

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20 November 2017

CDDG(2017)23
Item 7 of the agenda

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

Activities implemented under the Chairmanship
of the Czech Republic

and

Priorities of the Chairmanship of Denmark

For information

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate General of Democracy
Democratic Governance Department

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Introduction

This document provides the CDDG with a brief summary on activities and events in the field of democracy held under the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from 19 May 2017 to 15 November 2017.

It further aims to inform the CDDG with information on the priorities as well as events scheduled under the Chairmanship of Denmark of the Committee of Ministers from 15 November 2017 to 18 May 2018.

On 15 November 2017 in Strasbourg, at the 1299bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, the outgoing Chair of the Committee of Ministers Mr Lubomir Zaorálek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic, gave an overview of his country's [achievements during the Czech Chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers in the following five areas:

- Protecting the Human Rights of Persons Belonging to Vulnerable or Disadvantaged Groups and Promoting Gender Equality;
- Strengthening the rule of law;
- Supporting Local and Regional Democracy and Public Administration Reforms;
- Promoting Human Rights Education and Linguistic Skills;
- Co-operation and Co-ordination with other International Organisations.

Events held under the Czech Chairmanship included the Conference "The Quality of Public Administration at the Local and Regional Level" on the 20-21 September 2017 in Prague. This was hosted by the Czech Minister of Interior and focused on, among other issues, good examples of efficient and transparent operation of local and regional authorities and on the simplification and use of electronic tools in territorial public administration. The European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) contributed to the Conference.

Also at the 1299bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, the new Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Mr Anders Samuelsen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, presented the [priorities of the Danish Chairmanship](#).

Under the theme of "Europe in a time of unrest and upheaval – strong values and a future-proof Council of Europe", the Chairmanship will focus in particular on:

- The European human rights system in a future Europe;
- Equal opportunities;
- Involvement of children and young people in democracy;
- Changing attitudes and prejudices about persons with disabilities;
- Combating torture.

An overview of scheduled activities and events scheduled during the upcoming Danish Chairmanship is presented in Appendix.

Action required

The members of the CDDG are invited to take note of the achievements under the Czech Chairmanship as well as the priorities and activities under the Danish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and, in particular, to consider how to support and reflect those priorities and events most relevant to its work.

APPENDIX

Calendar of activities during the Danish chairmanship

1. Handing over of the chairmanship from the Czech Republic to Denmark
Place: Strasbourg, 15 November 2017
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. International conference of experts on the European human rights system in the future Europe
Place: Kokkedal, 22–24 November 2017
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Justice
3. Meeting of the standing committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
Place: Copenhagen, the Danish Parliament, 24 November 2017
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Parliament
4. Working seminar – changing attitudes and prejudice about persons with disabilities
Place: Copenhagen, 13-14 December 2017
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry for Children and Social Affairs
5. First 2018 Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
Place: Strasbourg, 22–26 January 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Parliament
6. Barbershop Conference – discussion of gender equality among the ambassadors of the Ministers' Deputies
Place: Strasbourg, January 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7. Conference – combating torture
Place: Copenhagen, 22-23 March 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8. Conference on the private and family life of LGBTI persons
Place: Copenhagen, 2 March 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Parliament and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10. 35th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
Place: Strasbourg, 26–28 March 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: Local Government Denmark and Danish Regions

11. Meeting of ministers of justice on the European human rights system in the future Europe
Place: Denmark, 12–13 April 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Justice

12. Seminar “Democratic culture – from words to action”
Place: Copenhagen, 23–24 April 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Education, the Danish Ministry of Justice and the Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration

13. Second 2018 Session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
Place: Strasbourg, 23–27 April 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Parliament

14. International gender equality conference – launch of the new Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy
Place: Copenhagen, 3–4 May 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

15. 128th Session of the Council of Europe
Place: Elsinore, 17–18 May 2018
Responsible Danish Authority: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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