

COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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2ND PERIODIC ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

1 April to 31 August

Presented to the Committee of Ministers
and the Parliamentary Assembly

Overview by the Commissioner

While this is the second Commissioner's Periodic Activity Report in 2024, it is my first. It reflects my first engagement for the delivery of my [strategic priorities](#). These are:

- Standing up for the human rights of the people of Ukraine.
- Seeking to embed human rights at the heart of our engagement with other great issues of the moment.
- Defending the human rights of the most marginalised peoples in our societies.
- Supporting the essential work of human rights defenders.

Regarding each of my priorities there has been a clear focus during the reporting period.

My first visit was to Ukraine. There and subsequently, I have sought to maintain attention to the plight of adults and children transferred to Russia and Belarus and the human rights consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. I continue to follow the situation closely, strongly supporting the embedding of human rights commitments in initiatives for criminal accountability and for peace. I intend to return to Ukraine in coming months.

In terms of 'great issues of the moment,' the one that has most concerned me this year is that of the responses to migration by some of our Member States. I have undertaken a number of field trips to address issues of the securitisation of borders. My views are to be found in my correspondence with States and in a number of statements, and I recapitulated them in a speech delivered to the PACE plenary on 2 October:

- Toughening of border policy does not serve its stated aim.
- Many current securitisation actions posit a false dichotomy between respect for human rights and national security.
- Actions by States that undermine international law are corrosive of the rule of law.

In the speech I also presented a five-point pathway to more human rights compliant border policies.

In terms of defending the human rights of those who are most marginalised, I am currently focussing my attention on the situation of the communities of Roma and Travellers living across our member states. Almost everywhere this group, in all its diversity, faces great challenges. I am now halfway through a set of dedicated country visits and my preliminary findings can be found in the statements that I have issued after each visit. I intend, in 2025, to issue a number of outputs intended to revitalise debate and reflection among policy makers and others on how we can do a better job of protecting the rights of the 12 million-strong community.

Finally, in defence of human rights defenders, I am concerned at the adoption in a number of countries of laws that can excessively curb the activities of civil society and I have written to certain States on the issue. I have also heard from numerous human rights defenders of the dangers faced by them and their colleagues. I will continue to pay close attention to the situation and intervene as appropriate with States. Furthermore, undue restrictions on civil society and human rights defenders are often signs of a broader democratic backsliding, which provides the context for further human rights violations. I intend to use my role as a flexible institution to engage quickly to help prevent any such tendencies from gaining ground.

Throughout the reporting period I have sought to work in a cooperative and complementary manner with the range of institutions within the Council of Europe and I have also engaged to the extent possible with

external partners at national, regional, and global levels. Developing and engaging such synergies will remain an essential element of my methodology as Commissioner.

1. Country focus

Letter to the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia on the draft law “on transparency of foreign influence”

On 16 April, the Commissioner published his [letter](#) to the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, calling on Parliament to refrain from adopting the draft law “On transparency of foreign influence”. The Commissioner expressed concerns about the compatibility of the draft law with the human rights standards in the field of freedom of association and expression. The law, which requires civil society organisations receiving more than 20% of their funding from abroad to register with the Ministry of Justice, may have a chilling effect on the work of media outlets and civil society organisations. The reply from the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia is available on the Commissioner’s website.

Visit to Ukraine

In keeping with his pledge, from 23 to 25 April, the Commissioner travelled to Ukraine (Kyiv) for the first visit of his mandate to a member state. In a [statement](#) issued after the visit, the Commissioner focused on the human rights situation of Ukrainian children, including those transferred to Russia and Belarus, those living in areas of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia, and those living in government-controlled territory. He stressed the importance of continuing efforts to secure the return of the children transferred to Russia and Belarus. The Commissioner deplored the serious violations of the human rights of people living in the areas of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia, including Crimea, as well as serious human rights abuses, including torture, committed against Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians detained in Russia. He welcomed the establishment of the Council of Europe’s Register of Damage for Ukraine as an essential element of reparations and restorative justice efforts and stated that a future compensation mechanism, whatever its design, should provide redress to the very people victimised by the Russian aggression. The Commissioner noted the urgent need for increased investment to rebuild Ukraine’s infrastructure, including schools, destroyed by Russian attacks. He called on the Ukrainian authorities to consult civil society actors in all public decision-making processes affecting the human rights throughout Ukraine, including on laws and public policies that affect the human rights of people in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

During his visit, the Commissioner met with the Deputy Prime Minister – Minister for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, Iryna Vereshchuk; the Minister of Justice, Denis Malyuska; the Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Tamila Tasheva; the Advisor – Presidential Commissioner for Children’s Rights, Daria Herasymchuk; the Prosecutor-General, Andriy Kostin; the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets (online) and representatives of his office on the premises of Kyiv’s Child Rights Protection Centre. The Commissioner had meetings with representatives of civil society and international organisations. In Bucha, he paid respect to the victims of Russia’s aggression, and in Gostomel he visited a school destroyed as a result of Russia’s attack in 2022.

Before the visit, in Strasbourg, the Commissioner [met](#) with the Speaker of the Parliament, Ruslan Stefanchuk.

Statement on the United Kingdom's Safety of Rwanda Bill

On 23 April, the Commissioner published a [statement](#) about the adoption by the UK Parliament of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill which, according to the Commissioner, raised major issues about the human rights of asylum seekers and the rule of law more generally. He emphasised, among other issues, that the Bill prevented individuals faced with removal to Rwanda from accessing remedies for potential violations of the absolute prohibition of refoulement, while it also significantly excluded the ability of UK courts to fully and independently scrutinise the issues brought before them. The adoption of the Bill was another representation of an ongoing trend towards externalization of asylum and migration policy in Europe, which is a matter of concern for the global system of protection of the rights of refugees and an issue that will have the Commissioner's close attention.

Letter to the National Council of the Slovak Republic on draft laws on non-profit organisations and on the public broadcaster

On 14 May, the Commissioner published his [letter](#) to the Deputy Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (Slovak Parliament), Peter Žiga and to the Chair of the Constitutional Law Committee, Miroslav Čellár; the Chair of the Public Law and Regional Development Committee, Michal Šipoš; the Chair of the Human Rights and National Minorities Committee, Lucia Plaváková; and Chair of the Culture and Media Committee, Roman Michelko, addressing two draft laws on registration of non-profit organisations and on the public broadcaster, respectively. In relation to the draft law on non-profit organisations, the Commissioner stated that sanctions for failing to meet new annual reporting obligations, including dissolution of an organisation, appeared to lack appropriate procedural safeguards and to fail to sufficiently meet the requirements of necessity and proportionality. He also expressed concern that the registration and labelling of 'organisations with foreign support' would create a chilling effect for civil society in the Slovak Republic. As regards the bill replacing the current public service broadcaster RTVS with a new entity (STVR), the Commissioner highlighted the importance of having legislative frameworks that ensure the independence of public service media from government control.

Letter to the Speaker of the Parliament of Finland and several Committee chairpersons on migration and asylum

On 17 June, the Commissioner published his [letter](#) addressed to the Speaker of the Parliament of Finland Jussi Halla-aho, the Chair of the Administrative Committee Mauri Peltokangas, the Chair of the Constitutional Law Committee Heikki Vestman and the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Kimmo Kiljunen, expressing concern about the human rights compatibility of the draft Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalised Migration, and urging against its adoption. The draft Act, which lays down conditions for the government to restrict the reception of applications for international protection on and in proximity of Finland's border, allows relevant authorities to refuse entry to a migrant and/or have them summarily removed. Such measures appear incompatible with the absolute prohibition of refoulement, in particular, and set a worrying precedent. Underlining that the relationship between national security and human rights is not a zero-sum game, the Commissioner called on the authorities to continue searching for alternative solutions which are fully compliant with their international obligations.

Visit to the Slovak Republic

From 8 to 12 July, the Commissioner carried out a [visit](#) to the Slovak Republic, where focused on the human rights of Roma, as well as other human rights issues covered in his earlier letter to the National Council of the Slovak Republic (see above).

As regards the human rights of Roma, the Commissioner referred to the deeply rooted prejudice against Roma in society, as well as the extreme poverty in which some Roma communities live. He highlighted that some Roma dwellings are totally unfit for human habitation and located in hazardous locations, making standing up for the human rights of Roma a matter of life and death in some cases. However, the Commissioner praised initiatives empowering Roma, building bridges between marginalised Roma communities and public health and other services, and promoting innovative approaches. He stressed the important role of Roma women as vectors of change. He also emphasised that long-term engagement is essential, noting that the scale of the human rights challenge calls for an intergenerational approach and a fundamental rethink of funding structures. The Commissioner also noted that some issues could be solved quickly, particularly by addressing the ongoing plight of Roma women who were forcibly sterilised. He called on the government to deliver justice, including by setting up an accessible and effective compensation mechanism without delay. The Commissioner also addressed the need to tackle antigypsyism, to improve mutual trust between Roma communities and law enforcement, and to ensure independent investigations into allegations of ill-treatment by the police.

As regards other human rights issues covered in his earlier letters, the Commissioner expressed his regret that the act on replacing public broadcaster RTVS with a new entity had been adopted despite his concerns about the human rights implications of this step. He also emphasised that the still-pending bill on NGO registration should fully conform to human rights standards.

In his meetings with government representatives, the Commissioner condemned the assassination attempt against Prime Minister Robert Fico of 15 May 2024, wished him a full recovery, and stressed the complete unacceptability of any kind of politically motivated violence in democratic societies.

This was the first of a series of country visits as part of the Commissioner's priority work on the human rights of Roma and Travellers across Europe. In Bratislava, he met with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Katarína Roskováni; the State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Ladislav Slobodník; the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Lucia Kurilovská; the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society, Simona Zacharová; and the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Alexander Daško. He also held meetings with the Public Defender of Rights, Róbert Dobrovodský, and with the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. During his visit, the Commissioner travelled to Eastern Slovakia and went to the Stará Tehelňa neighbourhood in Prešov, Jarovnice, Petrovany, the Luník IX neighbourhood in Košice, and Kecerovce. There, he met with Roma communities, local authorities, and those who work with Roma, including Health Regions and different civil society organisations. He discussed pressures on civil society with multiple organisations working on human rights issues, and media freedom with the Investigative Centre of Ján Kuciak and Reporters Without Borders.

Letters to the Prime Minister of Poland and to the Marshal of the Polish Senate on human rights situation on the border with Belarus

On 24 July, the Commissioner published two [letters](#) sent to Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland, and Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Marshal of the Polish Senate, concerning the human rights situation on the border with Belarus. In his letter to the Prime Minister, the Commissioner expressed concern about the reported continuing practice of summary returns of persons across the Polish-Belarusian border, in contravention of Poland's obligations under international human rights law, and about the human rights consequences of the so-called buffer zone established along parts of that border. In his letter to the Marshal of the Senate, the Commissioner expressed concern about a draft law which proposed to exempt from criminal liability some state agents deployed in border areas who, under certain conditions and in

situations of urgency, use direct force or firearms in violation of the applicable rules or who authorise such use by others. While recognising the seriousness and complexity of the tasks facing the Polish authorities in managing migration at the border, the Commissioner stressed the need to ensure that all laws and practices in connection with the situation on Poland's border with Belarus comply with relevant Council of Europe human rights standards. The reply from the Polish authorities is available on the Commissioner's website.

2. Thematic focus

Reflecting the priorities highlighted by the Commissioner on taking up his mandate (see above) the following section contains a brief description of the main activities of the Commissioner organised by thematic areas.

Impact of the war in Ukraine on human rights

As indicated above the first visit of the Commissioner's mandate was to Ukraine. It was devoted to the human rights consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine, including for the people transferred to Russia, those living in the areas of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia, and those living in government-controlled territory (for more information see *Country focus – Visit to Ukraine*).

On 15 May, the Commissioner [met](#) with Markiyan Kliuchkovskiy, Executive Director of the Council of Europe Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in The Hague. They discussed issues of accountability for international crimes in Ukraine and restorative justice.

On 26 June, the Commissioner gave a [speech](#) at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) joint debate on the legal and human rights aspects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Speaking after his visit to Ukraine, the Commissioner described his priorities which include keeping the plight of Ukrainian children relocated to Russia at the top of the international political agenda; defending the human rights of people living in the temporarily occupied territories, including Crimea; addressing Ukraine's immediate humanitarian needs; maintaining a strong focus on criminal accountability; delivering victim-centred justice; and mainstreaming human rights in all peace and reconstruction efforts and initiatives.

On the same day, the Commissioner [met](#) with the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), Dmytro Lubinets. They exchanged on their respective priorities and agreed on continuing cooperation.

On 26 June, the Commissioner also [met](#) with a delegation of Ukrainian journalists, civil society activists and victims of human rights violations to hear their testimonies on the situation of Ukrainian journalists detained in Russia.

On 3 July, the Commissioner delivered the [opening remarks](#) at the side event "Protecting social rights in times of war in Ukraine" which was organised in Vilnius on the occasion of the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter under the auspices of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Minister (see *Thematic focus – Social rights*). He stressed that social rights could help counter Russia's war on human rights in Ukraine and suggested that firmly embedding human rights, including social rights, in the

conflict response and in all peace and reconstruction processes would make for fairer and more durable outcomes.

On 9 July, the Commissioner issued a [statement](#) condemning Russia's deadly missile attacks on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine the day before, including the bombing of Okhmatdyt, Ukraine's largest children's hospital. Calling the attacks yet another grim illustration of the terrible toll Russia's aggression has taken on the dignity, safety, and human rights of the Ukrainian people, including countless children, the Commissioner called on the international community to show unwavering solidarity with the people of Ukraine. He called for the perpetrators of the attacks and all other international crimes committed in Ukraine to be held accountable and for all victims to receive adequate redress.

Human rights of Roma and Travellers

In a [statement](#) issued on 5 April, ahead of International Roma Day, the Commissioner stated that the protection of the human rights of Roma and Travellers must become a top priority in Council of Europe member states. Underlining that the lived experiences of discrimination and the scale of human rights violations faced by Roma and Travellers are shocking, he urged states and other actors to acknowledge the extent of antigypsyism in Europe; to design and adequately implement rights-based policies, working with Roma people to this end; to address the lack of data on the situation of Roma; and to promote and celebrate Roma culture.

On 8 April, the Commissioner participated in an event to mark International Roma Day organised at the Council of Europe. The Commissioner [called](#) for respect for the dignity of Roma people and highlighted the imperative of championing the human rights of Roma. Expressing his solidarity with Roma in their quest for human rights respect and recognition of their contributions to societies across Europe, the Commissioner stated his commitment to maintain an ongoing dialogue with them. He further stressed the importance of collaborating with young people. The Commissioner also emphasised that women are often the primary vector of change and expressed his [commitment](#) to a targeted approach in supporting Roma women and girls.

On 18 June, the Commissioner delivered a [speech](#) at the Journalism Excellence Awards Ceremony "Ethical media reporting on Roma and combating racism and antigypsyism through the media" organised under the [EU-CoE Joint Programme EQUIROM](#). Noting the persistent cross-generations marginalisation of Roma communities, he stressed the importance of taking every opportunity to celebrate and cherish the legacy of Roma culture and history. He emphasised the role of the media in tackling antigypsyism and the need to continue investing in ethical journalism in support of Roma communities.

On 1 August, ahead of the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, the Commissioner [addressed](#) a video message to the international conference "My testimony is for young people - Passing on Memory for the Future of Holocaust Remembrance and Education" organised in Krakow on 31 July and 1 August 2024, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of 2 August 1944. The Commissioner stressed the importance of delivering on "never again" and underlined that remembering also means recognising antigypsyism today. He further pledged to work in partnership with the Roma, Sinti and Traveller communities in standing up for their human rights.

The Commissioner's work in this thematic area also draws from his direct engagement with Roma communities to better understand their lived experiences. Thus, the [visit](#) to the Slovak Republic from 8 to 12 July, where the human rights situation of Roma in the country was in focus (see *Country focus*), was the first of a series of country visits which are aimed at carrying out this work.

In addition, while in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 28 and 29 June, on the occasion of the EuroPride 2024 Human Rights Conference, the Commissioner took the opportunity to [engage](#) with local Roma communities living on the outskirts of the city. In the 'Agia Sofia' neighbourhood, he visited the local kindergarten, where he met the principal and a group of Roma women and girls and listened to the relatives of a 16-year-old who died in December 2022 following a police shooting. In the Dendropotamos neighbourhood, he discussed access to education and employment as well as discrimination and antigypsyism with members of the community including young girls and boys and exchanged with the representatives of the local Roma Women's Association who help to empower women and youth and raise awareness about arts and culture to combat stereotypes and discrimination.

On 30 August, the Commissioner met online with Đorđe Jovanović, President of the European Roma Rights Centre. They exchanged on current human rights challenges faced by Roma and Travellers across Europe. The Commissioner stated his intention to work closely with Roma-led civil society organisations.

Human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants

During this period, the Commissioner made several country-specific interventions related to the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. These include a statement on the Rwanda Bill in the United Kingdom, and letters about human rights issues in relation to border control in Finland and Poland (see *Country focus*).

Furthermore, on 4 April, the Commissioner held his first meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, David Best, during which they exchanged about their respective mandates and complementarity of activities.

He also met with key partners during his mission to Geneva from 27 to 30 May, including the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection of UNHCR, Ruvendrini Menikdwela, and the Deputy Director General for Management and Reform of the International Organisation for Migration (see *Other meetings*).

On 20 June, on the occasion of World Refugee Day, the Commissioner [highlighted](#) that a great many people reaching our shores and crossing our borders are in search of safety from war and persecution. He noted that they deserve better than so many of them get, and that stronger human rights protection of refugees is urgently needed. He also emphasised that the applicable regional and international law could not be clearer: every one of the people seeking asylum in our countries is entitled to a fair and individual determination of their claim. He expressed his concern about the extent to which this right is either being undermined or not being respected.

Freedom of association

The Commissioner made two country-specific interventions in relation to draft legislation aimed at regulating foreign funding of NGOs that appear to be at variance with human rights standards. On 16 April, the Commissioner published his [letter](#) to the Speaker of Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, calling on Parliament to refrain from adopting the draft law "On transparency of foreign influence". On 14 May, the Commissioner published his [letter](#) to the Deputy Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Peter Žiga, and several Committee chairpersons, concerning the draft law on registration of non-profit organisations (see *Country Focus*).

Human rights of LGBTI people

On 15 May, the Commissioner participated in the IDAHOT+ Forum 2024 in The Hague, the Netherlands. In his [speech](#), given at the Opening Plenary Session, the Commissioner referred to the widespread levels of discrimination, harassment, hate and violence faced by LGBTI people, especially those facing intersectional discrimination, as well as the instrumentalisation of trans and intersex people in politics. In this context, he urged against a “business as usual” approach, and for governments, regional organisations and societies alike to take action. The Commissioner concluded by pledging to keep challenges faced by LGBTI people as a high priority in his role, to work with and stand up for LGBTI people and civil society, and to call out abuses. During the Forum, the Commissioner also participated in the informal ministerial meeting of ministers responsible for LGBTIQ+ equality policies, and [met](#) with numerous stakeholders, including government officials and activists .

On 17 May, the Commissioner [marked](#) International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOT) by visiting the Amsterdam Rainbow Dress at the Council of Europe, jointly organised by the Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia and Luxembourg, in the margins of the CM formal session. Crafted from the flags of nations where LGBTI people are criminalised, it serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by LGBTI people globally, but also in Europe.

On 12 August, the Commissioner [expressed](#) concern about legislation adopted by the Bulgarian Parliament banning so-called LGBTI “propaganda” in schools. He called on the President of Bulgaria not to sign the law and stressed that the authorities should tackle discrimination and hostile rhetoric against LGBTI people, including in the run-up to elections.

On 28 June, the Commissioner delivered a [speech](#) at the closing session of the EuroPride 2024 Human Rights Conference in Thessaloniki (Greece). He expressed his alarm at the accounts he had heard, during the first months of his mandate, of the discrimination, harassment, violent attacks, disinformation and gender identity denial faced by LGBTI people. He further highlighted the chilling effect of so-called foreign funding laws, already adopted in a number of member states, and their impact on LGBTI organisations in particular. At the same time, the Commissioner urged all to remain hopeful, calling on the courage, tenacity and perseverance of the LGBTI communities. He also underlined the importance of European strategies in countering the current backsliding against the human rights of LGBTI people, which is the result of well-resourced anti-rights efforts.

In the margins of the Conference, the Commissioner [met](#) with the Vice-President of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas and MEP Marc Angel, as well as [LGBTI human rights defenders](#) participating in the event.

Social rights

On 4 July, the Commissioner delivered the introductory [speech](#) at the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter in Vilnius, which was organised under the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers to take stock of the implementation of the Reykjavík Declaration with respect to social rights and social justice. The Commissioner called on member states to ratify and extend their commitments under the Revised European Social Charter, support the work of the European Committee of Social Rights, and embed human rights in social policies, including by engaging the expertise of national human rights structures in related policymaking.

At a side event on “Protecting social rights in times of war in Ukraine” organised in Vilnius the day before, the Commissioner stressed that social rights could help counter Russia’s war on human rights in Ukraine (see *Thematic focus – Impact of the war in Ukraine on human rights*).

Women’s rights and gender equality

On 10 January, the Commissioner [welcomed](#) the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Latvia, urging all member states to ratify and fully implement this landmark instrument to end violence against women and girls.

Children’s rights and rights of young people

On 14 May, the Commissioner [exchanged views](#) with representatives of national youth councils and international youth organisations in the context of the youth event ‘Confidence in tomorrow’, organised as part of the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe. Topics discussed included the access of young people to housing, education, employment, and health services, as well as concerns regarding participation and civic spaces for young people. The Commissioner stressed his commitment to better understand the concerns of young people and work with them to build a future where everyone can enjoy their human rights.

On 21 May, the Commissioner addressed a [video message](#) to the launch event of the Spanish version of the report on *Children, Youth and the Death Penalty* published by the International Commission against the Death Penalty. Noting the importance of the global struggle against the death penalty and its achievements in this area, he stressed the need to continue to invest in the effective abolition of the death penalty within the Council of Europe and beyond, including against children.

On 19 June, the Commissioner [met](#) with Nina Grmuša, the newly elected Chair and Margo Vorykhava, the newly elected Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth to discuss issues of common concern, including those related to access to rights and challenges related to intersectional forms of discrimination. Both sides agreed to cooperate closely and exchange views regularly to ensure that the Commissioner remained well-informed on the priorities and main concerns of young people across the continent.

Combating racism and intolerance

The Commissioner addressed a broad range of issues pertaining to the fight against racism and intolerance, paying special attention to the rise of antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe, and the need to combat antigypsyism (see *Human rights of Roma and Travellers*).

On 12 April, the Commissioner [met](#) with the Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Barbara G. Reynolds. The discussions centred on the worrying extent of Afrophobia in Europe and the need to urgently address it across the Council of Europe area.

On 18 June, on the occasion of the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, the Commissioner [called](#) for supporting and taking inspiration from young people’s power to create positive change and say no to hate.

On 25 June, the Commissioner [met](#) with representatives of the French youth initiative Salam, Shalom, Salut (3S) in Strasbourg to support their work and to gather insights on their anti-racism and anti-

discrimination activities. He stressed the importance of bringing a message of tolerance into schools and encouraged the development of similar projects in Europe.

On 25 June, the Commissioner [met](#) with the representative of the Conference of European Rabbis in the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe, Rabbi Mendel Samama. The discussions concerned the need to strengthen combating antisemitism and other forms of intolerance. The Commissioner also highlighted the importance of inter-religious dialogue in Europe.

The Commissioner further discussed relevant priorities during his exchange of views with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on 2 July (see *Other meetings*).

Freedom of expression, media freedom and safety of journalists

Ahead of World Press Freedom Day 2024, the Commissioner [expressed](#) concern about the increasing challenges faced by journalists across Europe. In particular, he highlighted the issue of government repression, the worrying lack of accountability for crimes committed against journalists, which contributes to a culture of fear and self-censorship, and the use of vague criminal charges and abusive lawsuits to stifle independent reporting, which remains a widespread problem. The Commissioner reaffirmed the importance of a free and independent press as a public good, serving the public interest. He pledged to play his part in ensuring that journalists can work freely and safely.

On 19 June, the Commissioner transmitted a [video message](#) to congratulate Reporters Without Borders Germany on 30 years of defending press freedom. He emphasised that journalists are at risk of harm or death when reporting on events, and that they require protection and assistance. He further emphasised that organisations such as Reporters Without Borders are of great value not only to the press, but to society at large, as the defence of press freedom is inextricably linked to the preservation of democracy.

Human Rights and sport

On 21 June, the Commissioner carried out a [mission](#) to Paris to engage with the City of Paris, the French National Consultative Human Rights Commission (CNCDH) and civil society actors to discuss the human rights impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. During a meeting with the Deputy Mayor in charge of human rights and fight against discrimination, Jean-Luc Roméro-Michel, the Commissioner underlined the important role of cities in reinforcing human rights locally. He acknowledged the human rights work of the City of Paris in supporting human rights defenders, asylum seekers, journalists and artists at risk, and encouraged the City to trigger greater urban human rights leadership internationally. At the meeting with the President and Secretary General of the CNCDH, Jean-Marie Burguburu and Magali Lafourcade, the discussions covered ways of mitigating the impact of the Games for vulnerable groups, as well as other human rights concerns, including the rise of antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. The Commissioner also [met](#) representatives of the NGO coalition *Le revers de la médaille*, who aimed to monitor the allegations of human rights abuses before, during and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He listened to their findings and concerns and signalled the importance - for the honouring of human dignity - of civil society efforts to ensure that the needs of affected groups, such as displaced and the homeless people, are addressed.

At the end of his mission, the Commissioner stated that the organisation of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is an astonishing human achievement and that the goal of contributing to building a peaceful and better world through sport, practiced without discrimination of any kind - which is at the heart of

Olympism - must be reflected before, during and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games, adding that no one should be left behind.

On 26 June, the Commissioner [expressed](#) pride in participating in the journey of the Olympic Torch as it passed through Strasbourg. He emphasised that this stage of the torch relay served to illustrate the shared values between the Olympics and human rights, such as those pertaining to inclusion and non-discrimination.

On 29 August, ahead of the opening of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the Commissioner brought attention to the power of inclusion and participation to challenge stereotypes and effect positive change in our societies and [called](#) for celebration of the athletes and of the spirit of the Paralympic Games.

Transitional justice

On 24 May, the Commissioner [welcomed](#) the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution designating 11 July as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 genocide in Srebrenica. In his statement, the Commissioner stressed that genocide denial and the glorification of the perpetrators in some countries of the region of the former Yugoslavia threaten the rule of law, peace and social cohesion. He called on the Council of Europe and its member states to annually commemorate 11 July.

On 10 July, the Commissioner published a [video statement](#) ahead of the first International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide. In his message, the Commissioner underscored the importance of remembering in detail what happened to prevent future gross human rights violations and of honouring the victims and their families. He condemned genocide denial and the glorification of those who perpetrated it. Finally, he stressed the importance of acting to ensure that societies are rebuilt with the thread of human rights holding them together so that acts of genocide become inconceivable.

On 29 August, ahead of the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Commissioner published a joint [statement](#) together with the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and the Representatives of Indonesia and Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. The statement expressed solidarity with victims of enforced disappearances and the human rights defenders who support them and observed that many victims still face unbearable challenges and impunity prevails. The signatories called on all stakeholders to unite in the fight against enforced disappearances and to take part in the upcoming first-ever World Congress on Enforced Disappearances in Geneva, Switzerland, on 15-16 January 2025.

Rights of persons belonging to national minorities

On 17 April, the Commissioner met with the President of the non-governmental organisation ABTTF - Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe, Halit Habip Oğlu, with whom he discussed human rights issues relating to the Muslim minority in Greece and the execution of the relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

3. Human Rights Defenders

On 8 April, in his [address](#) to the General Assembly of the Council of Europe's Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO), the Commissioner pledged to prioritise the defence of civil society and support for human rights defenders during his mandate.

On 4 June, the Commissioner [met](#) in Strasbourg with a group of human rights defenders from Türkiye and discussed the situation in the country and the environment for their work.

On 21 June, the Commissioner [met](#) in Paris with Michel Forst, the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention, to discuss their potential for cooperation.

On 25 June, in a [speech](#) to the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) Conference on the Protection and Promotion of Civil Society Space in Europe, the Commissioner highlighted the responsibility to stand up for civil society under great pressure across the continent. He expressed concern about the lack of sufficient opportunities in member states to provide shelter to human rights defenders from other countries who need us to take them in and give them respite.

On 31 May, the Commissioner [met](#) with the laureates of *the Marianne Initiative for Human Rights Defenders*, France's support programme for human rights defenders from around the world. He underlined how essential it is to listen to and learn from their testimonies, including on the growing threats against human rights defenders working with women, indigenous groups and minorities, and on the environment.

On 15 July, on the 15th anniversary of her murder, the Commissioner [honoured](#) the memory of Natalya Estemirova, a human rights defender from Chechnya, Russia.

4. Co-operation with national human rights structures

On 31 May, the Commissioner held an [exchange](#) with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, the European Implementation Network (EIN), and Louise O'Keeffe, human rights defender for survivors of child sexual abuse and the applicant in the *O'Keeffe v. Ireland* judgment of the European Court of Human Rights. The delegation was in Strasbourg to attend EIN's civil society briefing to the Committee of Ministers ahead of its June meeting to supervise the execution of judgments.

On 24 June, the Commissioner [met](#) with the Defender of Rights of France, Claire Hédon, with whom he discussed the cooperation between their respective institutions and the human rights challenges prevailing in France.

On 27 June, the Commissioner [met](#) the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia, Levan Ioseliani, and his first Deputy, Tamar Gvaramadze, to exchange on their respective priorities and recent developments in the field of human rights in Georgia.

On 1 July, the Commissioner [met](#) with the Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman) of Armenia, Anahit Manasyan. They discussed about their respective priorities and recent developments in the field of human rights in Armenia.

In addition to meetings in Strasbourg, the Commissioner also exchanged with national human rights institutions and their networks during several missions, including with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets (*see Visit to Ukraine*), the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions GANHRI (*see Mission to International Organisations in Geneva*) and the French Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme (*see Human Rights and Sports*).

5. System of the European Convention on Human Rights

On 3 April, the Commissioner [met](#) with the President of the European Court of Human Rights, Síofra O'Leary. On this occasion, he stressed his commitment to promoting the rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the case-law of the Court and the execution of its judgments.

On 30 August, the Commissioner submitted his first [third-party intervention](#) since the start of his mandate concerning the freedom of expression and freedom of association in Hungary. The case *Hungarian Helsinki Committee v. Hungary* is currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights and was lodged by a non-governmental organisation active, amongst others, in the area of human rights of migrants. It relates to the introduction of Article 353/A of the Hungarian Criminal Code in June 2018, which criminalises “facilitating or supporting illegal migration” and can be applied to any humanitarian assistance to migrants or asylum seekers.

In his submission, the Commissioner puts before the Court information on the basis of which it may consider the following points: the introduction of Article 353/A of the Criminal Code by Act VI of 2018 in June 2018 constitutes a component of broad restrictions to freedom of expression and freedom of association of civil society in Hungary; Article 353/A of the Criminal Code is neither necessary nor foreseeable within the meaning of Article 10(2) and Article 11(2) of the Convention; and there are several aspects which call into question the declared purpose behind criminalising the humanitarian assistance activities of civil society organisations on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

6. Other meetings

Exchange of views with PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

On 16 April, the Commissioner had an exchange of views with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The Commissioner [outlined](#) his priorities, including the need to work towards embedding human rights into the major present-day developments and challenges such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine; combating violence against women; enhancing the protection of the human rights of marginalised people, including Roma; and standing up for human rights defenders. He also stressed the complementarity of his role with that of both external and Council of Europe partners, including PACE, and the importance of cooperation.

Meeting with a member of the Spanish Senate and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

On 26 June, the Commissioner met with Spanish Senate and Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly member, Laura Castel. They discussed, among others, about recent developments relating to human rights in Spain.

Ministerial Session of the Committee of Ministers

On 17 May, at the 133rd Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Commissioner [spoke](#) about his role in following-up on the Reykjavik Declaration. He specifically mentioned his first visit to Ukraine and underlined the need to pay attention to the human rights of Ukrainian children, including to ensure their return from Russia and Belarus. Recalling the unconditional obligation to execute the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the Commissioner stressed that he would engage with member states to sustain or generate the necessary domestic political commitment. The Commissioner also expressed his intention to use his mandate to ensure that the green transition fully respects human rights. On his other priorities, the Commissioner mentioned the human rights of Roma and other forgotten people, human rights compliant artificial intelligence and rights of women. Lastly, he said he would invest in working with human rights defenders and National Human Rights Structures.

In the margins of the Ministerial Session, the Commissioner had the following [bilateral meetings](#):

Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

The Commissioner met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan. They discussed a number of human rights issues of common interest, including violence against women and domestic violence.

Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia

At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Tanja Fajon discussions covered a number of human rights issues of common interest, including the situation of Ukrainian children, freedom of expression, environment and human rights and artificial intelligence .

Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

The Commissioner met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Iryna Borovets. They discussed respective priorities in the field of human rights, including the situation of Ukrainian children transferred to Russia and Belarus.

Meeting with the Minister for European Affairs and Defence of Ireland

During this meeting, the Commissioner and the Minister for European Affairs and Defence of Ireland, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, exchanged on several issues, including the impact of the war in Ukraine on human rights and antisemitism.

Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechia

The Commissioner met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechia, Jan Marian. They discussed respective priorities in the field of human rights, including the issue of Ukrainian children transferred to Russia and Belarus.

Meeting with the Independent Commission on Reconciliation and Information Retrieval (Northern Ireland)

On 23 May, the Commissioner met with the Chief Commissioner and other representatives of the Independent Commission on Reconciliation and Information Retrieval (ICRIR). They discussed, among other things, ICRIR's work in relation to legacy cases related to the Troubles in Northern Ireland and the most recent developments impacting on this, as well as efforts to reach out to victims' families and engage with various other stakeholders.

Informal exchange with Human Rights Ambassadors-at-Large

On 23 May, the Commissioner had an [informal exchange](#) with EU Ambassadors-at-Large for Human Rights from Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg Spain and Sweden. The discussions focused on current challenges to human rights and democracy, including the human rights of Roma, women's rights and gender equality, the human rights of LGBTI people, the situation of human rights defenders, the human rights situation in Ukraine and the fight against hate speech online.

4th edition of the high-level conference on the Global State of Human Rights

On 24 and 25 May, the Commissioner participated in the fourth edition of the high-level conference on the Global State of Human Rights, organised by the Global Campus of Human Rights and Right Livelihood in Venice. He spoke at the [opening event](#) on how to better protect human rights defenders and in a [panel](#) on defending human rights in times of war and conflict.

On 25 May, while in Venice, the Commissioner [visited](#) the art exhibition in the Holy See Pavilion at the Biennale in Giudecca women's prison, describing it as a powerful demonstration of the essential relationship of the arts with human rights.

Mission to International Organisations in Geneva

From 27 to 28 May, the Commissioner travelled to Geneva to establish contact and strengthen cooperation with interlocutors from the United Nations and civil society. He presented his priorities and explored avenues for collaboration on the main human rights challenges in Europe. He met with the [UNHCR](#) Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ruvendrini Menikdiwela; the [OHCHR](#) Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada al-Nashif; the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) Deputy Director General, Irena Sollorano; the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions [GANHRI](#) and the International Service for Human Rights.

Exchange of views with Committee of Ministers

In his [address](#) to the Committee of Ministers on 19 June, the Commissioner delineated the strategic themes that would guide his tenure: embedding human rights in the great issues of the moment, starting with the situation in Ukraine and including issues related to migration artificial intelligence, the triple planetary crisis and efforts to overcome poverty; a focus on marginalised communities, starting with Roma and Travellers; provision of support for human rights defenders; and prompt engagement with pressing human rights concerns. He addressed the spillover of the conflict in the Middle East underscored the importance of cooperation, complementarity, and maintaining independence in his role.

Meeting with the PACE Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

On 24 June, the Commissioner had his first [exchange](#) with the PACE Monitoring Committee. He presented his priorities including standing up for the human rights of the people of Ukraine in face of the Russian aggression and for the human rights of the most marginalised people in our societies, and supporting human rights defenders.

Meeting with a member of the Greek Parliament and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

On 24 June, the Commissioner [met](#) with a member of the Greek Parliament and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Georgios Stamatis to discuss issues pertaining to human rights situation of the Roma communities in Greece ahead of the Commissioner's mission to Thessaloniki (See *Thematic focus - Human rights of LGBTI people*).

Meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 25 June, the Commissioner [met](#) with Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Strasbourg. The discussion concerned a wide range of human rights issues, including Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, the human rights of Roma, the protection of human rights defenders and migration. They both stressed the importance of joining forces to address the current human rights challenges. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also had an exchange with the Office of the Commissioner.

Meeting with Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

On 26 June, the Commissioner met with Anne Brasseur, former president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and currently member of the Executive Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. They presented their respective priorities and discussed avenues for future cooperation.

Meeting with members of the Turkish National Assembly and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

On 26 June, the Commissioner met with members of the Turkish National Assembly and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Berdan Öztürk and Ayşegül Doğan. They discussed the execution of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights and the human rights situation in the country.

Enhancing the Resilience of Human Rights through Strategic Foresight

On 27 June, the Commissioner delivered a [video message](#) at the side-event on "Enhancing the Resilience of Human Rights through Strategic Foresight" organised by Finland on the margins of the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In his message, the Commissioner highlighted that foresight with human rights at its core can help us ensure that we build a future that honours human dignity.

Exchange of views with European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

During an exchange of views with the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) on 2 July, the Commissioner [highlighted](#) a number of his priorities including standing up for the rights of

marginalised groups such as Roma, for victims of the rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred, and for LGBTI people. He further underlined the essential role of co-operation with ECRI in these areas.

7. Communication and information work

More than 540 news items covered the Commissioner's work during the reporting period (1 April – 26 August 2024). The three most covered topics were migration, LGBTI rights, and Roma rights.

The work on migration received significant coverage, featured by a wide range of media outlets in several countries, including *20 Minutes*, *7sur7*, *ABC News*, *Actusduweb*, *ADNKronos*, *AFP*, *Agence Belga*, *Agence Europe*, *Agencia Lusa*, *Agentschap Belga*, *Agerpress*, *Aktuel24.ro*, *Al Mayadeen*, *Alto Adige*, *Anadolu Agency*, *ANSA*, *Askanews*, *ASR*, *Athens News Agency*, *Avvenire*, *Balkan Insight*, *Banker*, *BBC*, *Belarus Segodnya*, *Belta*, *Berliner Zeitung*, *BFMTV*, *Bild.de*, *Birmingham News*, *Blatimor Star*, *Block*, *Brestcity*, *BZ*, *Centre Press*, *CGTN.com*, *Chicago Chronicles*, *Cronica Balear*, *Dagens.com*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Sabah*, *Deia*, *Delfi*, *Demokraatti*, *Der Bund*, *The Landbote*, *DHNET.be*, *Diario de Avila*, *Diario de Burgos*, *Diario Noticias de Gipuzkoa*, *Diario Palentino*, *Dnevnik.si*, *Dnoticias.pt*, *DPA*, *Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten*, *DW*, *EFE*, *El Debate*, *El Día de Segovia*, *El Día de Soria*, *El Día de Valladolid*, *El Diario de Leon*, *El Faro de Mililla*, *El Pais*, *Esaima.fi*, *EU Today*, *Euractiv*, *Eurasia*, *Euronews*, *European Press*, *European News*, *Evening Standard*, *Evropeiskaya Pravda*, *Express.co.uk*, *France 24*, *France Info*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Frankfurter Neue Presse*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *G4Media.ro*, *Gazeta Prawna*, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Gazeta.pl*, *Gazetta di Parma*, *GBNews.com*, *Göttinger Tageblatt*, *Gulf News*, *Hameen Sanomat*, *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Helsingin Sanomat*, *Helsinki Times*, *Hessische Niedersächsische Allgemeine*, *Het Laatste Nieuws*, *Hir.ma*, *HirTV.hu*, *Hotnews.ro*, *Hürriyet*, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Il Tempo*, *Ilkka Pohjalainen*, *Ilta-Sanomat*, *Independent Online*, *Infobae*, *Infostart.hu*, *Insider.gr*, *International*, *Irish legal news*, *Ita-savo*, *Jornal de Noticias*, *Lawyer*, *Keski Uusimaa*, *Kieler Nachrichten*, *KSML.fi*, *La Croix*, *La Dernière Heure*, *La Libre Belgique*, *La Nouvelle Tribune*, *La Razon*, *La Repubblica*, *La Tribuna de Albacete*, *La Tribuna de Ciudad Real*, *La Tribuna de Cuenca*, *La Tribuna de Toledo*, *La Voz de Galicia*, *Lansi Uusima*, *L'avenir*, *Le Journal de Montréal*, *Le Journal de Québec*, *Le Matin*, *Le Monde*, *Le Parisien*, *Le Soir*, *Le Temps*, *Le Vif*, *Leipziger Volkszeitung*, *Lentepubblica.it*, *Les Echos*, *L'Essentiel*, *L'Humanité*, *Libération*, *L'Observatoire de l'Europe*, *L'Orient-Le Jour*, *Lübecker Nachrichten*, *Marianne*, *Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Mediapart*, *Merkur.de*, *Midi Libre*, *MSN*, *MTI*, *NDTV*, *News Day.fr*, *News from Poland*, *Noticias ao Minuto*, *Noticias de Alava*, *Noticias de Navarra*, *Notizie.it*, *Nova24TV.si*, *Offenbach-Post*, *Oko.press*, *Onda Vasca*, *Onet.pl*, *Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso*, *Ostsee-Zeitung*, *Ouest France*, *PAP*, *Peiner Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Politico*, *Polityka*, *Polskie Radio*, *Postimees*, *Pravda.sk*, *Press.pl*, *ProTV.ro*, *Quotidiano Nazionale*, *Radio Canada*, *Real.gr*, *Reformatorsch Dagblad*, *Reporter.gr*, *RFI*, *RMC*, *RTL Today*, *RTL.be*, *Rzeczpospolita*, *Sapo.pt*, *Savon Sanomat*, *SB.by*, *SDA/ATS*, *Sic Noticias*, *SIR*, *Sky News*, *Sondakika*, *STA*, *Stakunnan Kansa*, *StarBiH.ba*, *STT*, *South German Newspaper*, *South-West*, *Suomenmaa*, *Tages Anzeiger*, *TASR*, *Teraz.sk*, *The Associated Press*, *The Guardian*, *The Herald*, *The Independent*, *The Irish Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Objective*, *The Telegraph*, *The Warsaw Voice*, *Tochka.by*, *TokFM.pl*, *T-Online*, *TRT*, *TV Channel 24*, *TVA Nouvelles*, *TVR*, *Ultima Voce*, *Vijesti.me*, *Welt Online*, *Westphalian Anzeiger*, *Wolfsburger Allgemeine*, *WP.pl*, *Yahoo News*, *Yeni Safak*, *Yle*, *Zürcher Unterländer*.

Coverage on LGBTI rights included mentions from *7sur7*, *Adevarul*, *AFP*, *Agence Europe*, *Aktuel24.ro*, *Antena3.ro*, *Ava.md*, *BETA Briefing*, *BNE Intellinews*, *BNR*, *BTA*, *BZI.ro*, *Cherno more news*, *Cotidianul*, *Daily Mail*, *Reuters*, *Democrata.hu*, *Digi24*, *Dnes.bg*, *Dnevnik.bg*, *Dnoticias.pt*, *Economica.net*, *Euractiv*, *Fkti.bg*, *G4Media.ro*, *Gay.it*, *HirExtra*, *Il Piccolo*, *La Libre Belgique*, *Le Matin*, *Le Monde*, *Maktes.gr*, *Maszol*, *MKD*, *Naslovi.rs*, *Nin.rs*, *Telegraf.rs*, *Nivinite*, *Nouvel Obs*, *Nova Makedonija*, *Novosti.rs*, *Observernews.ro*,

Politico, Puls24, Radio Moldova, Realitatea, Republika.mk, RFE/IRL, Rustavi 2, Sloboden Pecat, Sud-Ouest, SudOuest.fr, Tanjug, Vesti.rs, Ziare.com.

The Commissioner's work on Roma rights was covered by *24Hod.sk, Agence Belga, Agence Europe, Akcne Zeny, Aktuality24, Aktualizovane, Bratislavaden.sk, Dennik Politika, Economics.sk, Efsyn.gr, Extra Plus, Hlavne Spravy, Hlohovecko, HNOnline, Inforaj, Interez.sk, La Dernière Heure, La Libre Belgique, Lekari, Maxi Vyber, Newsy.sk, Parlamentnelisty.sk, PressMedia.sk, Radio Slovakia International, RTBF, RTL.be, SITA, Slovensky Vecernik, SME, TASR, Teraz.sk, Trend.*

The visit to Ukraine was covered by *Agence Europe, ANSA, Ceske Noviny, DonPatriot, Informator.ua, Interfax-Ukraine, Kyiv Post, News.ua, Pressorg.ua, Sir, Suspilne.media, The Kyiv Independent, Ukrinform, UNN.*

The Commissioner's letter to the Georgian Parliament expressing concerns about the compatibility of the draft law "On Transparency of Foreign Influence" was reported by *1TV.ge, Agenda.ge, Agence Europe, Aktualnosci.news, Civil.ge, The Standard, Evropeiskaya Pravda, Georgia Today, Interpressnews.ge, Jam News, Prime-News, Rustavi 2.*

The Commissioner's letter to the Parliament of the Slovak Republic expressing concerns about the compatibility with human rights standards of draft laws affecting civil society and the public broadcaster was published by *Agence Europe, ANSA, Bianet, Cikycaky, Daily Mail, Dennik N, El Mundo, Euractiv, European Interest, Extraplus, G4Media.ro, Giornale di Brescia, Info.sk, La Razon, London Daily, Noviny.sk, Novy Cas, Politico, Postoj.sk, Reuters, RTVS, SME.sk, SwissInfo, TASR, The Slovak Spectator, Topky.sk, Yahoo News, Yle.fi.*

The start of the new Commissioner's mandate was covered by *1News.com.ua, AFP, Agence Europe, Censor, DPA, DS News, Espresso.tv, EurActiv, Glavcom, Interfax Ukraine, Korrespondent.net, Luxemburger Wort, SDA/ATS, Suspilne Media, The Irish Times, TR724, UATV, Ukrainska Pravda, Ukrinform, UNN.*

The Commissioner's tweet welcoming the UN General Assembly's designation of 11 July as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Srebrenica Genocide was reported by *Aktuelno, Anadolu Agency, BETA, DAN, Danas, Face.ba, Federalna.ba, FENA, N1 Info, Naslovi.net, Nova.rs, Novi magazine, Raport.ba, Sloboden Pecat, Slobodna Bosna, Vatican News, Vijesti.ba.*

The Commissioner's tweet expressing concerns about the law passed by Bulgaria's Parliament to ban so-called LGBTI 'progaganda' in schools was covered by *Cherno More News, Dnes.bg, Dnevnik.bg, Hirextra, Novinite, MKD, Nova Makedonija, Republika.mk.*

Other topics included the Crimean Tatars (*Ukrinform*), the Karabakh region (*ArmInfo*), and media freedom (*Gazeta Express, Koha, Reporter.net, Sinjali, Syri, Times of Malta*).

By 26 August 2024, 100 posts had been published on X/twitter, generating a total of 488,946 impressions and an engagement rate of 6.4%. The number of followers increased by 761 (1%).

More than 100,000 unique visitors visited the site, with more than 170,000 page views.