



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2020) CB 06

10 November 2020

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

Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 9 November 2020

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting by videoconference on 9 November 2020, with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Urgent need to strengthen Financial Intelligence Units – Sharper tools needed to improve confiscation of illegal assets** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Investment migration** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Pieter Omtzigt Netherlands, EPP/CD, Rapporteur for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD*): considered and approved an opinion and twelve amendments to the report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:**
Addressing issues of criminal and civil liability in the context of climate change: appointed Mr Ziya Altunyaldiz (Turkey, NR) and heard from him a statement of no conflict of interest;
- **The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 10th report –** (*Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC*) considered and adopted an amendment to the draft resolution and approved an addendum to the report including the replacement of Appendices No 1 and No 2 to the draft report by the updated appendices contained in the addendum;
- **Human rights violations in Belarus require an international investigation** (*Rapporteur: Ms Alexandra Louis, France ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum and authorised the Rapporteur to organise a hearing with invited experts at the next meeting, to contact representatives of the authorities and of civil society and to send a questionnaire to national parliaments via the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) on universal jurisdiction;
- **Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Geneva conventions: the contribution of the Council of Europe to the increasing synergy between International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law** (*Rapporteur: Lord Balfe, United Kingdom, NR*): postponed to the next meeting due to lack of time;
- **Emergence of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and their necessary apprehension through European human rights law** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fabien Gouttefarde, France, ALDE*): postponed to next meeting due to lack of time;
- **Restrictions on NGO activities in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Ms Alexandra Louis, France, ALDE*): considered an information note and held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Jeremy McBride, barrister, President of the Expert Council on NGO law, INGO Conference
Ms Waltraud Heller, Programme Officer - Civil Society, Institutional Cooperation & Networks,
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Austria

Mr Martin Kuijer, member of the Venice Commission for the Netherlands;

- **Addressing the issue of Daesh foreign fighters and their families returning from Syria and other countries to the member States of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, the Netherlands, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Sinan Can, Investigative journalist/ documentary director, Dutch public television BNNVARA, the Netherlands;

Dr. Lars Otte, Senior public prosecutor, Office of the Federal Prosecutor General at the Federal Court of Justice, Germany;

- **Judges in Poland and in the Republic of Moldova must remain independent** (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Orlando, Italy, SOC) held an exchange of views with the participation of:

Mr Jędrzej Kondek, member of the National Council of the Judiciary, Poland

Mr Dariusz Mazur, judge at the Regional Court in Cracow, 3rd Penal Section, spokesman for the Judges' Association Themis, Poland

Mrs Anna Dalkowska, Deputy Minister of Justice, Poland

Mr Radu Foltea, State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Moldova;

- **Hearings during the next meeting:** agreed to open the following hearings foreseen for the meeting on 8 December 2020 to the public, subject to the agreement of the speakers:

- i. Political prisoners in the Russian Federation
Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC
- ii. Human rights violations in Belarus require an international investigation
Rapporteur: Ms Alexandra Louis, France, ALDE
- iii. The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States
General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders: Ms Alexandra Louis (France, ALDE);

- **Other business:**

Sub-Committee on Human Rights: agreed to the request of Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) to become a titular member;

Progress of reports by virtual fact-finding: took note of the secretariat's availability to advise and assist Rapporteurs on the use of videoconferencing for fact-finding activities;

- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- 8 December 2020 by videoconference.

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Marina Makarova

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
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