



Strasbourg, 19 December 2006

GT-DH-AS(2006)003

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
(CDDH)**

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**WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION  
IN THE CONTEXT OF ACCELERATED ASYLUM PROCEDURES  
(GT-DH-AS)**

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**REPORT**

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**1<sup>st</sup> meeting, 6 – 8 December 2006**

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

1.       The GT-DH-AS held its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Strasbourg from 6 to 8 December 2006. The Secretariat chaired the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of the Group, Mr Michal BALCERZAK (Poland) (see below). The list of participants appears in Appendix I. The agenda, as adopted, appears in Appendix II.

**Item 2:           Election of the Chairperson of the GT-DH-AS**

2.       The GT-DH-AS elected Mr Michal BALCERZAK (Poland) Chairperson and Ms Camilla BUSCK-NIELSEN (Finland) Vice–Chairperson.

**Item 3:           Examination of the terms of reference and preliminary exchange of views on the question of human rights protection in the context of accelerated asylum procedures**

3.       The Group noted that the draft ad hoc terms of reference adopted by the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) at its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting (24-27 October 2006) (Appendix III) still had to be adopted by the Ministers' Deputies. It acknowledged however that these terms of reference derived from the ad hoc terms of reference assigned by the Ministers' Deputies to the CDDH in June 2006 (see Appendix I of document CDDH(2006)011).

4.       According to these ad hoc terms of reference the Group is instructed to “*examine the question of human rights protection in the context of accelerated asylum procedures and, as appropriate, to draft guidelines*”.

5.       The Group agreed that drafting guidelines would be the most appropriate way of dealing with this issue. Guidelines would bring added value because they would deal with human rights issues which might emerge from the use of accelerated asylum procedures in a single comprehensive instrument. They should also aim at helping states concerned while applying the relevant EU legislation, especially the EU Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on *minimum standards on procedures in member states for granting and withdrawing refugee status* and the Council Regulation No. 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 *establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the member states responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the member states by a third-country national*. The Group also agreed to discuss the scope of these guidelines and at whom they should be directed at its next meeting.

6.       The Group noted that it would seem wise, at least on some issues of common concern, to make reference to the broader question of regular asylum procedures, for which no specific comprehensive guidelines or general text exists at the Council of Europe level. It may return to this question at a later stage.

7. The GT-DH-AS was of the view that examples of best practices should be considered and referred to in an appendix to the guidelines. This appendix could also contain reference texts used for the preparation of the guidelines, such as relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and international legal texts, in particular recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

8. The Group decided to use PACE Recommendation 1727 (2005) on *accelerated asylum procedure in Council of Europe member states*, together with Resolution 1471 (2005) on the same issue and the Report of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population (all reproduced in document CDDH(2006)011), as a basis for its work of drafting the guidelines, except when otherwise specified below. In particular, the GT-DH-AS has retained, at this stage, the following issues for inclusion in the guidelines.

***Terminology: Definition of and conditions for “accelerated asylum procedures”***

9. The GT-DH-AS noted that PACE Resolution 1471 (2005) recognised that “*there is no common definition of ‘accelerated asylum procedures’ at international level*” and that “*the expression simply indicates that some applications are processed faster than others*”. It decided that no specific detailed definition of “accelerated asylum procedures” should be drafted, but it should be recalled that accelerated procedures should be limited to clearly well-founded cases, manifestly unfounded or clearly abusive cases. The Group was also of the view that it would be useful to further consider when these procedures should apply.

10. The Group decided that it was important to stress that regular asylum procedures should remain the rule while accelerated procedures should be the exception. In addition, it was considered that specific grounds for fast track procedures raising human rights’ concerns should be highlighted in the guidelines. The Report of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population should be a basis in this regard.

***Human rights protection of asylum seekers***

11. The GT-DH-AS deemed it important to reiterate in the guidelines that asylum seekers benefit from the same guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights as everyone else within the jurisdiction of state parties in accordance with Article 1 ECHR. The Group added that it was necessary to highlight the standards of particular importance to asylum seekers, including those identified in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

***Application of the notion of safe country of origin***

12. The notion of safe country of origin was familiar to all member states represented at the meeting. Some drew up lists of safe country of origin, some did not. Participants agreed that automatic return of asylum seekers coming from a safe country should be prohibited. All stressed the need for an individual assessment of the claim and in any event for an interview of each asylum seeker in a language he/she understands, and that he/she could

have the opportunity to rebut the presumption of safety. Coming from a safe country was considered only as one element to be taken into account in the decision process. In addition, participants recognised that the notion of safe country of origin should be used carefully and according to sufficiently precise criteria. Reliable, up-to-date information from a wide range of sources would be needed to establish that a country of origin was safe.

13. The GT-DH-AS noted that the following questions remained to be discussed at a later stage:

- effective opportunity for the applicant to rebut the presumption of safety (in particular, issue of the burden of proof and of a judicial review of the decision);
- determination of the criteria to qualify a country as “safe”;
- list of safe countries established by states: How is the list drawn up? How is the situation of countries put on such lists monitored? How regularly? How is impartiality guaranteed? What are the procedures to be followed to remove a country from such a list if the situation deteriorates? The amount of time needed to adapt the list to changing situations in the countries of origin (depending on the legal status of the list: law, ministerial decree or other);
- application of the concept of safe country of origin to dual nationals (or multiple-nationals);
- internal flight alternatives.

#### ***Application of the notion of safe third country***

14. The Group noted that there were obvious differences between the notion of safe country of origin and that of safe third country. It nevertheless recognised some similarities. It therefore recognised that, *mutatis mutandis*, some of the questions raised above would also need to be considered in the context of the latter. The Group decided to return to this at a later stage and to add the notion of “super safe third country” to its discussion.

#### ***Procedures adopted at the border for dealing with asylum seekers***

15. The GT-DH-AS was of the view that procedures adopted at the border should not be less protective than those applied elsewhere in the country. It nevertheless admitted the specificities of the situation at the borders (including airports and transit zones) where asylum seekers may face, in practice, greater risks of being victims of a violation of their human rights. The necessity and importance of registration of all applications for asylum status was particularly stressed (be they at the border or in-country). The Group considered that it may not be appropriate to have a specific guideline on procedures at the border but that it did not have enough information to decide on this matter at the present meeting. It nevertheless stated that this should, at least, be mentioned in some appropriate place in the guidelines. It will return to this point, and to the relevance of a specific guideline on this issue, at a later stage.

***Reasonable time limit to examine asylum application under an accelerated procedure***

16. The Group noted that this issue was particularly sensitive since too rapid an examination of the case would not be in the interest of the applicant, whilst an over-lengthy procedure would call the use of an accelerated procedure into question. The GT-DH-AS decided to return to this question at a future meeting.

***Right of appeal with suspensive effect***

17. The Group recognised that asylum seekers whose application has been decided under an accelerated procedure should have a right to lodge an appeal against a negative decision on their claim. This appeal should have a suspensive effect. Legal aid should be considered.

18. The Group stated that it was important that the compatibility of the measures decided by the authorities be examined *vis-à-vis* the European Convention on Human Rights (in particular Article 13). It stressed the need for reviewing the case-law of the Court. It also suggested that the compatibility exercise should not be limited to the European Convention but should also refer to national laws and other international texts. The importance of interim measures decided by the European Court of Human Rights in compliance with Rule 39 of the Rules of Court was also mentioned for consideration at a future meeting.

***Exemptions from accelerated procedures***

19. The GT-DH-AS noted that PACE Resolution 1471 (2005) provided exemptions for particularly vulnerable groups. It considered that the situations mentioned in the Resolution are not all of the same nature (children, victims of torture, victims of sexual violence). It also considered that special attention, safeguards and procedural rights should be referred to in the guidelines in the examination of the case of an asylum seeker from a vulnerable group when accelerated procedures lead to a denial of refugee status.

20. The Group also noted that mentioning the “exclusion clauses” of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the issue of applicants representing a danger to national security or to public order should not be dealt with at the same time as that of vulnerable groups. It will return to this at a later stage since more information is needed to determine whether accelerated procedures could be applied to these types of applicants.

***Detention***

21. It is recalled that PACE Resolution 1471 (2005) stated that, as a general rule, asylum seekers should not be detained. However, the Group acknowledged that criteria should be determined if detention was nevertheless deemed necessary (in accordance to Article 5 ECHR in particular) and rules set up, for example, on conditions of detention. The GT-DH-AS decided that judicial guarantees and reviews should in all cases be provided and referred to in the guidelines. It also considered that the whole issue of

detention of asylum seekers should be closely looked at, in particular taking into account the CPT work on this matter.

### ***Employment and social conditions***

22. The Group stated that the right to work was not of primary concern for asylum seekers in the context of accelerated procedures. Social assistance was instead of particular importance and the GT-DH-AS was of the view that there was a need to include such an element in the guidelines. Several kinds of social assistance could be included such as medical assistance, in particular emergency health care, psychological assistance and assistance for basic material needs. Finally, the Group was of the view that additional information on these issues was needed.

### ***Protection of private and family life***

23. The GT-DH-AS decided to integrate the issue of protection of private and family life of asylum seekers in the guidelines and have a closer look at this in its future work, in particular with regard to Article 8 ECHR.

### ***Decision making***

24. The Group acknowledged the importance of the quality of the decision making process in asylum cases from the human rights perspective. The Group also stressed the need for appropriate training of officials dealing with asylum applicants. It was decided to mention both issues in the guidelines. Best practice in this field would be of particular relevance.

### ***Undocumented applicants or applicants with forged documents***

25. The GT-DH-AS considered that this issue needed further consideration and should be included in the guidelines. There should be no automatic return in such cases since there was a need for the authorities to examine why applicants had no identity documents or forged documents.

### **Point 4: Working methods and organisation of future work**

26. The GT-DH-AS recognised that there was a need for additional data. It welcomed the offer made by the PACE Secretariat to provide it with the answers to the questionnaire appended to the Report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population. It also welcomed the offer of the representative of Amnesty International to submit information on state practice. In addition, examples of best practices would be requested from participating states in the GT-DH-AS. Finally, the Group decided that a revised and shortened version of the PACE questionnaire should be prepared by the Secretariat. This draft would then be sent to the members of the Group by e-mail. It would then be consolidated by the Chairperson of

the GT-DH-AS. This questionnaire would then be sent to members of the CDDH with a request for them to forward it to their relevant national authorities.

27. The Group also asked the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and international legal texts, in particular recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and of the Parliamentary Assembly, in due time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Group. It was suggested that members of the Group would send any references known to them to the Secretariat. The GT-DH-AS welcomed the offer of the representative of the UNHCR to assist the Secretariat in identifying the relevant case-law of the Court.

28. It was also decided that observers to the Group should be strongly encouraged to provide it with possible comments on this report and the on-going work of the Group. Others, such as the CPT, the European Committee of Social Rights, the Department for the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), should also be contacted for possible comments and additional information.

29. The GT-DH-AS also requested the Secretariat to draft a preliminary set of guidelines by late April / early May 2007 on the basis of the discussion held in this meeting. This should be sent to members of the Group for possible written comments prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

30. The GT-DH-AS also asked the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) to invite the European Parliament and ECRE to attend its future meetings in order to benefit from their views on the issue.

31. Finally, the Group noted that its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is provisionally scheduled for 14-15 June 2007. It asked the CDDH that the meeting be extended by one day. A third meeting will take place in September or October 2007. The CDDH will decide on the dates of these two meetings at its 64<sup>th</sup> meeting (10-13 April 2007).

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Appendix I**List of participants****MEMBERS / MEMBRES****ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE**

Mr Gagik YEGANYAN, Head of Migration Agency, Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, 4 Hr. Kochar St., Yerevan 375033

**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

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**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

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**POLAND / POLOGNE**

Mr Michal BALCERZAK, Chairperson of the GT-DH-AS / Président du GT-DH-AS, Legal Adviser, Nicholas Copernicus University, Faculty of Law and Administration, ul. Gagarina 15, 87100 TORUN

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legal and Treaty Department, Aleja Szucha 23, WARSAW 00950

**ROMANIA / ROUMANIE**

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**SWEDEN / SUÈDE**

Mr Bengt SJÖBERG, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SE-103 39 STOCKHOLM

**SWITZERLAND / SUISSE**

M. Frank SCHÜRMANN, Agent du Gouvernement, Chef de la Section des droits de l'homme et du Conseil de l'Europe, Office fédéral de la justice, Bundesrain 20, CH-3003 BERNE

**UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**

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## PARTICIPANTS

### **European Committee on Legal Co-operation / Comité européen de coopération juridique (CDCJ)**

M. Oscar ALARCON-JIMENEZ, Direction Générale I, Secrétariat du CDCJ, Service du droit public et privé, Conseil de l'Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075 STRASBOURG

Mme Mariana GEORGIEVA, Trainee, Direction Générale I, Service du droit public et privé, Conseil de l'Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075 STRASBOURG

### **European Committee on Migration / Comité européen sur les migrations (CDMG)**

Apologised/Excusé

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

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### **Parliamentary Assembly / Assemblée parlementaire**

Mr Mark NEVILLE, Secretary of the Committee on Migration Refugees and Population

### **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe / Congrès des Pouvoirs Locaux et Régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe**

Apologised/Excusé

### **Registry of the European Court of Human Rights / Greffe de la Cour européenne des Droits de l'Homme**

Apologised/Excusé

### **Commissioner for Human Rights / Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Europe**

Apologised/Excusé

### **The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe / La Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe**

Apologised/Excusé

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## OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

### **European Commission / Commission européenne**

Apologised/Excusé

### **Council of the European Union / Conseil de l'Union européenne**

Apologised/Excusé

### **CANADA**

Apologised/Excusé

**HOLY SEE / SAINT SIEGE**

Apologised/Excusé

**JAPAN / JAPON**

Apologised/Excusé

**MEXICO / MEXIQUE**

Apologised/Excusé

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE**

Apologised/Excusé

**Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) /**

**Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe (OSCE) / Bureau pour les institutions démocratiques et les droits de l'homme (ODIHR)**

Apologised/Excusé

**United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights / Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme**

Apologised/Excusé

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) / Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés**

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Mme Marie-Christine WEIGEL, Stagiaire, Représentation de l'UNHCR auprès des institutions européennes, Palais 1.018, F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex

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**OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS**

**BELARUS**

Apologised/Excusé

**REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO / REPUBLIQUE DU MONTENEGRO**

Apologised/Excusé

**Amnesty International**

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**International Commission of Jurists / Commission internationale de Juristes (CIJ)**

Apologised/Excusé

**International Federation of Human Rights / Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme (FIDH)**

Apologised/Excusé

**European Group of National Institutions for Human Rights / Groupe européen des institutions nationales des droits de l'homme**

Apologised/Excusé

**European Roma and Travellers Forum / Forum européen des Roms et des gens du voyage**

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Ms Karin WARINGO

Chief Executive Officer of the European Roma and Travellers Forum, c/o Council of Europe, rue Tureau, F-67075 Strasbourg

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**SECRETARIAT**

**Directorate General of Human Rights - DG II / Direction Générale des droits de l'homme - DG II, Council of Europe/Conseil de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex**

M. Alfonso DE SALAS, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division / Chef de la Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l'homme

Ms Gioia SCAPPUCCI, Administrator / Administratrice, Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division/Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l'homme

M. Mikaël POUTIERS, Administrator / Administrateur, Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division / Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l'homme, Secretary of GT-DH-AS / Secrétaire du GT-DH-AS

Mme Michèle COGNARD, Assistant / Assistante, Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division/Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l'homme

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**Interpreters / Interprètes**

Mme Maryline NEUSCHWANDER

M. Olivier OBRECHT

Appendix II**Agenda****Item 1:        Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda***Working document*

- Draft agenda

GT-DH-AS(2006)OJ001

**Item 2:        Election of the Chairperson of the GT-DH-AS***Information document*

- Resolution Res(2005)47 of the Committee of Ministers on committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods

CDDH(2006)004

**Item 3:        Examination of the terms of reference and preliminary exchange of views on the question of human rights protection in the context of accelerated asylum procedures***Working documents*

- Draft terms of reference adopted by the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)
- Extracts from the reports of the 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CDDH and the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Bureau of the CDDH
- Secretariat Memorandum on Recommendation 1727 (2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly *Accelerated asylum procedures in Council of Europe member states*
- Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 *on minimum standards on procedure in member states for granting and withdrawing refugee status*
- UNHCR Provisional Comments on the Proposal for a Council Directive on Minimum Standards on Procedures in member States for Granting and Withdrawing Refugee Status (Council Document 14203/04, Asile 64, of 9 November 2004)
- Amnesty International: Council of Europe: Briefing to the Working Group on Human Rights Protection in the Context of Accelerated Asylum Procedures (GT-DH-AS)

GT-DH-AS(2006)001

GT-DH-AS(2006)002

CDDH(2006)011

AI Index: IOR 61/024/2006

**Point 4:        Working methods and organisation of future work**

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Appendix III

**Draft ad hoc terms of reference of the Working Group on Human Rights Protection in the Context of Accelerated Asylum Procedures (GT-DH-AS)**

(adopted by the CDDH at its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting (24-27 October 2006))

1.	<b>Name of committee :</b>	WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF ACCELERATED ASYLUM PROCEDURES (GT-DH-AS)
2.	<b>Type of committee :</b>	Ad hoc Advisory Group
3.	<b>Source of terms of reference :</b>	Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)
4.	<p><b>Terms of reference :</b></p> <p><b>Having regard to :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Declaration and the Action Plan adopted at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005); CM(2005)80 final 17 May 2005) ;</li> <li>- the Road map for the implementation of the Action Plan (974<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Deputies – 27 September 2006, item1.6), Chapter I.2 ;</li> <li>- Decision No. CM/868/14062006, adopted by the Ministers' Deputies at their 967<sup>th</sup> meeting (14 June 2006), giving ad hoc terms of reference to the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) with a view to examine the question of human rights protection in the context of accelerated asylum procedures and, as appropriate, to draft guidelines in this field ;</li> <li>- the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950, CETS No. 005).</li> </ul> <p><b>Under the authority of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and in relation with the implementation of Project 2004/DG2/28 “Substantive legal analysis of HR issues and input in the development of CoE policies on such issues”,</b></p> <p><b>the Group is instructed to :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. examine the question of human rights protection in the context of accelerated asylum procedures and, as appropriate, to draft guidelines in this field ;</li> <li>ii. in this context, to take into account the information and standards emanating from the Council of Europe and other international mechanisms, such as relevant recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, documents developed within the framework of the UNHCR and the International Law Commission.</li> </ul>	

<b>5.</b>	<b>Composition of the Committee:</b>
<b>5.A.</b>	<p><b>Members:</b></p> <p>The Group shall be composed of 8 specialists with the relevant qualifications in issues concerning the right of asylum, appointed by the governments of the following member states: Armenia, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The Council of Europe budget will bear their travel and subsistence expenses. The above-mentioned states may send (an) additional representative(s) to meetings of the Group at their own expense. Other countries may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Group at their own expense.</p> <p>Each member state participating in the meetings of the Group has the right to vote.</p>
<b>5.B.</b>	<p><b>Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Group without the rights to vote and at the expense of correspondent budgetary articles of the Council of Europe.</li> <li>ii. The European Committee on Migration (CDMG) may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Group without the rights to vote and at the expense of correspondent budgetary articles of the Council of Europe.</li> <li>iii. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote and at the expense of its administrative budget.</li> <li>iv. The Parliamentary Assembly may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote and at the expense of its administrative budget.</li> <li>v. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote and at the expense of its administrative budget.</li> <li>vi. The Registry of the European Court of Human Rights may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote and at the expense of its administrative budget.</li> <li>vii. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote and at the expense of its administrative budget.</li> <li>viii. The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee, without the right to vote and at the expense of the body that (s)he (they) represent(s).</li> </ul>
<b>5.C</b>	<p><b>Other participants :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The European Commission and the Council of the European Union may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.</li> </ul>

ii.	States with observer status of the Council of Europe (Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America) may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
iii.	The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) / the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
iv.	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
v.	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
<b>5.D.</b>	<p><b>Observers :</b></p> <p>The following non member states :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belarus</li> <li>- Republic of Montenegro</li> </ul> <p>and the following non governmental organisations :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amnesty International</li> <li>- International Commission of Jurists (CIJ)</li> <li>- International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH)</li> <li>- European Coordinating Group for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights</li> <li>- European Roma and Travellers Forum.</li> </ul> <p>may send (a) representative(s) to meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Working Methods and Structures :</b></p> <p>In order to carry out its tasks, the Group may, where necessary, seek advice of external experts, have recourse to consultants and consult with relevant non-governmental organisations and other members of civil society.</p> <p>The CDDH is entitled to invite other participants and/or observers to the Group without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Duration:</b></p> <p>These terms of reference shall expire on 31 December 2007.</p>