

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1 December 2016

CDDH-BU(2016)R96

**BUREAU OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
(CDDH-BU)**

REPORT

96th meeting

Paris, 24-25 November 2016

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU) held its 96th meeting from 24-25 November 2016 in Paris with Ms Brigitte KONZ (Luxembourg) as Chair. The list of participants appears in Appendix I.
2. The meeting was dedicated to the preparation of the 86th plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 6-8 December 2016). This meeting report is to be read in light of the draft annotated agenda and order of business sent to all participants in the CDDH on 16 November 2016.

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

3. The Bureau agreed with the draft annotated agenda and order of business which appear in the document CDDH(2016)OJ2, Appendices I and II, with the exception of the timing foreseen for item 10 (see § 47 below).
4. The Bureau will meet on Tuesday 6 December at 9:00 in the Agora Building, room B6.06C.

ITEM 2: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

5. The Bureau noted that the Parliamentary Assembly will submit Recommendations soon to the Committee of Ministers on items appearing in the terms of reference of the CDDH, and that the CDDH may be called to express itself. In this regard, it noted that two representatives of the Secretariat of the Assembly will participate in the CDDH meeting on this item in order to give a brief presentation on the following texts adopted by the PACE:
 - (i) Resolution 2120(2016) “*Women in the armed forces : promoting equality, putting an end to gender-based violence*”;¹
 - (ii) Resolution 2135(2016) “*Female genital mutilation in Europe*”.²

ITEM 3: SYSTEM OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (DH-SYSC)

6. The Chair of the Committee of Experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC), Ms Isabelle NIEDLISPACHER (Belgium), presented to the Bureau the work carried out by the Committee during its 2nd meeting (8-10 November 2016).
7. Regarding the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention system, the Bureau was informed of the guidance given by the DH-SYSC to its Drafting

¹ Adopted by the PACE on 21 June 2016.

² Adopted by the PACE on 13 October 2016.

Group DH-SYSC-I in charge of the work regarding the process of selection and election of judges of the Court, as well as of the procedure decided upon regarding future work (see §§ 5-15 of the report of the 2nd meeting of the DH-SYSC, doc. DH-SYSC(2016)R2). On this point, the Bureau noted that:

- (i) with a view to the 3rd meeting of the DH-SYSC-I (27 February-1 March), a working document will be prepared in light of the comments and the guidance given by the DH-SYSC, the comments formulated at the 2nd meeting of the DH-SYSC-I, as well as new contributions awaited from experts and all actors concerned;
 - (ii) the working document will follow the approach endorsed by the CDDH³ and will contain a comprehensive analysis of the four themes identified by the DH-SYSC-I in doc. DH-SYSC-I(2016)007 including the examination of alternative models. The Bureau considered that it should be specified in this document which responses would require an amendment to the Convention.
8. As the work is still at a preparatory stage, the Bureau suggested for the CDDH to limit itself, in December, to a general discussion and endorse the guidance given by the DH-SYSC regarding the future work. According to the Bureau, the importance of this work as well as its scope call for a favourable response to the request made by the Chairperson of the DH-SYSC to hold a 4th meeting of the DH-SYSC-I.
9. The Bureau noted that the DH-SYSC established the Drafting Group II on the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention (DH-SYSC-II) which will be chaired by France. The first meeting of this Drafting Group (29-31 March 2017) will be combined with the Seminar proposed by the Norwegian authorities (see CDDH(2016)OJ2, §11(ii)). Mr Morten RUUD (Norway) will inform the CDDH of the state of preparation of the programme that will consist of three sessions in light of the challenges identified in the CDDH report, namely:
 - the interaction of the Convention with other regional organisations;
 - the interaction of the Convention with other international human rights instruments to which Council of Europe member States are parties;
 - the interaction between human rights law and other branches of international law.
10. The Bureau welcomed the organisation of the Seminar and suggested that international law practitioners be also associated to it. As regards the programme, the idea to also consider the consequences, on the Court's case law, of the possible non-accession of the European Union to the Convention was put forward. In addition, the Bureau noted that in view of the scope of the questions covered by the work of DH-SYSC-II, it is expected that the work related to certain questions could be pursued during the next biennium. In this regard, the related question of the place/status of the Convention in domestic law, in particular at the

³ See doc. CDDH(2016)R85, §§ 4 and 13 and doc. DH-SYSC(2016)R1, § 7: "examine possible measures to respond to the challenges identified with an inclusive approach (*i.e.* without excluding responses that would require an amendment to the Convention) while focusing on practical solutions improving the current system. This work should involve a feasibility study".

constitutional level, could also be addressed. All the questions and the modalities for their examination should be defined once the DH-SYSC-II has started its work.

11. As regards the guidance given by the DH-SYSC concerning the work on Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)2 on efficient domestic capacity for rapid execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights namely, rather than to update the recommendation, to elaborate a Guide that would present good practices and also an analytical, non prescriptive part, introducing these examples and explaining the developments since the elaboration of the recommendation as well as an enriched stocktaking on its implementation, the Bureau endorsed it while noting that one expert is opposed to the elaboration of the said Guide. It invited the CDDH to decide on this question with a view to the next meeting of the DH-SYSC-REC in January 2017.
12. The Bureau was of the view that the Chairperson of the DH-SYSC could present to the CDDH the results of the second “tour de table” on the state of signatures and ratifications of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16. For its part, the CDDH could encourage the member States to pursue their efforts with a view to the signature and/or ratification of the said instruments and the DH-SYSC to pursue this exercise regularly in that format.
13. Finally, the Bureau proposed that the CDDH take note of:
 - (a) the procedure decided on for the finalisation of the overview of the exchange of views on the verification of the compatibility of legislation with the Convention (arrangements, advantages, obstacles) that will also contain good practices;
 - (b) the organisation of future work concerning Recommendation Rec(2004)4 on the Convention in university education and professional training and Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)3 on effective remedies for excessive length of proceedings.

ITEM 4: DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

14. The Bureau proceeded to consecutive exchanges of views with the Rapporteurs and Chairs of the various Drafting Groups. Tables of contents of the texts which are still under process, as they appear in the Appendices of the draft annotated agenda and order of business of the CDDH (CDDH(2016)IOJ2, Appendices IV-VIII), serve as the basis of the discussion.

Female genital mutilation and forced marriage (CDDH-MF)

15. The Rapporteur and Chair of the Drafting Group of the CDDH on female genital mutilation and forced marriage (CDDH-MF), Mr Rob LINHAM (United Kingdom) reported on the outcome of the 2nd meeting of the Group (21-23 September 2016, CDDH-MF(2016)R2) which had a high level of participation, notably with the participation of representatives of the GREVIO and the GEC. He in turn participated in the last meetings of these two bodies in order to present ongoing work. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary of the GREVIO, Ms. Bridget O’LOUGHIN, was invited to an exchange of views with the CDDH in December. He

concluded that these exchanges are meant to foster good coordination of the work, and the Bureau welcomed this.

16. Then, Mr. LINHAM reported that the 3rd meeting of the Group should ensure the finalisation of the Draft Guide to good and promising practices, which will be examined by the CDDH in June in 2017 in view of its adoption.⁴ To this end, a questionnaire was circulated, prior to the first meeting, among all member States and the Chair of the Group hoped that the Secretariat will be able to proceed in time for the final meeting, considering the large volume of information already received, and more to be expected.⁵
17. Furthermore, the Bureau noted that the proposal of the CDDH-MF to elaborate a draft Declaration of the Committee of Ministers was welcomed during an inter-Secretariat coordination meeting held at the private office of the Secretary General on 22 November 2016. The Bureau invited the CDDH to decide on this as well as on the proposal of the CDDH-MF to organise annual coordinated conferences in this field (see CDDH(2016)OJ2, §§20 (iii) and 21).

Social rights (CDDH-SOC)

18. The Rapporteur on social rights (CDDH-SOC) Ms Chantal GALLANT (Belgium) reported on the progress in the drafting of the report. The Bureau noted the particularly complex nature of the exercise, due to the high number of bodies involved in the consultation and to the sensitive nature of the issues raised, concerning for example, the collective complaints procedure. It noted that :
 - (i) the Rapporteur will present to the CDDH in December the table of contents which appears in Appendix IV of the document CDDH(2016)OJ02 and will send around mid-December 2016 the draft report to the Secretariat of the Social Charter in order to gather comments before mid-January 2017;
 - (ii) in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Charter, the Rapporteur will elaborate a brief questionnaire for member States on some items mentioned in the report in order to prepare a Guide to good practices on the basis of the answers. The draft consolidated report and the questionnaire will be sent before mid-February 2017 to the CDDH participants and to the CDDH-SOC in order to receive comments and information on national practice by the end of March 2017;
 - (iii) on this basis, the 1st meeting of the Drafting Group CDDH-SOC will be held at the beginning of April 2017 and not from 8-10 March 2017 as initially planned. The CDDH will be invited to adopt the report in June 2017 and to give guidance for the work to be undertaken by the CDDH-SOC after the summer (the 2nd and 3rd meetings could take place beginning of September and beginning of November 2017 respectively). On the basis of the report and the work of the Group, the CDDH should

⁴ To this end, the draft Guide will be sent in due time to the GREVIO and the GEC for possible comments.

⁵ 25 replies received as of 22 November 2016

be able to adopt its Guide to good practices and to make follow-up proposals to the Committee of Ministers.

19. A Guide to good practices would be the first outcome of the Group's work. Even if it is still premature to define other results to be achieved, the Bureau noted the possibility to:

- (i) elaborate a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers which would be accompanied by the Guide to good practices;
- (ii) update the Declaration adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2011 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Charter. The revision of the Declaration would be conducted taking into account the Turin process launched in 2014. The objective of the revised Declaration would be to raise awareness of States, by further stating certain objectives that appear in the action plan of Turin, concerning especially the ratification of the relevant instruments. An additional objective would be the harmonisation of the work of the Council of Europe bodies with the EU action.

Human rights and migration (CDDH-MIG)

20. The Chair of the Drafting Group of the CDDH on migration (CDDH-MIG) Mr Morten RUUD (Norway) informed on the work completed during the 1st meeting of the Group (14-16 September 2016). The Rapporteur Mr Frank SCHÜRMANN (Switzerland) explained the work done so far and gave an overview of the content and updated structure of the analysis (see table of contents in Appendix VII to the document CDDH(2016)0J02).

- (i) A consolidated version of the analysis will be available for the 2nd meeting of the Group (Cyprus, 15-17 February 2017). In this context, the Chairperson of the CDDH recalled the situation of 18-year-old minors and accompanying minors and the suggestions made in this regard by the Conference on the Rights of the Child, the Migration Crisis and the Digital Environment (Tallinn, 3 4 November 2016) in which she participated.
- (ii) A joint meeting will be held with the Committee of Experts on the Administrative Detention of Migrants (CJ-DAM) in February 2017 where coordination and synergies between the two groups will be enhanced in areas of mutual concern.
- (iii) As regard the follow-up of the work, it is envisaged that the future report may eventually be accompanied by draft guidelines and / or a compilation of different practices. In order to further enrich the on-going analysis, a questionnaire was sent to the Member States; 16 replies have already been received.

21. The Bureau also noted that the next Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers is considering holding a Conference on human rights in the field of migration (provisional dates: 25-26 September 2017) addressing the issue of alternatives to detention among other priorities, with the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees, the CDDH and the CDDH-MIG and other relevant stakeholders.

Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions (CDDH-INST)

22. The Rapporteur and Chair of the Drafting Group of the CDDH on civil society and national human rights institutions(CDDH-INST) Ms Krista OINONEN (Finland) reported on the work completed during the 1st meeting of the Group (12-14 October 2016):
- (i) The Group carried out a first reading of the draft report and proposed that it be limited to the European region and develop sections devoted to the migrant crisis and freedom of expression, in particular issues raised by hate speech. Furthermore, the Group took note of the ongoing work within the CDCJ (questions linked to the activities of *lobbying*) and to the CDDG (civil participation in political decisions);
 - (ii) It is expected that the consolidated text which will be examined at the 2nd meeting (March 2017) will be accompanied by a document compiling good practices and that it will present an analysis of the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The purpose of the report will be to identify the challenges and shortcomings concerning the protection and promotion of the civil society space;
 - (iii) The draft report will be submitted to the CDDH for its examination at its meeting in June 2017;
 - (iv) Concerning the forthcoming work, it is envisaged to develop a non-binding instrument (Guidelines; Recommendation; Declaration) accompanied by a Guide of good practices. The practical dimension should be given priority in this exercise, in order for the standards presented in the instrument to help the member States effectively in their action concerning the civil society space.
23. The Bureau noted the topical issues discussed by the CDDH-INST; it is important that the work highlights the reasons why limits imposed on civil society by member States can be considered as acceptable or unacceptable. There is a clear link between the work of the CDDH-INST and those of the CDDH-EXP and it is important to consider in-depth the issues concerning the freedom of expression within the civil society space.
24. According to the Bureau, the possibility that the CDDH could achieve a single text gathering the results of the work of the CDDH-INST and CDDH-EXP should be explored at an appropriate stage, once the two Groups would have made sufficient progress in their work. If this idea were to progress, an event bringing together the two drafting Groups could be considered, as well as the objective to achieve a non-binding instrument, such as a Recommendation with a Guide to Good Practices, which could positively influence the current democratic debate concerning freedom of expression and the civil society space.
25. This being said, the Bureau was aware that each of the two drafting Groups, and in particular the CDDH-EXP, has its own fields of examination and that it would not be appropriate to limit their action only to issues of common interest of the two Groups.

26. The Bureau concluded that, at the CDDH meeting in December and if possible in the light of the written proposals from interested delegations, the possible joint activity of the two drafting Groups should be further developed. The objective would be that the CDDH give guidance on this item to the CDDH-INST and the CDDH-EXP in December, on the understanding that a formal decision concerning the possible joint work of the two Groups would be only taken by the CDDH in June 2017.

Freedom of expression and links to other human rights (CDDH-EXP)

27. The Rapporteur on Freedom of expression and link to other human rights, Ms Kristine LICE (Latvia) reported on the state of progress of the drafting work, with emphasis on the Court's case-law regarding freedom of expression as a prerequisite to the exercise of other rights and freedoms (the table of contents appears in the draft annotated agenda, CDDH(2016)OJ2, Appendix VI). The study mentions in particular the conditions in which, in a democratic society, shocking or disturbing ideas are covered by freedom of expression, but also the limits imposed on this freedom, concerning in particular hate speech and apology for terrorism. Other aspects of current interest such as the protection of journalists' sources and the narrow margin at the State's disposal in limiting freedom of media are also mentioned in the study.
28. The Chair of the CDDH-EXP Mr Hans-Jörg BEHRENS (Germany) highlighted the particular importance of work on issues such as hate speech. With regard to the various subjects, the Group's objective will be to give a presentation as comprehensive and clear as possible about the Court's case-law as well as existing good practices. As with the CDDH-INST, care should be particularly taken, within the CDDH-EXP, to ensure that when work is completed, practical proposals that may effectively help States are presented.
29. In order to collect national information, the Bureau suggested that the Group circulate, at an appropriate stage of its work, existing information within the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) in order to enable the CDDH participants to endorse them and update or complete them, if appropriate. The Bureau suggested that relevant NGOs be involved with the work of the CDDH-EXP.
30. It was pointed out that it would be appropriate for the study to illustrate the importance of measures taken at national level; the study could scrutinize the quality of the assessment made by the State in weighing the various interests at stake; it would be important in particular to see whether or not such assessment by the State takes into account the criteria of the Strasbourg Court. It would also be appropriate to see how to regularly update the study, which addresses a field in constant evolution.
31. Finally, in the light of the above-mentioned discussions on the work of the CDDH-INST, the Bureau considered it useful that the CDDH-EXP further review freedom of expression of Human Rights Defenders and other issues related to the protection and promotion of the civil society environment. However, concerning work relating to cyber-security, it considered that it would be appropriate to reflect further on the concrete contribution expected from the

CDDH-EXP, knowing that other bodies of the Council of Europe are already addressing this issue.

Human rights and business

32. The Bureau noted that the Recommendation has been published, accompanied by its Explanatory Memorandum. Prof. René LEFEBER (Netherlands) will present to the CDDH in December, a preliminary draft program, prepared in co-operation with the Secretariat, for the High-level Seminar planned by the CDDH in 2017 in order to raise awareness of this instrument. It noted the particular relevance of this issue for the forthcoming years.

ITEM 5: BIOETHICS (DH-BIO)

33. The Bureau noted that the Chair of the DH-BIO, Dr. Mark BALE (United Kingdom) will present to the CDDH the work of the Committee and welcomed the good co-operation between the two bodies.
34. The Bureau exchanged views on the High-level Seminar organised by the DH-BIO, which will be held the day before the CDDH meeting in December and to which the participants of the CDDH are invited. It underlined the relevance and the quality of the draft programme and noted in particular the important number of representatives from high national Courts who will participate in this event dedicated to the theme *International case-law in Bioethics: insight and foresight*.
35. With the Seminar as part of the preparation for the Conference that will mark the 20th anniversary of the Oviedo Convention, the Bureau noted that the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the CDDH were already invited to be among the speakers at the Conference in 2017.

ITEM 6: HUMAN RIGHTS AND TERRORISM

Protection of victims of terrorist acts

36. The Bureau exchanged views on the draft revised Guidelines on the protection of victims of terrorist acts sent by the Secretariat to the CDDH participants on 21 November 2016 (document CDDH(2016)004) for comments and possible drafting proposals.
37. The Bureau noted the importance of the issue and the particular relevance to revise, at the present time, the 2005 Guidelines. Concerning the draft revision, the Bureau suggested highlighting, in each Guideline, what constitutes a general principle that applies to the 47 member States and what constitutes, essentially, an example of good practice or a detailed way of implementing, in a concrete manner, the principle set out. According to the Bureau, detailed elements should be laid down in the appendix of the revised Guidelines, bearing in mind that these are only examples and that in any case, each member State is free to decide the specific manner in which to implement, at the national level and based on its specific circumstances, the principles which would be set out in the revised Guidelines.

38. In view of the heavy agenda of the meeting of December,⁶ the Bureau considered that the CDDH would not have sufficient time to consider the text in detail, which addresses important and complex issues. Consequently it suggested at this stage that the CDDH only hold a general exchange of views on the issue, without opening a drafting discussion paragraph by paragraph.
39. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to inform CDDH participants that the deadline for the reception of drafting comments/proposals that was initially set for Thursday 1 December 2016 at 13:00 was postponed and that a new deadline would be set by the CDDH at its plenary meeting. According to the Bureau, the objective could be to submit to the Ministers' Deputies the Draft Revised Guidelines in due course for adoption at the next Ministerial session (19 May 2017). If the CDDH agrees with this idea, it proposed the following procedure:
- (a) invite member States to use as a basis for this work the draft revision sent by the Secretariat (email Ferreira Cindy of 21 November 2016 15:02, document CDDH(2016)004, Appendix II) and invite them to send drafting proposals relating specifically to this text;⁷
 - (b) in this regard, invite member States to send Appendix II without delay to national associations of victims of terrorist acts or any other bodies in their countries which they may consider relevant in order, for member States, to be able to send to the Secretariat by end of January 2017 drafting proposals presenting the national approach, namely the point of view expressed by national authorities further to possible consultation of the associations existing in the country;
 - (c) decide that the Bureau should hold an extraordinary meeting on 20 (afternoon) and 21 March 2017 dedicated to consolidating Appendix II in light of the contributions received. Following the established practice, the Bureau would consider as a matter of priority, the drafting proposals received.
 - (d) the consolidated draft would then be sent electronically to the CDDH for comments and possible adoption by end of March/ beginning of April 2017;
 - (e) finally, the draft revision thus adopted would be submitted to the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers with a view to including it in the agenda of the Ministerial session which would mark the handing over of the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers to the Czech Chairmanship.

⁶ A maximum of an hour and a half could be dedicated to this issue (Tuesday 6 December 2016, from 16:30; see draft order of business).

⁷ It is recalled that contributions that were already sent by several delegations and bodies concerned were of course taken into account in the present Appendix II. These delegations and bodies are however free to send if they so wish, any drafting proposals that they may consider useful.

Special investigation techniques

40. The Bureau was informed that the Secretariat would distribute as soon as possible the draft revision of Recommendation Rec(2005)20 on the special investigation techniques as adopted by the CODEXTER on 17 November 2016. The CDDH will be invited to make comments on the texts if necessary.

Terrorists acting alone

41. According to the Bureau, it is unnecessary for the CDDH to be represented as such within the Drafting Group of the CODEXTER responsible for the draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on terrorists acting alone.

Foreign terrorist fighters

42. The Bureau learnt about the ongoing work on a draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on foreign terrorist fighters.

ITEM 7: EXPERTS REPRESENTING THE CDDH IN OTHER BODIES

43. The Chair reported on her participation in the Conference on children's rights in migration crisis and digital environment (Tallinn, 3-4 November 2016). The Bureau invited the other experts having represented the CDDH in other bodies as of June to communicate information to the Secretariat before the meeting in December, it being understood that there would be limited time for an exchange of view during the plenary meeting.

ITEM 8: INVITEES

44. The Bureau noted that the Secretariat would distribute brief and recent information on the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) with a view to the meeting scheduled with the Agency's Director, Prof. Michael O'Flaherty. For his part, the Director General, Mr Philippe BOILLAT, Director General (Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law) mentioned the regular and productive contact between the two bodies.
45. The Bureau suggested inviting to one of the upcoming meetings of the CDDH or the relevant Drafting Group:
- the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Mr Tomas BOCEK (Czech Republic);
 - the Chair of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF), Ms Ina VERZIVOLLI (Albania);
 - The Greek Deputy Ombudsman for children's Rights, Mr George MOSCHOS, concerning alternative measures to detention;

- a personality likely to come up with new ideas with a view to the preparation for the next biennium.

ITEM 9: REVIEW OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTIONS

46. The Bureau welcomed the way the DH-SYSC is proceeding as regards the follow-up of the instruments which have been entrusted to it, and took note of the progress made concerning the signatures and ratifications of Protocols Nos. 15 and 16 (see document DH-SYSC(2016)008 REV2). The Bureau agreed with the contents of the document CDDH(2016)006 prepared by the Secretariat concerning the organisation, by category, of the list of conventions placed under the responsibility of the CDDH into “key conventions” or “inactive conventions”. Concerning more specifically the classification of Protocol No. 12 (§9 of the document), the Bureau considered that the Protocol should be preserved in the “key conventions” of the Council of Europe. The CDDH would also be invited to decide on:
- (i) the conventions which could be reclassified as “key conventions” in the light of the criteria proposed (§§10 to 13 of the above-mentioned document);
 - (ii) the conventions which could be reclassified as “inactive” in the light of §§16 and 17 of the above-mentioned document.

ITEM 10: ELECTIONS

47. The Bureau suggested to hold elections in the morning before the coffee break, not after.

ITEM 11: FUTURE WORK

48. The Bureau suggested that the CDDH keep in mind the possibility of asking the Committee of Ministers, if necessary, to prolong certain ongoing terms of reference in order to complete work in 2018. It recalled that the CDDH would have to decide/make a decision on the work of the next biennium at its meeting in June 2017.
49. The Bureau noted that the CDDH is called to launch, in December, work on the follow-up to Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)4 of the Committee of Ministers on the human rights of members of armed forces (see CDDH(2016)OJ2, § 53(i)).
50. The Bureau also recalled the issue of prenatal sex selection as work entrusted by the Deputies in September 2014 to the CDDH, with the support of the DH-BIO and in co-operation with the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), to be started at a date left to the discretion of the CDDH.
51. The Bureau considered furthermore that the Seminar on bioethics (5 December 2016) could create possible future work for the CDDH.
52. Concerning follow-up to Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or

gender identity, the Bureau recalled that the Committee of Ministers will reconvene on the issue of the follow-up of this instrument in 2018.

ITEM 12: CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

53. The draft calendar as revised by the Secretariat further to the discussions within the Bureau appears at Appendix II hereafter for consideration and possible adoption by the CDDH in December.

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Appendix I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

96th meeting of the CDDH-BU (Paris, 24-25 November 2016)

ANDORRA

Mr Joan FORNER ROVIRA, Représentant permanent adjoint de l'Andorre auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, Strasbourg

AUSTRIA

Ms Brigitte OHMS, Deputy Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Federal Chancellery, Wien

GERMANY

Mr Hans-Jörg BEHRENS, Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz, Berlin

GREECE

Ms Zinovia STAVRIDIS, Head of the Public International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens

LATVIA

Ms Kristine LICE, Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riga

LUXEMBOURG

Ms Brigitte KONZ, Juge de Paix directrice, Luxembourg, Chair of the CDDH

NORWAY

Mr Morten RUUD, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police, Legislation Department, Oslo

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr Rob LINHAM, Assistant Director for Europe and Domestic Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, London

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Ms Isabelle NIEDLISPACHER, Co-Agent du Gouvernement de la Belgique auprès de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme, Chair of the DH-SYSC

Ms Chantal GALLANT, Attachée, Co-Agent du Gouvernement de la Belgique auprès de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme, Rapporteur of the CDDH-SOC

Ms Krista OINONEN, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Contact person for the preparation of the High-level Seminar on Human Rights in culturally diverse societies, Rapporteur and Chair of the CDDH-INST

Mr Frank SCHÜRMANN, Agent du Gouvernement de la Suisse auprès de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme, Rapporteur of the CDDH-MIG

SECRETARIAT

**DG I – Human Rights and Rule of Law / Droits de l'Homme et État de droit
Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex**

Mr Philippe BOILLAT, Director General, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law,
DGI

Mr Mikhail LOBOV, Head of the Human Rights Policy and Development Department

Mr Alfonso DE SALAS, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division,
Secretary of the CDDH

Ms Irène KITSOU-MILONAS, Head of the Unit on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights, Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division, Secretary of the DH-SYSC

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INTERPRETERS

Ms Eline AITKEN

Ms Isabel Ann FREEMAN

Appendix II**Draft calendar for 2017 of the CDDH and its subordinate bodies**

(including suggestions for changes further to the 96th Bureau meeting (Paris, 24-25 November 2016) for examination and possible adoption by the CDDH at its 86th meeting (6-8 December 2016))

2017		
3rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on female genital mutilation and forced marriage (CDDH-MF)		[24-26 January]
2 nd meeting of the DH-SYSC Drafting Group on Recommendation CM/REC(2008)2 (DH-SYSC-REC)		25-27 January
2 nd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on human rights and migration (CDDH-MIG)		Cyprus, 15-17 February
3 rd meeting of the DH-SYSC Drafting Group I on the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention (DH-SYSC-I)		27 February – 1 March
3rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on female genital mutilation and forced marriage (CDDH-MF)		[6-9] [28-31 March]
1st meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on social rights (CDDH-SOC)		[8-10] March
2 nd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on civil society and national human rights institutions (CDDH-INST)		[8-10] March
Extraordinary meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)		Strasbourg, 20 (afternoon) – 21 March
1 st meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on freedom of expression and links to other human rights (CDDH-EXP) [Conference on Freedom of expression]		[22-24] March 22-23 (end at 18 :00) March [24 March]
1 st meeting of the DH-SYSC Drafting Group II on the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention (DH-SYSC-II)		29-31 March
1st meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on social rights (CDDH-SOC)		[mid-April]
2nd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on social rights (CDDH-SOC)		[End of April]
3 rd meeting of the Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC)		10-12 May

3 rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on human rights and migration (CDDH-MIG)		[May]
2nd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on freedom of expression and links to other human rights (CDDH-EXP)		[10-12] May
3 rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on civil society and national human rights institutions (CDDH-INST)		[June]
97 th meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)		[Paris, 23-24 May] [Paris, 1-2 June]
11 th meeting of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)		6-8 June [Alternative 29-31 May]
High-level Seminar on human rights and business 87 th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) [40 th anniversary of the CDDH]		[6 June (9:30-15:00)] [6 June 15:30 - 9 June]
2 nd meeting of the DH-SYSC Drafting Group II on the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention (DH-SYSC-II)		21-23 June
2nd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on social rights (CDDH-SOC)		[beginning of September]
3 rd meeting of the DH-SYSC Drafting Group II on the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention (DH-SYSC-II)		[September]
2nd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on freedom of expression and links to other human rights (CDDH-EXP)		[20-22 September]
3rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on freedom of expression and links to other human rights (CDDH-EXP)		[20-22] September
[Conference on Human Rights in the field of migration, Czech Presidency of the CM]		[25-26 September]
3 rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on social rights (CDDH-SOC)		[October] [beginning of November]
4 th meeting of the Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC)		[November]
3rd meeting of the CDDH Drafting Group on freedom of expression and links to other human rights (CDDH-EXP)		[November]
International Conference for the 20 th anniversary of the Oviedo Convention and 12 th meeting of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)		(20)-24 (23) November (to be confirmed)

98 th meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)		[November]
88 th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)		[December]

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It is recalled that the CDDH will decide, in December 2016, on the possible holding of a 4th meeting of the DH-SYSC-I.