



SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2022) CB 10

15 December 2022

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 12 December 2022

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 12 December 2022, with Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC/DA), third Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:

- **Hearings / Exchange of views during the meeting:** agreed to open to the public the exchange of views scheduled during the morning with the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the parliament of the United Kingdom and noted the hearings foreseen during the meeting would be streamed;
- **Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD)*): held a hearing (open to the public) with the participation of:

Mr Krzysztof Brejza, Member of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland accompanied by his lawyer, Ms Dorota Brejza, Poland

Ms Diana Riba, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-president of the PEGA committee of the European Parliament (Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware), Spain

Mr Thanasis Koukakis, journalist, Greece (online)

and agreed to return to this point at a future meeting. Noted the request from the Rapporteur that information concerning the issue in members' own countries could still be sent to him for consideration in his report;

- **Exchange of views with members of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the parliament of the United Kingdom** (*open to the public*):
 - **UK reform of its human rights legislation: consequences for domestic and European Human Rights protection:** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kamal Jafarov, Azerbaijan, EC/DA*):

considered an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views related to this with the following members of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the parliament of the United Kingdom:

Ms Joanna Cherry KC MP (Scottish National Party)

Mr David Simmonds MP (Conservative Party)

Ms Bel Ribeiro Addy MP (Labour Party)

Lord Dubs (Labour Party)

Lord Henley (Conservative Party)

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democratic Party), and

agreed to hold a further hearing with up to three experts and for the Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom, both subject to the availability of funds;

- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** made a call for a Rapporteur for the report on *Sanctions of persons on the "Kara-Murza list"* [Doc. 15632](#) and noted the interest of Ms Klotilda Bushka, Albania, SOC;

- **General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty:** appointed Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski, (North Macedonia, EPP/CD) as the new General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty and heard from Mr Nikoloski a statement of no conflict of interest;

- **Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine (Rapporteur: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE):** held a hearing (open to the public) with the participation of:

Ms Iryna Mudra, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ukraine

Professor Burkhard Hess, Director of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law

and decided to request the Bureau to fast-track the report for debate under urgent procedure during the January part-session 2023;

- **References for inclusion in other reports:**

“ **Europe should stand in solidarity with the Russian and Belarusian anti-war movement**” [Doc. 15633](#) : agreed to include this subject in the report on “*The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation*” as proposed by the Bureau;

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc:**

92nd GRECO plenary meeting 28 November – 2 December 2022: took note of a written report prepared by the Committee’s representative, Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC

- **Hearings during the next meeting:**

- The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 11th report
Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC: agreed the previously authorised country specific hearings would be open to the public;
- Agreed to hold a joint hearing with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons in the presence of the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger and that it be open to the public;

- **Other business:**

- Noted the point raised by Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) regarding the blockade of the Lachin corridor and considered that this issue should be brought to the attention of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) at their meeting on 15-16 December 2022, in Paris;

- Noted the proposal made by Mr George Katrougalos (Greece, UEL) to the Rapporteur on *Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance (Mr Pieter Omtzigt; Netherlands, EPP/CD)* regarding fact-finding visits and noted that the Rapporteur would consider this in the light of current constraints;

- Following interventions by Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) and Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) stressed the need for all participants to respect procedural rules to ensure the good order of running the meeting and to respect the privacy of the parts of meetings held in private;

- Agreed to the request of the Rapporteur on “*Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation*” (Mr Pieter Omtzigt, The Netherlands, EPP/CD), to hold a hearing on the subject during the meeting on 22 March 2023, subject to the availability of funds);

- took note of the proposal by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) regarding another visit to Ukraine and agreed to return to it at the meeting of the Committee in January 2023;

- Noted the intervention by Mr Pieter Omtzigt (The Netherlands, EPP/CD) regarding a possible meeting of Committee members with the Prosecutor of the ICC in The Hague;

- **Next meetings:** noted the upcoming meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee:

- during the Assembly's 1st part-session of 2023 (23-27 January 2023)
- 22 March 2023, Paris Office
- during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2023 (24-28 April 2023)
- 22-23, May 2023, Limassol, Cyprus
- during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2023 (19-23 June 2023)
- 6 September 2023, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2023 (9-13 October 2023)
- 1 December 2023, Paris Office (t.b.c.)

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, Eleanor Hourigan

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