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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

Protection of victims of terrorists acts

Introduction

1. At its 87th meeting (6-9 June 2017) the CDDH welcomed the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the revised Guidelines on the Protection of Victims of Terrorist Acts (127th Session, Nicosia, 19 May 2017)¹.
2. The CDDH decided to organise a Workshop with representatives of associations of victims in December 2017, but this event was postponed to the next biennium for budgetary reasons.
3. The CDDH is invited in December 2017 to decide on the date and to give possible orientation for the preparation of this event.
4. The Workshop could aim at (i) raising awareness among public authorities and civil society to the revised Guidelines²; (ii) exchanging views on practical

¹ The Secretary General of the Council of Europe took the initiative of this revision in his report “*The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism*” (CM(2016)64) presented at the 126th Session of the Committee of Ministers in Sofia on 18 May 2016).

² The Preamble reaffirms that need of implementation, at national level, of an “efficient protection policy, financial assistance and compensation for victims in light particularly of Article 13 of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (Warsaw, 16 May 2005, CETS No. 196), including, in an appropriate way, the societal recognition of the suffering of victims and the maintenance of the duty of remembrance».

difficulties and (iii) collecting examples of national good practices³, including an appropriate level of participation of victims and/or their relatives in the making-decisions process⁴.

5. In view of the preparation of the Workshop, a short questionnaire could be sent to member States and representatives of civil society concerning in particular the legal status of the victims and/or their relatives. Possible questions could be the following:
 - (i) Have victims of terrorist acts a legal particular status in your country? In particular, does any definition of “victim of terrorist act” exist in your legal system? Have relatives and dependents of those who have suffered bodily or psychological damage due to a terrorist act recognized the particular status of victim?
 - (ii) In addition to first urgent assistance, have victims of terrorist acts a right in medium and long-term to medical and psychological care which leads them to a complete healing of damages suffered due to a terrorist act?
 - (iii) Have victims of terrorist’s acts a right to a fair and timely compensation, including for loss of earnings due to a terrorist act?
 - (iv) Have victims of terrorist acts a right to specific protection measures in case they participate as witnesses in criminal proceedings concerning the terrorist act which caused their condition of victims?
 - (v) Have victims of terrorist acts an access to a specific information point concerning their rights and the administrative proceedings to be followed to implement them?
 - (vi) Have associations of victims of terrorist acts the possibility to intervene in the decision-making procedures ?

³ Concerning for instance the most effective structures to protect victims of terrorist acts (emergency services, information points covering notably the existing procedures for compensation; appropriate training of officials in charge of victims, etc).

⁴ The Workshop could associate in particular representatives from the *European Network of Associations of Victims of Terrorist Acts* and the *International Federation of Terrorist Victims Associations*.