion; and considered and approved the Committee’s opinion;
  - **Towards a democratic approach to the issues of governance in European multinational States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Alain Destexhe, Belgium, ALDE*): agreed to change the title to “Towards a democratic approach to the issues of self-determination and secession” and considered and approved an information report with a view to presenting it to the Standing Committee at a forthcoming meeting;
  - **Call for rapporteurs**: made a call for rapporteurs for the following report: *Co-operation with United Nations human rights mechanisms – a challenge for the Council of Europe and its member States*;

– **References to the Committee from the Bureau:**

*Human rights situation in the occupied regions of Georgia*: following a request from the Bureau on possible follow-up decided to request the Bureau to be seized for a report on this subject;

*Sergei Magnitsky and beyond – fighting impunity by targeted sanctions*: took note of the motion referred to the Committee for information and decided to request the Bureau to be seized for a report on this matter;

– **Other business:**

- **Sub-Committees**: agreed to the following requests from the Romanian delegation,

**Sub-Committee on Human Rights:**

Mr Titus Corlăţean (SOC) to become the alternate to Mrs Alina-Ştefania Gorghiu (EPP/CD);

**Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism:**

Mr Gheorghe-Dinu Socotar (SOC) to become the alternate to Mr Corneliu-Mugurel Cozmanciuc (EPP/CD) instead of Mr Mihai Tudose;

– **World Forum for Democracy**: proposed the following members to the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau attending the World Forum on Democracy on 8-10 November 2017 in Strasbourg: Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC), Ms Eka Beselia (Georgia, SOC) and Mr Sergio Divina (Italy, NR) (in addition to those proposed at the Belgrade meeting on 18 May 2017);

• **on Tuesday 27 June 2017 at 2 pm** (with Mr Alain Destexhe (Belgium, ALDE) in the Chair),

– **Parliamentary Seminar on the “European Court of Human Rights: the way forward, achievements and challenges”**: held a seminar with the participation of Professor Marc Bossuyt, Emeritus Professor, University of Antwerp, Emeritus President on the Constitutional Court of Belgium; Professor Krzysztof Drzewicki, Chair of International Public Law, University of Gdansk and former Agent of the Government of Poland before the European Court of Human Rights; and Dr. Peter Schneiderhan, Senior Prosecutor, member of the bureaus of the German Association of Judges (Deutscher Richterbund) and of the European Association of Judges (Stuttgart, Germany);

• **on Thursday 29 June 2017 at 8.30 am** (with Mr Frank Schwabe, (Germany, SOC) in the Chair),

– **Parliamentary Seminar on the “European Court of Human Rights: the way forward, achievements and challenges”**: on a point of order, took note of the criticism expressed by a number of members regarding the lack of overall balance in the composition of the panel of experts and those members’ objection to the Committee’s involvement in such an exercise;

– **Sub-Committee on Human Rights**: heard a report by Mr Georgii Logvynskyi (Ukraine, EPP/CD), member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, on the meeting held in Strasbourg on Wednesday 28 June 2017 and endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the delegations of Slovenia, Croatia, Georgia, Netherlands and Sweden; agreed to postpone consideration of the list in respect of Spain until the following part-session;

– **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (9<sup>th</sup> report)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pierre-Yves Le Borgn’, France, SOC*): took position on one amendment to the draft resolution and on three amendments to the draft recommendation;

– **Venice Commission’s “Rule of Law Checklist”** (*Rapporteur: Mr Philippe Mahoux, Belgium, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution; agreed to the proposal of the Rapporteur to ask the Bureau to invite the President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) to speak during the debate on this subject, scheduled for the October 2017 part-session;

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc:** heard a report by Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC) on the 110<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> plenary sessions of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), 10-11 March 2017 and 16-17 June 2017;
- **Other business:**
  - **The need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov** (*Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD)*): agreed to the Rapporteur's request to hold a hearing on the subject during the October part-session 2017, and to conduct an official visit to the Russian Federation in order to observe the court hearing at which the final decision in the criminal trial would be delivered, both subject to the availability of funds;
  - **Fighting organised crime by facilitating the confiscation of illegal assets** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mart van de Ven (Netherlands, ALDE)*): agreed to the Rapporteur's request to hold a hearing on the international cooperation aspect of the subject during a subsequent meeting, subject to the availability of funds;
  - **Prosecuting and punishing the crimes against humanity or even possible genocide committed by Daesh** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt; Netherlands, EPP/CD*): agreed to the proposal of the Rapporteur to ask the Bureau to invite a representative of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic to the debate on this subject, currently scheduled for the October 2017 or the January 2018 part-session;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its forthcoming meeting on 5 September 2017.

*Plenary Committee:*

- Paris, 5 September 2017 (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of 2017 (9-13 October 2017)
- Paris, 13 November 2017 (Council of Europe Office) (to be confirmed)
- Paris, 12 December 2017 (Council of Europe Office) (to be confirmed)

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**The Sub-Committee on Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 28 June 2017 at 2.00 pm, with Mr Georgii Logvynskyi (Ukraine, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered and made recommendations to the plenary Committee for the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in respect of: Slovenia, Croatia, Georgia, Netherlands and Sweden; agreed to postpone consideration of the list in respect of Spain until the October part-session 2017;
- **Next meeting:** during the October 2017 part-session.

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Isild Heurtin

Copy to:

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