



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2021) CB 02

28 January 2021

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

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held in hybrid format on 25 and 27 January 2021

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in hybrid format on 25 and 27 January 2021:

- **on Monday 25 January 2021 at 2.30pm**, with Lord Richard Balfe (United Kingdom, NR), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:** elected, by acclamation, Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) as Chairperson, Mr Edmon Marukyan (Armenia, ALDE) as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson, Mr Dimitrios Kairidis (Greece, EPP/CD) as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson and Mr Martin Graf (Austria, EC/DA) as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson;
    - then with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair:
  - **Constitution of sub-committees:** re-constituted the following sub-committees for 2021, noting their composition to be agreed at the next meeting:
    - i. Sub-Committee on Human Rights
    - ii. Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
    - iii. Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights
  - **Appointment of a General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders:** renewed the mandate of Ms Alexandra Louis (France, ALDE) (appointed on 30.01.2020) for a further year;
  - **The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC):** took position on 7 amendments to the draft resolution;
  - **Judges in Poland and in the Republic of Moldova must remain independent (Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Orlando (Italy, SOC):** took position on 21 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **on Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 2 pm**, with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair: with as regards:
  - **Restrictions on NGO activities in Council of Europe member States (Rapporteur: Ms Alexandra Louis (France, ALDE):** took position on 2 amendments to the draft resolution and 2 amendments to the draft recommendation. Agreed to a request from the Rapporteur to request the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) for an opinion on the compatibility with international human rights standards of Law no. 7262 on the Prevention of Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction recently passed by Turkey's National Assembly, amending the Law on Associations and Law on Aid Collection;

- **Hearings during the next meeting:** agreed to hold a *second hearing on the Poisoning of Alexei Navalny* (*Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Maire, France, ALDE*) at the meeting on 11 March 2021 and that both this and the hearing foreseen at the same meeting on **Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> 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*) be open to the public, conditional on the agreement of the invited speakers;
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:** decided to propose to the Bureau the following nominations for representatives of the Committee to the following bodies for 2021:
  - i. European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)  
 Titular member: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD)  
 Substitute: Lord Richard Balfe (United Kingdom, NR)
  - ii. Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission)  
 Titular member: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez (Spain, SOC)  
 Substitute: Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC/DA)
  - iii. Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)  
 Titular member: Mr Pere López (Andorra, SOC)  
 Substitute: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD)
  - iv. Moneyval  
 Titular member: Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC)  
 Substitute: Sir Edward Leigh (United Kingdom, EC/DA)
- **The arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny in January 2021:** agreed to the provisional appointment of a rapporteur, subject to the committee being seized for report, as possible follow-up to the forthcoming current affairs debate on the issue, by the Bureau and the Standing Committee at their next meetings, and to the provisional appointment of Mr Jacques Maire (France, ALDE) as rapporteur, subject to the same conditions; heard a statement of no conflict of interest from Mr Maire;
- **Reported cases of Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur for follow-up to Resolution 2322 (2020): Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): agreed to the Rapporteur's proposal to ask the Chair to raise the issue of the refusal of the Chairperson of the delegation of Azerbaijan to co-operate with the Rapporteur on follow-up to [Resolution 2322 \(2020\)](#) at the forthcoming Bureau meeting;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2021: call for nominations:** noted the procedure and deadline of 30 April 2021 for submissions of candidates, including the relevant information available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);
- **Next meetings:** confirmed the next meeting on 11 March and noted that members would be informed in due course of the format the meeting will take;

*Plenary Committee:*

- 11 March 2021
- during the Assembly's 2<sup>nd</sup> part-session of 2021 (19-23 April 2021)
- 10 May 2021, t.b.c.
- during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of 2021 (21-25 June 2021)
- 14 September 2021, t.b.c.
- during the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> part-session of 2021 (27 September - 1 October 2021)
- 5 November 2021, t.b.c.
- 7 December 2021, t.b.c.

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Marina Makarova

Copy to:

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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