



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2019) CB 05
1 July 2019

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24-27 June 2019

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 24-27 June 2019:

- **On Monday 24 June 2019 at 3pm**, with Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) (2nd Vice-Chairperson), in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Improving the protection of whistleblowers all over Europe*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Sylvain Waserman France, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **On Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 9.15am** with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) (Chairperson) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***World Forum for Democracy***: called for candidates to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau attending the World Forum on Democracy on 6-8 November 2019 in Strasbourg and noted the interest of Mr. Ziya Altunyalı (Turkey, NR) and Mr Norbert Kleinwaechter (Germany, NR);
 - ***OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 10 October 2019)***: called for candidates to the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 10 October 2019) and noted the interest of Mr. Ziya Altunyalı (Turkey, NR);
 - ***Ending impunity for attacks on journalists***, Geneva, Switzerland, 27 June 2019: noted that Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Rapporteur on “*Daphne Caruana Galizia’s assassination and the rule of law, in Malta and beyond: ensuring that the whole truth emerges*” will attend this event at no cost to the Assembly;
 - ***Drug policy and human rights in Europe: a baseline study*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Hannah Bardell, United Kingdom, NR*): authorised the Rapporteur to send a questionnaire to national delegations; noted the Rapporteur’s visit to the drug consumption room in Strasbourg on 28 June 2019; authorised Ms Bardell to participate in the Pompidou Group’s 85th Meeting of Permanent Correspondents on 20 November 2019 in Strasbourg (at no cost to the Assembly); and agreed to declassify the Rapporteur’s introductory memorandum;
 - ***The continuing need to restore human rights and the rule of law in the North Caucasus region*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Joanna Evans, Barrister, Legal Director, European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC) School of Law, Middlesex University, United Kingdom
 - Dr Rebecca Gowland, Associate Professor (Reader) in Human Bioarchaeology, Department of Archaeology, Durham University, United Kingdom

- Mr Tim Thompson, Professor of Applied Biological Anthropology and Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) School of Science, Engineering & Design, Teesside University, United Kingdom
- Mr Fredrik Sundberg, Head of Department Ad Interim, Department for the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Directorate General 1 – Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

- **On Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 2.30pm** as regards:

- ***Ombudsman Institutions in Europe – the need for a set of common standards*** (*Rapporteur: Lord Richard Balfe, United Kingdom, EC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- ***Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc***: took note of the oral report from Lord Richard Balfe (United Kingdom, EC) on the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission), 20 June 2019;
- ***Hearings during the next meeting***: decided to open the following hearings foreseen for the autumn part-session 2019 to the public:
 - two hearings on “The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 10th report” (*Rapporteur: Mr Evangelos Venizelos, Greece, SOC*);
 - a hearing on “The protection of freedom of religion or belief in the workplace” (*Rapporteur: Mr Davor Stier, Croatia, EPP/CD*); and
 - a joint hearing on the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) with the Committee on Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee);

- **On Wednesday 26 June 2019 at 2pm** as regards:

- ***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*): took position on 16 amendments to the draft resolution;
- ***Human rights and climate change***: postponed;
- ***Situation of Human Rights defenders in Council of Europe member States*** (*General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders: Mr Raphaël Comte, Switzerland, ALDE*): considered an information note, and authorised the General Rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to France and Spain and to organise a hearing with up to three experts (both subject to the availability of funds); authorised the declassification of his information note;
- ***The principles and guarantees of advocates*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Georgii Logvytskyi, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum and authorised a hearing with up to three experts (subject to the availability of funds) and agreed that the hearing be open to the public;

- **On Thursday 27 June 2019 at 8.30am** with Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson (Sweden, SOC) (Chairperson of the Sub-committee on Human Rights), in the Chair, as regards:

- ***The need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): took position on 4 amendments to the draft resolution;

Then with Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) (2nd Vice-Chairperson), in the Chair, as regards:

- ***Sub-Committee on Human Rights***: heard a report from the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights regarding the meeting held in Strasbourg on Tuesday 25 June 2019; endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning the order of preference amongst candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) on the lists presented by the delegations of Italy, Ireland, Montenegro et Azerbaijan, for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly;
- ***Extradition requests and the abuse of process*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution; agreed to change the title of the report to “Interpol reform and extradition proceedings: building trust by fighting abuse”;

- **Other business:**
 - **Letter from the Kosovo¹ consulate general:** took note of a non-paper addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee regarding an incident involving Mr Mikhail Karsnoshchenkov, a UN diplomat of Russian nationality, and his subsequent ban on access to Kosovo, and agreed to continue discussion of this matter at its next meeting;
 - **Conference on “public opinion and death penalty”:** authorised the participation of the General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty, Mr Titus Corlătean (Romania, SOC), in the aforementioned conference taking place in Minsk on 27 August 2019, co-organised by the Council of Europe Directorate General on Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DG 1), at no cost to the Assembly;
 - **The principles and guarantees of advocates (Rapporteur: Mr Georgii Logvynskiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD):** agreed to the declassification of the Rapporteur’s introductory memorandum;
 - **Sub-Committees:** agreed to the request of the Andorran delegation that Ms Eva López (ALDE) should become a titular member of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights;
- **Human rights and business – what follow-up to Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3? (Rapporteur: Mr Elshad Hasanov, Azerbaijan, FDG):** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Jo Reyes, Director, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI), United Kingdom
 - Ms Claire Methven O’Brien, Chief Adviser, Human Rights and Business, The Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen, Denmark
 - Ms Anita Ramasastry, member of the United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, Roland L. Hjorth Professor of Law and Director of the Graduate Program in Sustainable International Development at the University of Washington School of Law (United States) (via video conference);
- **Work Programme:** postponed;
- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 4th part-session of 2019 (30 September - 4 October 2019)
 - Berlin, 14-15 November 2019 (Bundestag)
 - Paris, 10 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office) (to be confirmed)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 2pm, with Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson (Sweden, SOC) (Chairperson) in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** examined the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) presented by the delegations of Italy, Ireland, Montenegro and Azerbaijan;
- **Next meeting:** during the autumn 2019 part-session.

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Kelly Sipp

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation’s Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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