

46+1(2022)R16

24 November 2022

16[™] MEETING OF THE CDDH AD HOC NEGOTIATION GROUP ("46+1") ON THE ACCESSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Meeting Report
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Tuesday 22 November 2022 – Thursday 24 November 2022
Palais, Room 8

Council of Europe

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

- 1. The CDDH ad hoc negotiation group ("46+1 Group") on the accession of the European Union (EU) to the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention) held its 16th meeting on 22 24 November 2022 with Tonje MEINICH (Norway) in the chair. The list of participants appears in Appendix I.
- 2. The Group adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix II.

Item 2: Issues relating to Article 7 of the Accession Agreement (including the relevant parts of the other accession instruments)

- 3. The Group resumed its discussion of issues relating to voting in the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights to which the EU is a party. The Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers provided information on how many cases were under enhanced supervision, how many of those were examined at each 'human rights' (CM/DH) meeting of the Committee of Ministers, how many of those were subject to decisions prior to the final resolution, and how many of those decisions were adopted by vote rather than consensus. The Group agreed that voting on the implementation of judgments in cases involving the EU would occur only very rarely, whilst noting that it would tend to occur in the most difficult and politically sensitive cases.
- 4. The Secretariat presented a document containing possible drafting proposals for and analysis of the consequences of the various options in relation to voting by the Committee of Ministers under Article 7, paragraph 4 of the Accession Agreement (doc. 46+1(2022)27corr). The Secretariat recalled that unlike most other issues, the issue of voting in the Committee of Ministers was about protecting the Convention system, rather than the EU legal order, against possible adverse consequences of EU accession. It also differed in that it did not concern proceedings prior to the decision-making process, but the decision-making process itself. The proposals set out in the document sought to address deficiencies that had been identified in the 2013 accession instruments, so as to ensure that the coordinated votes of the EU and its member States alone would not suffice either to block a decision that they opposed or to adopt a decision that they supported. The tables contained qualitative and quantitative analysis of the functioning of various options. The Group welcomed this document as a useful contribution to its discussions and recalled that this issue had not been raised in Opinion 2/13 of the Court of Justice of the EU.
- 5. The Group reaffirmed the need to revisit Rule 18 as drafted in 2013, with some delegations stating that they could not accept the 2013 text. The Group then exchanged views on the three main options set out in the Secretariat document: the revised version of Rule 18; the 0-vote option; and the 1-vote option. It began by exploring various questions of principle arising in relation to different options, and delegations indicated their initial preferences amongst those options. One delegation reminded the Group of its earlier proposal for a revised version of Rule 18 and that the Secretariat had provided a numerical analysis of this proposal.
- 6. As regards the revised Rule 18 option, some delegations considered that this had the advantages of equal participation in decision-making, which respected the current institutional situation based on the principles of shared responsibility, collective supervision, and equality of the parties. It was also noted that it had the advantages of requiring only targeted amendments to Rule 18 as drafted in 2013, and of being flexible and future-proof. Some delegations considered that this option had the disadvantages of complexity; inequality between Parties in how their implementation

of Court judgments is supervised; and a lack of clarity and legal certainty, with the possibility of safeguards being insufficient. Other delegations did not share all of these concerns.

- 7. As regards both the 0- and 1-vote options, some delegations considered that these had the advantages of legal certainty, efficiency, and simplicity; of preserving the equality of the Parties in how their implementation of Court judgments is supervised. Some delegations considered that these options had the disadvantages of not treating EU member States as High Contracting Parties to the Convention by taking away their votes, thereby being inconsistent with the principle of equal participation, and potentially setting a precedent for how the EU and its member States would be allowed to vote in other international fora. As regards the 0-vote option, some delegations considered that it was inconsistent with the principle of collective supervision. Other delegations did not share all of these concerns.
- 8. The Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers considered that all of the options under consideration were workable, even if some appeared more complex than others.
- 9. The Group then discussed the application of the three options in practice, with a particular focus on whether they would provide sufficient safeguards against the potential for the EU and its member States, alone, either (i) to block the adoption of a decision to which they were opposed, or (ii) to be able to adopt a decision which they supported.
- 10. The Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers described the general rules and practice applied when supervising the implementation of the Court's judgments, including on the following points. The Secretariat, under the authority of the Chair, made proposals for classifying cases under 'enhanced' or "standard' supervision, on the basis of established criteria set out in the Committee's working methods. Initial proposals for cases to be examined at a particular meeting were made by the Secretariat, under the authority of the Chair, on the basis of an indicative work programme and previously agreed order. The Secretariat, under the authority of the Chair, also made initial proposals for draft decisions. As set out in the Committee's working methods, the Secretariat could propose a draft final resolution only after the respondent Party had submitted an Action Report detailing the measures taken to implement the judgment in question. Multiple respondent Parties to a case could have different implementation obligations, and the Committee of Ministers could close part of a case relating to the type of measures taken or adopt a final resolution concerning a particular respondent Party if that Party had taken all necessary measures. Final resolutions could be adopted at both ordinary meetings of the Committee of Ministers and CM/DH meetings. For any proposal other than to take action under Article 46(3) or (4) of the Convention, the Chair would first ask if it could be adopted by consensus. Only if there was a request would a vote take place. In accordance with the rules for the meetings of the Ministers' Deputies, amendments were considered before the decision to which they related, in the order of least relevant to most relevant. in accordance with those rules, however, the Chair could take a pragmatic approach, including to dealing with multiple overlapping amendments. Once a decision had been adopted, the Chair, in the interests of the good functioning of the meeting, would not allow further proposals on the same issue. Complex procedural problems usually did not arise, as everyone had a common interest in making the system work and the Chair should guide the meeting to an operational result, but there was not always consensus and rules were needed in anticipation of situations where consensus was not possible.
- 11. The Group observed that all three options (revised Rule 18, 0-vote and 1-vote) could, from one perspective or the other, seem to achieve the aims described in paragraph 9 above for all types of decision (final resolutions, decisions under Article 46 of the Convention, procedural issues, interim resolutions, and other decisions). It noted, however, that the three options differed in the number of

non-EU member States' votes that would be required to ensure adoption of a decision that was opposed by the EU and its member States, or conversely to block a decision that they supported. In some cases, this difference would be favourable to the EU's interests; in others, it would be unfavourable. Some delegations raised a concern of principle regarding the threshold required to adopt final resolutions in the 0- and 1-vote options, notwithstanding the fact that final resolutions are usually adopted without debate. It was noted that if the number of EU member States were to vary relative to that of non-EU member States within the Council of Europe, then the 0- and 1-vote options would allow greater or smaller numbers of Parties to decide the outcome of votes. It was recalled that whilst future-proofing was desirable, the future was unpredictable and therefore any solution may need to be adapted to unforeseen circumstances. In any case, paragraph 90 of the explanatory report indicated that the rules could be amended if necessary.

- 12. The representative of the EU considered that there was no real need to have two separate voting regimes for certain types of decision under the revised Rule 18, and that in practice a single voting regime would be enough. The CM/DH Chair could be expected to manage proceedings in such a way as to ensure effective application of the rule. It was further suggested that non-EU member States would be able to propose alternatives or amendments to proposals seen as favourable to the EU but to which they objected. In this case, the hyper-minority rule might allow such alternatives or amendments to be adopted without the support of the EU and its member States.
- 13. On the basis of explanations given by the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers, some delegations felt that additional legal safeguards were needed against serious potential outcomes, even if there was no expectation that those outcomes would occur. Rule 18 as drafted in 2013 thus did not sufficiently address types of decision on which the position of the EU may vary depending on the content of a particular decision.
- 14. As regards the revised Rule 18, some delegations considered that the criterion for choosing which voting regime to apply was unsuitable and did not ensure a reliable safeguard.
- 15. The Chairperson recalled that certain new ideas had emerged during the discussions:
 - A different criterion could be used for choosing between the alternative voting regimes under the revised Rule 18. This criterion would be the voting choice of the EU. Once this is known, the appropriate regime would be applied to ensure that the support of non-EU member States would be needed for either the adoption or the rejection of a decision.
 - Instead of alternative voting regimes under the revised Rule 18 for procedural issues, interim
 resolutions, and other decisions, the accession instruments could recall that the Chair of the
 CM/DH should ensure that the effectiveness of Rule 18 is not undermined and give guidance
 to the Chair to that effect.
 - The 1-vote option could be developed so that if the EU were co-respondent in a case, the EU member State that is the respondent Party would retain its vote in the Committee of Ministers on decisions concerning implementation of the judgment.
 - In connection with the 0- or 1-vote options, the Accession Agreement or the explanatory report could clarify that all Parties participated in the discussion of the supervision of implementation of judgments and could express their position on draft decisions.
- 16. The Group asked the Secretariat to conduct a numerical analysis and prepare drafting proposals, as necessary, on a different criterion for choosing between alternative voting regimes under the revised Rule 18, on possible guidance to the CM/DH Chair concerning application of Rule 18, and on the possible development of the 1-vote option.

Item 3: Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Accession Agreement (including relevant parts of the other accession instruments

- 17. The Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly confirmed that the latest proposal concerning the participation of a delegation of the European Parliament in the election of judges of the European Court of Human Rights was acceptable for the Assembly. It would allow for the continuation of normal co-operation between the Assembly and the European Parliament on other issues, whilst still providing a basis for reviewing and updating the draft agreement on the modalities of the European Parliament's participation in the election of judges that was reached between the two bodies in 2011.
- 18. Two delegations welcomed these clarifications, whilst noting that they did not yet have final instructions on the proposal and suggesting to return to it following receipt of instructions.

Item 4: Proposed Article 5a of the draft Accession Agreement

19. The positions of delegations on whether or not the agreed text should be included in an Article 5a of the draft Accession Agreement, or only in the explanatory report, had not changed since the last meeting.

Item 5: Other business

20. The representative of the EU updated the Group on the EU's ongoing work to find a solution to the Basket 4 issue (cases relating to the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy). He noted that the issue would be raised at a meeting of the EU Ministers of Justice in early December.

Item 6: Adoption of the meeting report

21. The Group adopted the present meeting report.

APPENDIX I

List of participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA I ALBANIE	Migena MAKISHTI Department of International and European Law, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania Sidita GJIPALI Deputy to the Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Albania to the Council of Europe	
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	Brigitte OHMS Deputy Government Agent of Austria, Deputy Head of Department, European and International Law, Human Rights, Federal Chancellery	
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	Agent of the Government of Finland before the European Court of	
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	Steinar TRAET Advisor, Legislation Department Section for Criminal and Procedural Law	
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	Agata PIEŃKOSZ expert for complaint mechanisms, Legal and Treaty Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
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INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

Lucie DE BURLET

Grégoire DEVICTOR

Barbara GRUT

APPENDIX II

Agenda / Ordre du jour

1.	Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda	1.	Ouverture de la réunion et adoption de l'ordre du jour
2.	Issues relating to Article 7 of the Accession Agreement (including the relevant parts of the other accession instruments)	2.	Questions relatives à l'article 7 de l'accord d'adhésion (y compris les parties pertinentes des autres instruments d'adhésion)
3.	Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Accession Agreement (including the relevant parts of other accession instruments)	4.	L'article 6, paragraphe 1 de l'accord d'adhésion (y compris les parties pertinentes d'autres instruments d'adhésion)
4.	Proposed Article 5a of the draft Accession Agreement	4.	Proposition de l'Article 5a du projet d'accord d'adhésion
5.	Other business	5.	Questions diverses
6.	Adoption of the meeting report	6.	Adoption du rapport de réunion

Working documents / Documents de travail		
Draft revised agreement on the accession of the European Union to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms CM(2013)93 add1, Appendix 1, pp. 3-9	Projet révisé d'accord portant adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention de sauvegarde des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales CM(2013)93 add1, Annexe 1, pp. 3-9	
Draft declaration by the European Union to be made at the time of signature of the Accession Agreement CM(2013)93 add1, Appendix 2, p. 10	Projet de déclaration de l'Union européenne à faire au moment de la signature de l'Accord d'adhésion CM(2013)93 add1, Annexe 2, p. 10	
Draft rule to be added to the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements in cases to which the European Union is a party CM(2013)93 add1, Appendix 3, p. 11	Projet de règle à ajouter aux Règles du Comité des Ministres pour la surveillance de l'exécution des arrêts et des termes des règlements amiables dans des affaires auxquelles l'Union européenne est partie CM(2013)93 add1, Annexe 3, p. 11	
Draft model of memorandum of understanding between the European Union and X [State which is not a member of the European Union] CM(2013)93 add1, Appendix 4, p. 12	Projet de mémorandum d'accord entre l'Union européenne et X [Etat non-membre de l'Union européenne] CM(2013)93 add1, Annexe 4, p. 12	

Draft explanatory report to the Agreement on the Accession of the European Union to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms CM(2013)93 add1, Appendix 5, pp. 13-28	Projet de rapport explicatif à l'Accord portant adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention de sauvegarde des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales CM(2013)93 add1, Annexe 5, pp. 13-28
Position paper for the negotiation on the European Union's accession to the European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 47+1(2020)1	Document de prise de décision pour la négociation de l'adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention de sauvegarde des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales 47+1(2020)1
Paper by the Chair to structure the discussion at the 6 th negotiation meeting 47+1(2020)2	Document de la Présidente visant à structurer la discussion lors de la sixième réunion du groupe de négociation 47+1(2020)2
Compilation by the Secretariat of recent cases in the area of Basket 3 ("The principle of mutual trust between the EU member states") 47+1(2020)4rev	Compilation par le Secrétariat des affaires récentes dans le domaine du panier 3 ("Le principe de la confiance mutuelle entre les États membres de l'UE") 47+1(2020)4rev
Negotiation Document submitted by the European Union on 2 November 2020 (restricted)	Document de négociation présenté par l'Union européenne le 2 novembre 2020 (restreint)
Compilation by the European Commission of recent and currently pending cases before the Court of Justice of the European Union in the area of Basket 4 ("Common Foreign and Security Policy") Non-paper	Compilation par la Commission européenne des affaires récentes et en cours devant la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne dans le domaine du panier 4 ("Politique étrangère et de sécurité commune") Non-papier
Proposals by the Secretariat for discussion of agenda items 4 and 5 [refers to the 8 th meeting] 47+1(2021)5	Propositions du Secrétariat pour la discussion des points 4 et 5 de l'ordre du jour (fait référence à la 8ème réunion) 47+1(2021)5
Non-paper prepared by the Secretariat regarding the estimated expenditure related to the Convention regarding Article 8 of the draft Accession Agreement 47+1(2021)6	Non-papier préparé par le Secrétariat concernant l'estimation des dépenses liées à la Convention concernant l'article 8 du projet d'accord d'adhésion 47+1(2021)6
Proposals by the Secretariat for the discussion on Basket 1 ("The EU's specific mechanisms of the procedure before the European Court of Human Rights") [for the 10 th meeting] 47+1(2021)7	Proposition présentée par le Secrétariat pour la discussion sur le Panier 1 ("les mécanismes spécifiques de la procédure de l'UE devant la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme") [pour la 10ème réunion] 47+1(2021)7
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Numerical analysis by the Secretariat of the effects of the different majorities being proposed under the proposal to amend Rule 18 [for the 14 th meeting] (restricted)	Analyse numérique par le Secrétariat des effets des différentes majorités proposées dans le cadre de la proposition de modification de l'article 18 [pour la 14ème réunion] (restreint)
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Legal opinion prepared by DLAPIL: "Laying down voting rules in the Committee of Ministers' Rules for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlement instruments" [for the 15 th meeting] DLAPIL21/2022 JP/IS	Avis juridique préparé par DLAPIL : « Établissement des règles de vote dans les Règles du Comité des Ministres pour la surveillance de l'exécution des arrêts et des termes des règlements amiables » [pour la 15ème réunion] DLAPIL21/2022 JP/IS
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Consolidated version of the draft Accession Instruments (as of 7 October 2022) 46+1(2022)28REV	Version consolidée des projets d'instruments d'adhésion (au 7 octobre 2022) 46+1(2022)28REV

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CDDH(2010)008 Ad hoc terms of reference concerning accession of the EU to the Convention given to the CDDH by the Ministers' Deputies during their 1085 th meeting (26 May 2010)	CDDH(2010)008 Mandat occasionnel du Comité directeur pour les droits de l'homme (CDDH) adopté par le Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe le 26 mai 2010	
Decision by the Minister's Deputies Committee of Ministers at its 1364 th meeting (15 January 2020) on the continuation of the ad hoc terms of reference for the CDDH to finalise the legal instruments setting out the	Décision des Délégués des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe à leur 1364° réunion (15 janvier 2020) pour la prolongation du mandat occasionnel du CDDH pour finaliser les instruments juridiques établissant	

modalities of accession of the European union to the European Convention on Human Rights CM/Del/JAN(2020)1364/4.3	les modalités d'adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme CM/Del/Dec(2020)1364/4.3
Letter of 31 October 2019 by the President and the First Vice-President of the European Commission to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe DD(2019)1301	Lettre du Président et du Premier Vice-Président de la Commission européenne à la Secrétaire Générale du Conseil de l'Europe, datée du 31 octobre 2019 (anglais uniquement) DD(2019)1301
Opinion 2/13 of 18 December 2014 of the Court of Justice of the European Union A-2/13; EC LI: EU: C: 2014: 2454	Avis 2/13 de la Cour européenne de justice (CEJ) du 18 décembre 2014 A-2/13 ; EC LI: EU: C : 2014: 2454
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