



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Strasbourg, 30 September 2008

**Regular Selective Information Flow
from
the Office of the Commissioner
to
the Contact Persons of the NHRs**

**Issue n°1
covering the period from 1st to 14 September 2008**

The selection of the information contained on this Issue and deemed relevant to NHRs is made under the responsibility of the NHRs Unit and the Legal Advice Unit of the Office of the Commissioner.

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Introduction

This issue is part of the "Regular Selective Information Flow" (RSIF) which Commissioner Hammarberg promised to establish at a round table with the heads of the national human rights structures (NHRs) in April 2007 in Athens. The purpose of the RSIF is to keep the national structures permanently updated of Council of Europe norms and activities by way of regular transfer of information, which the Commissioner's Office carefully selects and tries to present to in a user-friendly manner. The information is sent to the Contact Persons in the NHRs who are kindly asked to dispatch it within their offices.

Each issue will cover two weeks and will be sent out by the Commissioner's Office a fortnight after the end of each observation period. This means that all information contained in the issues will be between two and four weeks old.

Unfortunately, the issues will be available in English only for the time being due to the limited means of the Commissioner's Office. However, the majority of the documents referred to exist in English and French and can be consulted on the web sites that are indicated in the issues.

The selection of the information included in the issues is made by the Commissioner's Office under its responsibility. It is based on what the NHRs and the Legal Advice Units believe could be relevant to the work of the NHRs. A particular effort is made to render the selection as targeted and short as possible.

Readers are expressly encouraged to give the Commissioner's Office any feed-back that may allow for the improvement of the format and the contents of this tool.

Part I : The activities of the European Court of Human Rights

A. Judgments

Due to the estival period, no judgments were issued by the European Court of Human Rights during the period under observation.

B. The decisions on admissibility / inadmissibility / striking out of the list including due to friendly settlements

Those decisions are published with a slight delay of two to three weeks on the Court's Website. Therefore the decisions listed below cover the period from 1 to 30 August 2008.

They are aimed at providing the NHRSs with potentially useful information on the reasons of the inadmissibility of certain applications addressed to the Court and/or on the friendly settlements reached.

<u>State</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Case Title</u>	<u>Allegation</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Key Words by the Office of the Commissioner</u>
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>28 Aug. 2008</i>	<i>7508/05 Prežec</i> (link)	Lack of requisite psychiatric treatment; Lack of protection of his life (suicide attempts); Disciplinary measures taken in violation of the Convention	Struck out of the list	Special treatment received Friendly settlement reached
<i>Romania</i>	<i>26 Aug. 2008</i>	<i>34249/04 Szasz and Others</i> (link)	Violation of articles 6 (unfair procedure and impartiality) and 1 of Protocol No. 1	Struck out of the list	Friendly settlement reached
<i>Russia</i>	<i>28 Aug. 2008</i>	<i>3585/04 Butenko</i> (link)	Violation of articles 6, 13, and 14 of the Convention, and article 1 of Protocol No. 1	Struck out of the list	Friendly settlement reached
<i>Russia</i>	<i>28 Aug. 2008</i>	<i>69519/01 Pasko</i> (link)	Violation of Articles 3 ; 5-3 ; 5-4 ; 6-1 ; 6-3-b ; 6-1+14 ; 7 ; 10	Partly Admissible	Partly admissible under Articles 7 and 10 of the Convention concerning the criminal conviction for disclosure of State secrets;
<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>28 Aug. 2008</i>	<i>26695/05 Timko</i> (link)	Violation of Article 6§1 (length of proceedings)	Struck out of the list	Friendly settlement reached

<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	23942/02 <i>Dean</i> (link)	Violation of article 14 taken in conjunction with both article 8 and 1 of Protocol No. 1 (discrimination on ground of sex in the British social security legislation)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	23162/02 <i>Hough</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	25391/02 <i>Hurst</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	28011/02 <i>Hugues</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	28044/02 <i>Murphy</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Struck out of the list	Applicant apparently lost interest in pursuing his application
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	28080/02 <i>Southworth</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	28088/02 <i>Taylor</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	28092/02 <i>Tolui</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded
<i>United Kingdom</i>	28 Aug. 2008	19879/02 <i>Williams</i> (link)	Idem as in Dean's case (see above)	Inadmissible	Manifestly ill-founded

C. The communicated cases

The European Court of Human Rights publishes on a weekly basis a list of the communicated cases on its Website. These are cases concerning individual applications which are pending before the Court. They are communicated by the Court to the respondent State's Government with a statement of facts, the applicant's complaints and the questions put by the Court to the Government concerned. The decision to communicate a case lies with one of the Court's Chamber which is in charge of the case.

Below you will find the case which was published on the Court's Website on 18 August 2008. They were communicated between 28 July and 1 August 2008. There is in general a gap of three weeks between the date of the communication and the date of the publication of the batch on the Website.

For more information, you may refer to the list: <http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?action=open&documentId=839409&portal=hbkm&source=externalbydocnumber&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649>

The list itself contains links to the statement of facts and the questions to the parties. This is a tool for NHRSs to be aware of issues involving their countries.

Country	Case Title	Application Number	Articles of the ECHR concerned	Key Words by the Office of the Commissioner
Turkey	Ozbek and Others (statement of facts)	32951/04	3, 5(1)c, 10(1), 11(1)	Freedom of peaceful assembly Freedom of expression Regarding treatment Lawful arrest or detention

D. Miscellaneous

Webcast of a Grand Chamber hearing : Mooren v. Germany

The webcast of the Grand Chamber hearing in the case of Mooren v. Germany is available as of Wednesday 24 September 2008. The case concerns the applicant's complaint about the lawfulness of his pre-trial detention following his arrest in July 2002 on suspicion of tax evasion and about the speediness and fairness of the proceedings for review of this detention

You may follow the Webcasts of the hearings of the Court on the website of the Court :
<http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Press/Multimedia/Webcasts+of+public+hearings/>

Relinquishment of jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber

On 5 September 2008, the Chamber examining the case of Enea v. Italy has relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber, which will hold a hearing on 5 November 2008.

Proceedings were brought against the applicant, Salvatore Enea, in the context of investigations into the mafia. The applicant, who suffers from several illnesses which oblige him to use a wheelchair, is currently serving a 30-year prison sentence following his conviction for criminal association, drug trafficking and illegal possession of firearms. The case concerns, in particular, the conditions in which the applicant is held and the fact that, until March 2005, he was placed under the special prison regime laid down in section 41bis of the Prison Administration Act, and has since been detained under the so-called E.I.V. regime (Elevato Indice di Vigilanza, strict monitoring regime)

Part II : The execution of the judgments of the Court

A. New information

Information on the 1035th Human Rights meeting on the supervision of the Court's judgments, that takes place on 16-18 September 2008, will be given in the next RSIF.

B. General and consolidated information

For more information on the specific question of the execution of judgments including the Committee of Ministers' annual report for 2007 on its supervision of judgments, please refer to the Council of Europe's web site dedicated to the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/execution/

The simplified global database with all pending cases for execution control (Excel document containing all the basic information on all the cases currently pending before the Committee of Ministers) can be consulted at the following address :

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/execution/02_Documents/PPIndex.asp#TopOfPage

Part III : The work of other Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms

A. European Social Charter (ESC)

New website for the Social Charter: www.coe.int/socialcharter

You are cordially invited to visit the new Internet site of the European Social Charter. A particular effort has been made to render the site more user-friendly and more accessible to a wider public, including both specialised and non-specialised Internauts. The new site contains up to date case-law pertaining to social rights in States party to the Charter as well as numerous pages explaining the functioning of the Charter and illustrating its work in the field.

New case law Digest:

The [Digest](#) presents the interpretation that the European Committee of Social Rights has made of the different articles of the European Social Charter, in its revised version of 1 September 2008.

Collective complaint n°42/2007:

At its 1033rd meeting on 4 September 2008 the Ministers' Deputies adopted Resolution [CM/ResChs\(2008\)9](#) concerning the collective complaint International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (IFHR) against Ireland (No. 42/2007).

- [Link to Collective Complaints webpage](#)

The complaint registered on 26 February 2007 relates to Article 23 (the right of elderly persons to social protection) read in conjunction with Article E (non-discrimination) and to Article 12§4 (the right to social security) of the Revised European Social Charter. It is alleged that the situation constitutes a discrimination against persons in receipt of Irish Contributory Old Age Pensions who do not reside permanently in Ireland in that they do not have access to the Free Travel scheme when they return to Ireland.

The European Committee of Social Rights declared the complaint admissible on 16 October 2007.

The European Committee of Social Rights concluded that there was no violation of either Articles 23 or 12§4 in conjunction with Article E of the Revised European Social Charter, and transmitted its decision on the merits of the complaint to the Committee of Ministers on 4 July 2008.

B. European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

Report on "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (10.09.08)

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has published the report on its October 2007 ad hoc visit (a further ad hoc visit was carried out in June/July 2008) to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", together with the authorities' response.

The 2007 visit focused on the situation in prisons as well as examining the issue of safeguards against ill-treatment of persons detained by law enforcement officials. It was prompted by the fact that the authorities' response to the report on the 2006 visit did not address many of the issues identified by the Committee. The CPT was particularly concerned about three areas: the action taken to combat impunity, the conditions of detention in prisons and the treatment and care of vulnerable persons.

The [CPT's report](#) and the [response of the national authorities](#) to the October 2007 visit report are available on the CPT's website <http://www.cpt.coe.int>. Both documents have been made public at the request of the Government.

C. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

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D. Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)

National Minorities in Switzerland (08.09.08)

The Comments on the Advisory Committee's Opinion on Switzerland have been received and made public at the Government's request, together with the Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The Advisory Committee – an expert body set up under the Council's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities - visited Switzerland in November 2007 and adopted its report on 29 February 2008.

The Committee of Ministers will draw on the report as it prepares a Resolution on the issue.

E. Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

Third Round Evaluation Report on the Netherlands (10.09.08)

The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) published its Third Round Evaluation Report on the Netherlands. The report has been made public following the agreement of the authorities. It focuses on two distinct themes: criminalisation of corruption and transparency of party funding.

Regarding the criminalisation of corruption, GRECO acknowledges that, on the whole, Dutch legislation complies with the Council of Europe's Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS 173) and its Additional Protocol (ETS 191). Nevertheless, the sanctions for private sector bribery need to be increased and the offence as such should be aligned more closely to public sector bribery as established under Dutch law. In addition, the Netherlands is urged to analyse whether there is a need, for the sake of legal certainty, to clarify the term 'public official' used in the Criminal Code, and is asked to reconsider its position on the reservations it has made to the Convention, regarding trading in influence and jurisdiction. Moreover, GRECO recommends that due priority be given, in the process of political reform currently underway in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to ensuring that the legislation of all countries in the Kingdom is in line with the Convention and its Additional Protocol.

Concerning transparency of party funding, the current legal framework on the financing of political parties is not in line with the requirements of Recommendation Rec (2003)4 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on common rules against corruption in the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns. It should, first and foremost, be ensured that all entities represented in parliament report annually on their financial situation in appropriate detail and that these reports are made available to the general public. Furthermore, the Netherlands is asked to establish independent monitoring of political finance rules and make infringements of these rules subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. A draft law on the Financing of Political Parties, which has been prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, appears to already address a number of GRECO's concerns and is thus a significant step in the right direction.

The report as a whole addresses 19 recommendations to the Netherlands. GRECO will assess the implementation of these recommendations in the first half of 2010, through its specific compliance procedure.

* No work deemed relevant for the NHRS for the period under observation.

F. Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL)

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^{*} No work deemed relevant for the NHRS for the period under observation.

Part IV : The intergovernmental work

A. The new signatures and ratifications of the Treaties of the Council of Europe

Switzerland (08.09.08) signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([CETS No. 197](#)).

B. Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Committee of Ministers

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C. Other news of the Committee of Ministers

Conference of Ministers responsible for migration affairs - Tobias Billström: "To maximise the benefits of migration and minimise the difficulties sometimes engendered" (04.09.08)

"Migration is today part and parcel of the interconnected and globalized world we live in. It is also a highly complex and sometimes sensitive issue. It behooves our governments to develop coherent migration policies that are suited to the social, economic, political as well as demographic and geographical situation of our respective countries," stated Tobias Billström, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy.

Council of Europe calls for an integrated approach to migration issues (05.09.08)

At the end of their discussions at the Kyiv conference of 4 and 5 September, the Ministers responsible for migration of the 47 Council of Europe member states called on the Organisation to devise an integrated approach to economic migration, development and social cohesion and assist member states in its implementation. This includes developing mechanisms for regular exchanges of information and training on necessary reforms and inter-ministerial co-operation (...).

The text of the final declaration is available at <http://8emc.mvc-expo.com.ua/> and www.coe.int.

^{*} No work deemed relevant for the NHRS for the period under observation.

Part V : The parliamentary work

A. Reports, Resolutions and Recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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B. News of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Cyprus talks ‘best opportunity in years’ to unite the island, says PACE rapporteur (03.09.08)

“The talks which have opened today represent the best opportunity in many years to end the division of Cyprus,” said Joachim Hörster (Germany, EPP/CD), the rapporteur of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) on the Cyprus question. “The opportunity must not be wasted.”

“Difficult compromises will have to be found, but I urge both sides to continue showing the political will and determination that will be needed for success,” he continued. “The Council of Europe is ready to help, including with measures to build confidence between the two communities. The people of Cyprus have been divided for too long.”

Cypriot President Demetris Christofias is due to address the Assembly at its autumn session in Strasbourg (29 September-3 October). Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat will also address the Assembly when it debates Mr Hörster’s report on the situation in Cyprus.

Reforms stalling in Bosnia and Herzegovina, warns PACE committee (11.09.08)

Without greater co-operation between the various State and Entity level structures, Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be able to benefit fully from European integration, the Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) has today warned.

In a report adopted this morning in Paris, prepared by Mevlüt Çavusoglu (Turkey, EDG) and Kimmo Sasi (Finland, EPP/CD), the committee regretted the lack of progress on constitutional reform, expressed concern at increased nationalist and ethnic rhetoric and condemned moves by Republika Srpska to undermine state institutions.

PACE is due to debate the report on Tuesday 30 September in Strasbourg.

[Full report \(provisional version\)](#) (PDF)

PACE rapporteur on media freedom deplores the death of prominent Ingush opposition journalist in Russia (02.09.08)

Andrew McIntosh (United Kingdom, SOC), rapporteur on media freedom and Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Media of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), has strongly deplored the death of the prominent opposition journalist Magomed Yevloyev on 31 August 2008 in Nazran, the capital of the Republic of Ingushetia in the northern Caucasus of the Russian Federation.

“I call on the local and federal judiciary to fully investigate the circumstances of his death and inform the public adequately,” said Mr McIntosh. Mr Yevloyev was shot in the head while in police custody in

* No work deemed relevant for the NHRS for the period under observation.

a police car and reportedly left by the side of the road. He was an outspoken critic of the governments in Nazran and Moscow, and his funeral today led to mass protests.

“In its [Resolution 1535 \(2007\)](#) on threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists, the Assembly called on member states to properly investigate recent murders of journalists, including the murder of Anna Politkovskaya in Russia, and ensure the safety of journalists. The death of Magomed Yevloyev shows that things have not improved and this requires urgent action by member states to protect journalists and media freedom as necessary in a democratic society.”

Death of Magomed Yevloyev: North Caucasian situation as alarming as ever (09.09.08)

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is deeply shocked by the violent death of Magomed Yevloyev, prominent journalist and owner of the website [ingushetya.ru](#), which occurred on 31 August in a vehicle of the Ingush authorities (Russian Federation).

It offers its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased and urges the competent authorities to shed all possible light on the circumstances of this tragedy.

According to information confirmed by the authorities themselves, Mr Yevloyev sustained a bullet wound to the head while in the back seat of an official vehicle after being arrested at Nazran/Magas airport. He died in hospital at Nazran without regaining consciousness. According to the official version, disputed by human rights organisations, the bullet was fired accidentally during an altercation in the car, caused by Mr Yevloyev's snatching at the machine pistol of one of the police officers.

The committee recalls the strong presumption of fact that official responsibility is incurred when a person under arrest suffers injury or death. It invites the authorities to carry out a full, effective and independent investigation also taking account of the allegations by persons close to Mr Yevloyev that he feared for his life.

Magomed Yevloyev's death has aroused displays of popular solidarity on an unprecedented scale in Ingushetia.

In the view of the committee, meeting today in Paris, the affair illustrates once again how alarming the situation in the North Caucasus is. The committee reaffirms its demand that its rapporteur on the human rights situation in the North Caucasus, Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE), be able to visit the region as soon as possible.

[Statement by Lord McIntosh](#)
[Memo on the North Caucasus situation \(PDF\)](#)

Migration Committee Chair welcomes EU Asylum Pact (11.09.08)

Speaking today at the Joint Parliamentary Meeting on “Europe: Migration and Integration”, organised by the European Parliament and the French Presidency of the European Union together with the French Senate and National Assembly, Corien Jonker, Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, welcomed the proposed European Pact on Immigration and Asylum and thanked the French Presidency for putting forward this important initiative.

She underlined that good co-operation and exchange of expertise between European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly and with homologue committees of national parliaments was essential in making common migration and integration policies a reality. “Our Assembly shares many of the concerns raised at the European Union level which are also relevant to many of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. I am fully convinced that PACE and the European Parliament can build on each others' strengths”.

Commenting on the common immigration and asylum policies, Mrs Jonker said, “The time is ripe for putting forward major steps in the field of migration and asylum. However, these steps can only be taken if we are all ready to demonstrate real solidarity. Countries of Southern Europe are facing an immense challenge concerning the influx of irregular migrants from Europe's Southern shores, and they should not be left alone. Europe must be prepared to act as a whole as regards burden sharing,

but also work with the countries of origin on prevention and readmission measures. At the same time Europe must invest more in working out harmonised criteria and level of protection of human dignity and fundamental rights of migrants and asylum seekers.”

“Next to that, solidarity with third countries needs to involve an improved ethic recruitment policy and extended regional protection programmes”, she added.

During the conference Jonker also raised specific attention for the reports the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population recently adopted or has prepared, such as the report on the issue of "Europe's Boat People" examining the large scale arrival of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece and also Turkey. This report will be debated in the Assembly later this year.

PACE committee calls for a Council of Europe Convention on combating violence against women (12.09.08)

PACE's Equal Opportunities Committee today called for a Council of Europe Convention to combat violence against women. The committee unanimously approved a report by José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), which also presented the results of the parliamentary dimension of the Council of Europe campaign "Stop domestic violence against women " (2006-8).

"This campaign has been a powerful joint effort but our work is not over," said Mr Mendes Bota. "A Council of Europe Convention is now needed so as to effectively combat the severest and the most widespread forms of violence against women and to ensure that governments and parliaments commit themselves." PACE will debate the report during its Autumn session.

[Report](#)

C. Miscellaneous

Selected Relevant Documents:

[Report](#) of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (doc. 11698, 12 September 2008) on the [Draft Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents](#). This report will be debated during the PACE autumn session (29 September- 3 October 2008).

PACE Various Events:

- The Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is organising a hearing on "Private military and security firms and the erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force" in Paris on 10 September 2008 with the participation of parliamentarians from its 47 member states, experts and a representative of a private security firm.

- [The role of parliaments in the management of water resources: PACE colloquy in Madrid](#)

Part VI : The work of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Country work

“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: Commissioner Hammarberg presents his human rights [report](#) (12.09.08)

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, published his report on the human-rights situation in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. The Commissioner welcomed the on-going initiatives in the field of human rights protection and in particular the ambitious program of law-making and adoption of action plans on human rights issues. He made a number of recommendations to help strengthen this process, focusing mainly on the judiciary, police behaviour, conditions in places of detention, counter-terrorism activities, measures against discrimination, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The report is based on the findings of an official visit to the country carried out in February 2008 and is available on the Commissioner’s website (www.commissioner.coe.int).

B. Thematic work

“Child’s best interest is also our interest” (09.09.08)

“When decisions are taken about children, their ‘best interests’ should be the guiding principle. This is now widely accepted but not always respected.”

This was the key message that Commissioner Hammarberg delivered today during the second Janusz Korczak lecture held in Stockholm as part of a major conference on “Building a Europe for and with children – Towards a Strategy for 2009-2011” organised by the Council of Europe and the Swedish Government from 8 to 10 September.

Chairing the lecture, the Commissioner underlined that the child's best interest is a generally applicable principle and he praised the lecture given by Ms Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children of Ireland and Chair person of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children (ENOC). “In her speech, Emily Logan insisted on the fact that the principle of the best interest comprises a procedural rule, as it governs how we go about decision-making with regard to children. This should be the pillar of any child policy” said Commissioner Hammarberg.

The lecture also focused on concrete examples on how children’s interests should be heard by society and put an emphasis on the need to consult children and let them participate in all decision making processes which are relevant to them.

Commissioner Hammarberg also stressed that the current Council of Europe programme ‘Building a Europe for and with children’ “could be seen as an implementation of Korczak’s ideas on justice, fight against violence and child participation.”

Created by the Commissioner Hammarberg, the first Korczak lecture was held in November 2007 in Warsaw. The lectures aim at promoting the legacy of Janusz Korczak, the Polish paediatrician, educator and writer for and about children. Korczak designed and led two orphanages in Warsaw. He died in 1942 with two hundreds of “his” children in the extermination camp of Treblinka. For many, he is one of the “father” of children rights.

The Commissioner concluded saying that “Korczak was a pragmatic dreamer, ahead of his time and but also ahead of our time”.

Viewpoint: "Roma representatives must be welcomed into political decision-making" (01.09.08)

Roma populations are grossly under-represented in local and national assemblies and government administrations all over Europe. This is a serious shortcoming in our democracies, violates the right to political participation and perpetuates a situation of exclusion and marginalization of some ten to twelve million people.

See full text of the [Viewpoint](#).

C. Miscellaneous (newsletter, agenda...)

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* No work deemed relevant for the NHRS for the period under observation.

Part VII : Special files

The situation concerning the South-Ossetia Conflict

- Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis (08.08.08) : protect the civilian population in Georgia (See [press release](#))
- South Ossetia: PACE President calls for an end to the violence (08.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- South Ossetia: Congress President Yavuz Mildon calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities (08.08.08) (see [press release](#))
- Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and Secretary General of the Council of Europe go to Georgia (11.08.08) (see [press release](#))
- Situation in Georgia Statement by Carl Bildt, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on his visit to Georgia (11.08.08) (see [press release](#))
- European Court of Human Rights (12.08.08) : The Court grants request by Georgia for interim measure (see [press release](#))
- Conflict in Georgia: visit of PACE monitoring rapporteurs on Georgia (17.08.08) (See [Press release](#))
- PACE monitoring rapporteur on visit to Moscow to hold talks on the conflict in Georgia (20.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- Commissioner Hammarberg visits the Russian Federation and Georgia to assess the human rights situation and access to humanitarian assistance (21.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- Georgia: 17 detainees exchanged through the good offices of Commissioner Hammarberg (25.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- Carl Bildt condemns Russia's recognition of independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia (26.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- "The humanitarian concerns resulting from the South Ossetia conflict needs to be addressed urgently by both parties", says Commissioner for Human Rights (28.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- PACE to hold major debate on the Georgia-Russia conflict and to send fact-finding mission to both countries (29.08.08) (See [press release](#))
- Conflict in Georgia: the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, invites his colleagues to an informal ministerial meeting (04.09.08) (See [press release](#))
- Human rights and humanitarian principles have been seriously violated in the South Ossetia conflict, reports Thomas Hammarberg after an eight-day mission. He proposes six principles for protection of the victims (05.09.08) (See [press release](#))
- PACE Autumn Session Urgent debate on the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia (05.09.08) (See [press release](#))
- Congress President to visit Georgia (08.09.08) (See [press release](#))
- Commissioner Hammarberg releases his special report on the human rights situation in the areas affected by the South Ossetia conflict (09.09.08) (See [press release](#) and see [special report](#))
- Yavuz Mildon: "Congress ready to assist local authorities in Georgia" (12.09.08) (See [press release](#))
- Request to reconsider the credentials of the Russian delegation to PACE (12.09.08) (See [press release](#))
- The OSCE and the Council of Europe: assessment of the human rights situation in Georgia needed (15.09.08) (See [press release](#))