



SECRETARIAT

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2 July 2018

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 25-28 June 2018

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 June 2018, as regards:

- on **Monday 25 June 2018 at 2.00 pm**, with first Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC) in the Chair, as regards,
 - **Resignation of the Chair:** took note of the resignation of the Committee's Chair, Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC), following his election to the post of Chairperson of the Socialist, Democrats and Greens Group (SOC);
- then with Lord Richard Balfe (United Kingdom, EC), oldest member present, in the Chair,
 - **Election of the Chair:** the Committee elected Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;
- then with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) in the Chair,
 - **Committee hearings:** agreed that all hearings on the Committee's agenda would be open to the public, subject to possible objections by the rapporteurs or invited experts;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure "Ukrainian citizens detained as political prisoners by the Russian Federation"¹:** appointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) as rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **The crash of Polish Air Force Tu-154 transporting the Polish delegation on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory** (Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and the rule of law, in Malta and beyond: ensuring that the whole truth emerges** (Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum. Agreed to the Rapporteur's requests for a fact-finding visit to Malta and a hearing with experts (both subject to the availability of funds) and to declassify the introductory memorandum;

¹ Original title: "Threats to the health and life of Ukrainian prisoners in the Russian Federation and occupied Crimea", amended by the Committee on 26 June 2018.

- on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 8.30 am with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) in the Chair,
- **Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and the rule of law, in Malta and beyond: ensuring that the whole truth emerges (continued)** (Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD): at the request of the Rapporteur (in absentia), authorised him to receive information from sources who provide it on condition of anonymity and protect their identity thereafter;
- **Protecting human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States** (Rapporteur: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD): took position on 6 amendments to the draft resolution and 4 amendments to the draft recommendation;
- then with Lord Richard Balfe (United Kingdom, EC), oldest member present, in the Chair,
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**
For report:
Political prisoners in Azerbaijan: appointed Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- then again with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) in the Chair,
- **Appointment of rapporteurs (continued)**
For report:
Human rights and business – what follow-up to Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3?
Following the departure of the previous rapporteur, Mr Vusal Huseynov (Azerbaijan, EPP/CD), from the Assembly, appointed Mr Elshad Hasanov (Azerbaijan, FDG) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
For opinion:
Anonymous donation of gametes: balancing the rights of parents, donors and offspring (Rapporteur for the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Ms Petra de Sutter, Belgium, SOC) appointed Ms Sabien Lahaye-Battheu (Belgium, ALDE) in absentia and noted that a declaration of absence of conflict of interest would be made by the rapporteur at a forthcoming meeting;
- **Debate under urgent procedure “Ukrainian citizens detained as political prisoners by the Russian Federation”:** (Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, PPE/DC) considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Extra-territorial processing of asylum claims and the creation of safe refugee shelters abroad:** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD) (Rapporteur for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: Mr Domagoj Hajduković): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and considered and approved the Committee's opinion;
- **Ensuring greater follow-up of CPT recommendations: enhanced role of the Parliamentary Assembly and of national parliaments** (Rapporteur: Mr Damir Arnaut, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to the Rapporteur's requests to hold a hearing with experts at a future meeting, subject to the availability of funds, and to send a questionnaire to national parliaments;
- **World Forum for Democracy:** was informed that members interested in participating should notify the secretariat;

- ***New challenges in the fight against organised crime and money laundering – the need to improve international co-operation*** (Rapporteur: Mr Mart van de Ven, Netherlands, ALDE): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Paul Radu, Executive Director of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Bucharest, Romania, and Ms Maira Martini, Knowledge and Policy Coordinator, Transparency International;
- **on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 2pm,**
- ***Forced marriage in Europe*** (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC) (Rapporteur for the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and considered and approved the Committee's opinion;
- ***New restrictions on NGO activities in Council of Europe member States*** (Rapporteur: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC): took position on 6 amendments to the draft resolution and one amendment to the draft recommendation;
- ***Deal-making in criminal proceedings: the need for minimum standards for trial waiver systems*** (Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Werner Beulke, Professor emeritus (University of Passau, Germany), practicing defence lawyer, Mr Ralph Bunche, Regional Director of the Brussels Office, Fair Trials Europe;
- ***Withdrawing citizenship as a measure to combat terrorism: a human rights-compatible approach?*** (Rapporteur: Ms Tineke Strik, Netherlands, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to the rapporteur's requests to hold a hearing with experts at a future meeting, subject to the availability of funds, and send out a questionnaire to national parliaments delegations and to national human rights institutions to gather further information;
- ***Other business :***
 - ***Sub-committee on the Implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights:*** agreed to the request of the United Kingdom delegation to replace Mr Alex Chalk (EC) with Sir Christopher Chope (EC) (with Sir Edward Leigh remaining as alternate);
- **on Thursday 28 June 2018 at 8.30 am** with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, (Iceland, SOC) in the Chair,
- ***Co-operation with United Nations human rights mechanisms – a challenge for the Council of Europe and its member States*** (Rapporteur: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe;
- ***Debate under urgent procedure "Ukrainian citizens detained as political prisoners by the Russian Federation"*** (Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD): took position on 5 amendments to the draft resolution;
- ***Protecting human rights during transfers of prisoners*** (Rapporteur: Mr Emanuel Mallia, Malta, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of Mr James McManus, expert of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, former Professor of Criminal Justice, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom and Ms Heather McGill, Researcher, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Programme, Amnesty International, London, United Kingdom;
- ***Election of the 3rd Vice-Chairperson of the Committee:*** postponed until the October 2018 part-session;
- ***Request for the creation of a General Rapporteurship on the situation of Human Rights Defenders:*** approved the mandate for a General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and agreed to submit it to the Bureau for approval;

– **Next meetings**

Plenary Committee

- Paris, 10 September 2018 (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2018 (8-12 October 2018)
- Paris, 13 December 2018 (Council of Europe Office)

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Kelly Sipp

The Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 27 June 2018 at 3pm with Ms Eka Beselia (Georgia, SOC) in the Chair as regards:

- **Work programme of the Sub-Committee:** agreed to hold an exchange of views with a staff member of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the Council of Europe, a staff member of the Court's Registry and a representative of civil society, regarding non-implementation of the Court's judgments, during the October part-session;
- **Next meeting:** Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2018 (8-12 October 2018)

Agnieszka Szklanna, Kelly Sipp

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly
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