



Strasbourg, 19 September 2014

CAHDI (2014) 23

# COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (CAHDI)

# List of items discussed and decisions taken Abridged report

48<sup>th</sup> meeting 18-19 September 2014 The Hague (the Netherlands)

Public International Law Division and Treaty Office Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law, DLAPIL

# COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (CAHDI)

# 48th meeting, The Hague, Netherlands, 18-19 September 2014

# List of items discussed and decisions taken Abridged report

- 1. The Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) held its 48<sup>th</sup> meeting in The Hague (Netherlands) on 18-19 September 2014 with Ms Liesbeth Lijnzaad (Netherlands) in the Chair. The list of participants is set out in **Appendix I** to the present report.
- 2. The CAHDI adopted its agenda as set out in the **Appendix II** to the present report.
- 3. The CAHDI adopted the report of its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting (Strasbourg, 20-21 March 2014), and authorised the Secretariat to publish it on the CAHDI's website.
- 4. The CAHDI took note of the developments within the Council of Europe since the last meeting of the Committee, as presented by Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL).
- 5. The CAHDI took note of the decisions of the Committee of Ministers relevant to its work, and in particular the decision on Recommendation 2037 (2014) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on "Accountability of international organisations for human rights violations" for which the CAHDI adopted an opinion at its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 6. The CAHDI held an exchange of views on the issue of the settlement of disputes of a private character to which an international organisation is a party, and in particular on the questions contained in the document presented by the delegation of the Netherlands at the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CAHDI (document CAHDI (2014) 5). It took note of the written comments submitted by Slovenia and invited other delegations to also reply to the questions in written.

The CAHDI examined the replies submitted by the members and observers to the questionnaire on "Immunity of State owned cultural property on loan", contained in document CAHDI (2014) 13 prov.

The Committee also took stock of the state of ratifications of the *United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property* by the States represented within the CAHDI. It noted that since the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee, Finland had deposited its instrument of acceptance of the Convention on 23 April 2014.

The CAHDI welcomed the publication on its website of the "Declaration on Jurisdictional Immunities of State Owned Cultural Property", which to date has been signed by Austria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Latvia, Romania and Slovakia. This Declaration aims to support the recognition of the customary nature of the pertinent provisions of the 2004 *United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property*. The Committee recalled that this Declaration had been elaborated as a legally non-binding document expressing a common understanding on *opinion juris* on the basic rule that certain kind of State property (cultural property on exhibition) enjoyed jurisdictional immunity. The CAHDI invited its members and observers to sign this Declaration.

The CAHDI also examined the replies submitted by the members and observers to the questionnaire on "Immunities of special missions", contained in document CAHDI (2014) 14 prov.

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The CAHDI examined the document prepared by the Secretariat on the issue of "Service of process on a foreign State" containing an analysis and a summary of the submitted replies to the questionnaire on the subject (document CAHDI (2014) 15).

The Committee considered national practices and case-law regarding State immunities on the basis of information provided by the delegations and invited delegations to submit or update their contributions to the relevant CAHDI database. It took note of the updated contributions of Slovenia and of the United Kingdom to the relevant database.

The CAHDI pursued its exchange of views on possibilities for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to raise public international law issues in procedures pending before national tribunals and related to States' or international organisations' immunities.

- 7. The CAHDI further considered the issue of the organisation and functions of the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and examined notably the replies submitted by the members and observers to the revised questionnaire on the issue contained in document CAHDI (2014) 16 prov.
- 8. The CAHDI took note of the information regarding cases that have been submitted to national tribunals by persons or entities included in or removed from the lists established by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee and notably of the contribution submitted by Switzerland on this issue (document CAHDI (2014) 21). It also took note of the *High Level Review of United Nations Sanctions* supported by the governments of Australia, Finland, Germany, Greece and Sweden, in partnership with the Watson Institute of Brown University and Compliance and Capacity International conducted from June to October 2014.
- 9. The CAHDI addressed the issue of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and took note of the public hearing of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 5-6 May during which all EU institutions and intervening EU member States argued that the draft accession agreement was compatible with EU law.
- 10. The CAHDI considered cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights involving issues of public international law and invited delegations to keep the Committee informed of any judgments or decisions, pending cases or relevant forthcoming events.
- 11. In the context of its consideration of issues relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes, the CAHDI considered the latest version of the document containing information on the International Court of Justice's compulsory jurisdiction and invited the delegations to submit to the Secretariat any relevant information to update the document.
- 12. In the framework of its activity as the European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties, the CAHDI considered a list of outstanding reservations and declarations to international treaties. In addition, the Committee took note of the reactions to reservations and declarations to international treaties previously examined by the CAHDI and for which the deadline for objection has already expired. It invited delegations to submit to the Secretariat any relevant information for the update of the summary table as set out in document CAHDI (2014) 17 Addendum prov.
- 13. Following the decision of the Ministers' Deputies of 10 April 2013 on the review of Council of Europe conventions adopted in the light of the Secretary General's report and in pursuance of the CAHDI work plan for the review of conventions for which it has been given responsibility, the CAHDI held an exchange of views on the *European Convention on Consular Functions* [ETS No. 61] as well as on the *European Convention on the Abolition of Legalisation of Documents executed by Diplomatic Agents or Consular Officers* [ETS No. 63].

14. Concerning the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) and of the Sixth Committee, the CAHDI held an exchange of views with Ms Marie Jacobsson, Member of the ILC, on the recent activities of the latter. It also took note of the exchange of views between the Chair of the CAHDI, the Secretary of the CAHDI and the ILC members which took place in Geneva on 16 July 2014.

- 15. With regard to consideration of current issues of international humanitarian law, the CAHDI took note of the presentation made by the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 16. The CAHDI took note of the recent developments concerning the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international criminal tribunals.
- 17. The CAHDI considered topical issues of international law. It held an exchange of views on the issue of "Foreign fighters" upon the request of one delegation.
- 18. In accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, the CAHDI elected Mr Paul Rietjens (Belgium) and Ms Päivi Kaukoranta (Finland), respectively as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for one year, as from 1 January 2015.
- 19. The CAHDI decided to hold its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting in Strasbourg on 19-20 March 2015. The Committee instructed the Secretariat, in liaison with the Chair of the Committee, to prepare in due course the provisional agenda of this meeting.
- 20. At the request one delegation, the CAHDI held an exchange of views on the International Commission on Civil Status.

**APPENDIX I** 

#### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

# MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ETATS MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# **ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

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CAHDI (2014) 23

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# **APPENDIX II**

# **AGENDA**

# I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair, Ms Liesbeth Lijnzaad
- 2. Adoption of the agenda
- 3. Adoption of the report of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting
- 4. Information provided by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe
  - Statement by Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law

# II. ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF THE CAHDI

- 5. Committee of Ministers' decisions and activities of relevance to the CAHDI's activities, including requests for CAHDI's opinion
- 6. Immunities of States and international organisations
  - a. Topical issues related to immunities of States and international organisations
    - Settlement of disputes of a private character to which an international organisation is a party
    - Immunity of State owned cultural property on loan
    - Immunities of special missions
    - · Service of process on a foreign State
  - b. UN Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property
  - c. State practice, case-law and updates of the website entries
- 7. Organisation and functions of the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 8. National implementation measures of UN sanctions and respect for human rights
- 9. European Union's accession to the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR)
- 10. Cases before the European Court of Human Rights involving issues of public international law
- 11. Peaceful settlement of disputes
- 12. Law and practice relating to reservations and interpretative declarations concerning international treaties: European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties
  - List of outstanding reservations and declarations to international treaties
- 13. Review of Council of Europe Conventions

# III. GENERAL ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

- 14. The work of the International Law Commission (ILC) and of the Sixth Committee
  - Presentation of the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) and of the Sixth Committee by Ms Marie Jacobsson, Member of the ILC
  - Exchange of views between the ILC, the Chair of the CAHDI and the Secretary to the CAHDI, Geneva, 16 July 2014
- 15. Consideration of current issues of international humanitarian law
- 16. Developments concerning the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international criminal tribunals
- 17. Topical issues of international law

# IV. OTHER

- 18. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CAHDI
- 19. Date and agenda of the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CAHDI
- 20. Other business