

**OUTCOME OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE OF LEGAL  
ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (CAHDI)**

**ON THE REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS WITHIN THE CAHDI SUBMITTED BY  
BELARUS**

By letter dated 9 January 2013 and addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus requested the status of observer to the CAHDI. On 13 March 2013, the Secretary General informed the Committee of Ministers of his intention to consult the CAHDI in this regard. During its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CAHDI held an in depth exchange of views on the request for observer status submitted by Belarus.

Delegations presented their views on the granting of such status to a non-member State of the Council of Europe. It was noted that Belarus has an observer status within three intergovernmental committees (CDCJ, CDDH and CDMSI). The Committee recalled the primarily technical/legal nature of its mandate and noted that the granting of observer status to a non-member State which does not have observer status at the Council of Europe is a political matter falling within the mandate of the Committee of Ministers<sup>1</sup>.

In light of its mandate, the CAHDI underlined that the Committee of Ministers may grant observer status to States that are committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes, the codification and the progressive development of international law, respecting their treaty obligations as well as the principles of the rule of law. The CAHDI invited the Committee of Ministers to take into account these elements when considering a request for observer status to the CAHDI from a non-member State of the Council of Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> As provided by *Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods*.