



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2020) CB 02

9 June 2020

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 5 June 2020

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting by videoconference on 5 June 2020, with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Opening intervention by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Rik Daems:** heard an opening statement by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Rik Daems;
- **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights and the rule of law:** appointed Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
- **The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 10<sup>th</sup> report** (*Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Misuse of the Schengen system by Council of Europe member States as a politically-motivated sanction** (*Rapporteur: Ms Irina Rukavishnikova, Russian Federation, NR*): considered a revised introductory memorandum and approved the revised draft questionnaire to be sent to national delegations through the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD); noted that the rapporteur's request for the authorisation of a hearing with up to three experts and of a fact-finding visit to Brussels has been approved in the written consultation procedure, both subject to the availability of funds;
- **The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human rights and the rule of law** (*Rapporteur: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD*): heard a presentation from Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General for Human Rights and Rule of Law, on the Secretary General's Toolkit to member States on respecting democracy, rule of law and human rights in the framework of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis and held an exchange of views on the topic in the light also of the webinars organised by the Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Sub-committee on Human Rights on 27 April 2020;
- **Other business:** considered a request to discuss constitutional reforms in the Russian Federation at its next meeting and asked its Chairperson to consult the Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), with a view to co-ordinating the two committees' activities on this issue, and, on that basis, to consider adding the item to the draft agenda of the next meeting;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed the next meeting to be held by video conference on 29 June 2020:

*Plenary Committee:*

- 29 June 2020 (9.30am -12.15pm and 2.30pm-5pm) by video conference
- Paris, 9 September 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (to be confirmed);
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of 2020 (12-15 October 2020);

- 9-10 November 2020, Komotini, Thrace, Greece (subject to availability of funds)
- Paris, 8 December 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (to be confirmed).

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Kelly Sipp

cc: 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