



Strasbourg, 2 April 2015

CDDH-DC(2015)R3

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(CDDH)

DRAFTING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETIES
(CDDH-DC)

Meeting report

3rd meeting
31 March - 2 April 2015
Council of Europe, Agora – Room G.05

Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft agenda

1. The CDDH Drafting Group on Human Rights in Culturally Diverse Societies (CDDH-DC) held its third meeting in Strasbourg from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The Chairperson Ms Krista OINONEN (Finland) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The list of participants is contained in Appendix I. The agenda as adopted appears in Appendix II.
2. The Secretariat informed the Group that the documents it was currently drafting were mentioned both in the Council of Europe's draft Action Plan to combat extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism (2015-2017) and the draft Action Plan on building inclusive societies (2016 – 2019).

Item 2: Key-note speech by Dr. Snjezana VASILJEVIC, Assistant Professor, Chair of European Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia)

3. Dr. Snjezana VASILJEVIC, Assistant Professor, Chair of European Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia), presented the concept of multiple discrimination which had been developed in the United States as part of the black feminist theory. Several international instruments and documents as well as the so-called EU anti-discrimination directives refer to the concept however without providing a clear definition. She explained that in diverse societies multiple discrimination occurs on every day basis. Research has shown that having multiple identities is typically associated with disadvantages and increases the possibility of experiencing these disadvantages, often affecting the most vulnerable members of society. In this context she stressed the important role the media could play and the need for training and awareness-raising.

Item 3: Discussion on the elaboration of guidelines on the protection and promotion of human rights in culturally diverse societies

4. The Group continued the discussion on the elaboration of draft Guidelines, taking into account the guidance provided by the CDDH at its last meeting in November 2014.
5. It examined the elements prepared by the Secretariat and identified issues to be included in the instrument as well as set up a preliminary structure for the document. It agreed that it was important to draft an instrument that would be as operational as possible so as to provide practical guidance to member States on strengthening the implementation of the existing standards in this field. It was also essential to present this instrument in a user friendly manner so as to facilitate its use by national authorities not only at the state level but also at the regional and local level and by civil society and individuals.
6. The Group asked the Secretariat, under the supervision of the Chair, to prepare the draft Guidelines in the light of the comments made both regarding the content and the structure and to circulate it by 1 May 2015. The members of the Group would be invited to submit comments to the draft text by 15 May for the Secretariat to take into account for a revised draft which would be submitted to the CDDH at its 83rd meeting (17 - 19 June 2015).
7. On the basis of the revised draft Guidelines, the CDDH may wish to provide new instructions to the Group for its next meeting.
8. The Group also asked the Secretariat, under the supervision of the Chair, to prepare a draft explanatory memorandum for the Guidelines in light of the comments made during the present meeting, and to circulate it to the Group members by 1 September 2015.

9. The Group considered that it would be useful to have an extra meeting, in addition to the one already scheduled for October, to make sure that the Group members would have sufficient opportunity to submit proposals and comments for the draft text before its examination and adoption by the CDDH at its 84th meeting (8- 11 December 2015).

Item 4: Discussion on the finalisation of the draft compilation of existing Council of Europe standards relating to the principles of freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the links to other human rights

10. The Group discussed the draft Compilation bearing in mind that the text had already been submitted to the CDDH representatives for comments by 12 April 2015 with a view to the approval of text of the Compilation by the CDDH in June. So far Holy See had submitted comments in writing which would be taken into account for the finalisation of draft compilation along with other comments received.

11. It made a few minor changes to the draft text, most of them of editorial character.

12. It also took note of the Compendium of national good practices - at the moment containing the contributions of 21 member State - which would be published on the CDDH website and regularly updated enabling further member State to submit contributions, if they so wished, as well as enabling those who already had submitted contributions to update them, if need be.

Item 5: Adoption of the meeting report

13. The Group adopted the text of the meeting report noting that the outcome of this meeting would be presented by the Chairperson to the CDDH at its forthcoming meeting in June 2015.

Item 6: Organisation of the work for the next meeting

14. Subject to the approval by the CDDH of an extra meeting of the Group in addition to the one already scheduled for October, the Group provisional agreed to meet on 8-10 September and on 27-29 October 2015.

15. The Group asked the Secretariat, together with the Chair, to identify a possible key note speaker for the next meeting.

Item 7: Other Business

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**BELGIUM / BELGIQUE**

Nina GALLE, Attaché, FOD Justitie Directoraat-generaal Wetgeving, Fundamentele Rechten en Vrijheden

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE**CROATIA / CROATIE**

Romana KUZMANIĆ OLUIĆ, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Zagreb

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Martin BOUČEK, Human Rights and Transition Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Krista OINONEN (Chair/Présidente), Legal Counsellor, Deputy Director, Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions, Legal Service, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

France (Apologised)**GREECE / GRÈCE**

Sofia KASTRANTA, Dep. Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

THE NETHERLANDS / PAYS BAS

Monique STEIJNS, Ministry of Internal Affairs

NORWAY / NORVEGE

ØDELIEN Anette, Higher Executive Officer, Ministry of Justice and Public Security

POLAND / POLOGNE

Eliza SUCHOŹEBRSKA, Government Co-Agent of Poland before the European Court of Human Rights, Department of Proceedings before International Human Rights Protection Bodies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

PORTUGAL

Paulo MARRECCAS FERREIRA, Juriste au Bureau de Documentation et de Droit Comparé de l'Office du Procureur Général de la République

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Maria ORESHINA,
Second Secretary, Department for humanitarian cooperation and human rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Oscar SÁENZ DE SANTA MARÍA GÓMEZ-MAMPASO, Head Senior State Attorney at the Ministry of Education - Madrid

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Dominique STEIGER LEUBA, Collaboratrice scientifique, Département fédéral de justice et police, Office fédéral de la justice

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Harun ÇEVİK, Juge, Chef adjoint de département des droits de l'homme, Ministère de la Justice

Hüseyin GÖKTEPE, Juge, Ministère de la Justice, Ankara

Ayşen EMÜLER, Experte Juridique – Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Représentation Permanente de la Turquie auprès du Conseil de

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME UNI

Ekim BIREROGLU, Council of Europe Human Rights Policy | Ministry of Justice

UKRAINE

Larysa DIR, Director of the Ukrainians Worldwide, Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

PARTICIPANTS

Keynote Speaker/Conférencière

Dr Snejezana VASILJEVIC,
Assistant Professor, Chair of European Public Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia),

OBSERVERS/OBSERVATEURS

MEXICO / MEXIQUE

Alejandro MARTINEZ PERALTA, Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the Council of Europe

Diego SANDOVAL PIMENTEL, Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the Council of Europe

European Union / Union Européenne

Support Team to the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues / Equipe d'appui du représentant special du Secrétaire général pour les questions relatives aux Roms

Conference of european Churches (CEC) / Conférence des églises européennes (KEK)

Rev Richard FISCHER, Executive Secretary Church and Society Commission

Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe / Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe

Jean-Bernard MARIE

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance / Commission Européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance (ECRI)

SECRETARIAT

**DG I – Human Rights and Rule of Law / Droits de l’Homme et Etat de droit
Council of Europe / Conseil de l’Europe**

Alfonso DE SALAS, Secretary to the CDDH / Secrétaire du CDDH, Head of Division / Chef de Division,
Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division / Division de la coopération
intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l’Homme

Merete BJERREGAARD, Administrator / Administratrice, Human Rights Intergovernmental
Cooperation Division / Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de
l’Homme, *Secretary of the CDDH-DC / Secrétaire du CDDH-DC*

Corinne GAVRILOVIC, Assistant/Assistante
Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division / Division de la coopération
intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l’Homme

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

Christine TRAPP
Christopher TYCZKA
Jean-Jacques PEDUSSAUD

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Item 2: Key-note speech by Dr. Snjezana Vasiljevic, Assistant Professor, Chair of European Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia)

Item 3: Discussion on the elaboration of guidelines on the protection and promotion of human rights in culturally diverse societies

<u>Reference Documents</u>	
Report of the 2 nd meeting of the CDDH-DC, 21 – 24 October 2014	CDDH-DC(2014)R2
Relevant extracts of the 82 nd CDDH meeting report	CDDH-DC(2015)01

<u>Working Document</u>	
Draft guidelines on the protection and promotion of human rights in culturally diverse societies, prepared by the Secretariat	CDDH-DC(2015)04

<u>Information Documents</u>	
Human Rights in culturally diverse societies – challenges and perspectives, proceedings from the CDDH Conference in The Hague, November 2008	Publication
Guidelines on integration of diverse societies, presented by the OSCE in Ljubljana in November 2012	Document
Living together: Combining diversity and freedom in 21 st -century Europe, report of the Group of Eminent Persons presented in May 2011	Document

Item 4: Discussion on the finalisation of the draft compilation of existing Council of Europe standards relating to the principles of freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the links to other human rights

<u>Reference Documents</u>	
Report of the 2 nd meeting of the CDDH-DC, 21 – 24 October 2014	CDDH-DC(2014)R2
Relevant extracts of the 82 nd CDDH meeting report	CDDH-DC(2015)01

<u>Working Documents</u>	
Draft compilation of Council of Europe standards relating to the principles of freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the links to other human rights, prepared by the CDDH-DC	CDDH-DC(2015)02
Compendium of national good practices received from member States	CDDH-DC(2014)004 rev2
Comments from member States	CDDH-DC(2015)03

<u>Item 5:</u>	Adoption of the meeting report
<u>Item 6:</u>	Organisation of the work for the next meeting, end October 2015
<u>Item 7:</u>	Other Business