



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2022) CB 04

4 May 2022

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in a hybrid manner in Strasbourg on 29 April 2022

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in a hybrid manner in Strasbourg on 29 April 2022 at 2pm, with Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards;

- **Should politicians be prosecuted for statements made in the exercise of their mandates** (*Rapporteur for follow-up to Assembly [Resolution 2381 \(2021\)](#): Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Rafael Ribo, Catalan Ombudsman, Barcelona, Spain,
Mr Marc Lamuà, member of the Spanish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly,
Mr Riza Türmen, spokesperson of the Executive Committee of the Human Rights Center of the Union of the Turkish Bar Associations and former judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Ankara, Turkey;

- **The human rights situation in Belarus** (*Rapporteur for follow-up to Assembly [Resolution 2372 \(2021\)](#) on “Human rights violations in Belarus require an international investigation”: Ms Alexandra Louis, France, ALDE*) and *Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on “Call for an inclusive national political process in Belarus”, Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*:: held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Valery Kavaleuski, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya’s representative on foreign affairs and head of cabinet, Vilnius, Lithuania
Ms Olga Karach, director of the International Center for Civil Initiatives “Our House”, Belarus,
Ms Iryna Vidavana, member of the Bureau of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, Belarus;

- **Exchange of views with the mayor of Melitopol, Ukraine, Mr Ivan Fedorov**: postponed;
- **Hearings during the next meeting**: agreed to hold the following public hearings at the next meeting on 23 May 2022 with experts, subject to the availability of funds:

Preventing vaccine discrimination (*Rapporteur: Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*);

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*);

- **Other business:**

Procedure in Committee: postponed until the next meeting;

Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2022: noted the extension of the deadline for candidates until 30 June 2022;

Ad hoc sub-committee of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on carrying out a fact-finding visit to Ukraine for the purpose of gathering information on possible war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine: reminded members of the Bureau's request to ensure gender balance in the constitution of this ad hoc committee and invited political groups to submit their candidatures to be discussed at the meeting on 23 May 2022;

Colloquy on "International Law, Europe and Switzerland", 20 May 2022, Neuchâtel, Switzerland: authorised the Chair to represent the Committee at this event at no cost to the Assembly;

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc.:** took note of the written report prepared by Committee representative, Mr Titus Corlăţean, (Romania, SOC), following his attendance online at the 90th Plenary meeting of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), 21-25 March 2022;
- **Next meetings:** noted the next meeting on 23 May 2022 in Paris would mark a return to fully presential committee meetings and that KUDO links would only be provided to the Ukrainian members of the Assembly to allow them to fully participate in Committee business;

Plenary Committee:

- 23 May 2022, Paris office, fully presential.
- during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2022 (20-24 June 2022)
- 5-6 September 2022 – Bern and Neuchâtel, Switzerland (subject to approval by the Bureau and the availability of funds) (fully presential)
- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2022 (10-14 October 2022)
- 14 November 2022, t.b.c.
- 12 December 2022, t.b.c.

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, Agnieszka Szklanna, Lilian Apostol

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