



Strasbourg, 09/09/09

CAHDI (2009) Inf 16
Anglais seulement

**COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW/
(CAHDI)**

**38th meeting
Strasbourg, 10-11 September 2009**

**INVITATION TO THE ROUND TABLE
ON WAYS OF PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL
WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME – COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCES
AND A SHORT-TERM REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

BLED (Slovenia), 21-22 September 2009

Document submitted by Slovenia



Council of Europe

Slovenian Chairmanship
May to November 2009



Ljubljana, 21th July 2009

Dear Madam or Sir,

The promotion of human rights with rule of law as two key values of the Council of Europe as well as importance of institutional protection of these rights by the European Court of Human Rights are the key emphases of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter ECtHR) and its role so far is especially important in the year when we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

It is my great pleasure to invite the experts from your ministry to participate at the **“Round Table on Ways of Protection of the Right to a Trial within reasonable Time – Countries’ Experiences and on short-term Reform of the European Court of Human Rights”** to be held on the **21st and 22nd September 2009 in Bled (Slovenia)**, which undeniably ranks among the most beautiful Alpine resorts. The round table is co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia.

The aim of the Round Table is to encourage discussion and exchange of national experiences as well as discussion on effective ways of dealing with the Court backlogs and the protection of the right to trial within a reasonable time (day one), and furthermore, to continue the discussion regarding reform of the European Convention on Human Rights, especially focusing on the short-term reform of the ECtHR (day two). In this regard Bled discussions held “between Madrid and Interlaken” will assess on possible developments of practice concerning “class actions” or collective applications and repetitive applications. Information on new development regarding the enforcement of Protocol 14bis to the ECtHR and the provisional application of Protocol 14 to the ECtHR will also be examined.

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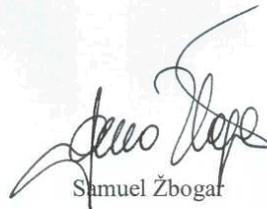
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I would herein like to inform you that the invitation to this Round Table was also sent to the Ministries of Justice by the letter of Slovenian Minister of Justice Mr. Aleš Zalar of 8 July 2009. Our aim is to join the experiences of experts from both Ministries of Justice and Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Kindly be advised that registrations need to be completed by 7th September 2009.

Please find enclosed the draft agendas and further information, as well as the registration forms and information regarding visa requirements.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Slovenia.

Yours sincerely,



Samuel Žbogar

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

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May to November 2009



Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia
and
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Round Table
on Ways of Protection of the Right to a Trial
within a Reasonable Time - Countries' Experiences
and on Short-Term Reform of the European Court of Human Rights

BLED (Slovenia), 21-22 September 2009

PROGRAMME

Monday, 21 September 2009

**Part I: Ways of protection of the right to a trial within a reasonable time
- Countries' experiences**

9.30 - 10.00	Registration of participants
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome address by Mr Aleš ZALAR , Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia
10.15 - 10.30	Introduction by the Moderator of Part I, Mr Peter PAVLIN , Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia
10.30 - 11.45	Presentations of countries experiences/practices concerning the right to a trial within a reasonable time (Articles 6, Para 1 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CROATIA, Prof Dr Alan UZELAC, Faculty of Law of the University in Zagreb - ITALY, Dr Marco FABRI, Acting Director Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG-CNR), Bologna - POLAND, Mr Jakub WOLAŚIEWICZ, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Government Agent of the Republic of Poland before the European Court of Human Rights - THE NETHERLANDS, Mr Pim ALBERS, Ministry of Justice - CZECH REPUBLIC, Dr Vit A. SCHORM, Member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights and Government Agent of the Czech Republic before the European Court of Human Rights - SLOVENIA, Prof Dr Aleš GALIČ, Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana

11.45 - 12.15	Coffee break
12.15 - 13.00	Discussion
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch
14.30 - 15.45	Continuation of presentations of countries experiences/practices concerning the right to a trial within a reasonable time
Views of the Council of Europe bodies/representatives :	
- Mr Jakub WOŁĄSIEWICZ , Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on effective remedies for excessive length of proceedings (DH-RE)	
- Mr Bogdan Lucian AURESCU , European Commission for Democracy through Law, Secretary of State for Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Romania, substitute member of the Commission	
- Ms Corinne AMAT , Head of Division, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe	
15.45 - 16.15	Coffee break
16.15 -17.00	Discussion
17.30	Guided tour of Bled (short walk through the town and boat trip to the island in the middle of the lake Bled)
20.30	Dinner

Tuesday, 22 September 2009

Part II: Between Madrid and Interlaken - Bled discussions

Short-term reform of the European Court of Human Rights

09.30 - 09.45	Introduction by the Moderator of Part II, Mr Roman ZAVRŠEK , attorney at law
09.45 - 10.45	Statements: - Ms Dragoljuba BENČINA , State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia - Mr Erik FRIBERGH , Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights - Mrs Almut WITTLING-VOGEL , Vice-chairperson of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) - Mr Paul SEGER , Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation - Mr Frank SCHÜRMAN , Agent of the Swiss Confederation before the European Court of Human Rights
10.45 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 12.00	Repetitive applications Introductory presentations - Mr Erik FRIBERGH , Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights - Dr Vit A. SCHORM , Member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) - Mr Frank SCHÜRMAN , Agent of the Swiss Confederation before the European Court of Human Rights

- **Prof Dr Michal BALCERZAK**, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland, independent expert
- **Ms Nuala MOLE**, Director of the AIRE Centre (tbc)

12.00 -12.30	Discussion
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	<p>“Class actions” or collective applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The concept of “class actions”, Mr Alexandre DAVID</i>, Ministry of Justice, France] - <i>“Class actions” in the perspective of the European Convention on Human Rights system</i> , Prof Dr Andrea GATTINI, University of Padova - <i>Collective complaints – the experience under the European Social Charter</i>, Prof Dr Polonca KONČAR, President of the European Committee of Social Rights - <i>Comments by a representative from Non-Governmental Organisations</i>, Mrs Jill HEINE, Amnesty International (tbc)
15.00 - 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 -16.15	Discussion. End of the Round Table

AIMS OF THE ROUND TABLE

Part I, 21 September 2009 (Ways of protection of the right to a trial within a reasonable time - countries' experiences):

Presenting information and interpretation on:

- I. National models of legal remedies for protection of the right to a trial within a reasonable time
- II. Best (administrative) practices of actual enforcement of these legal remedies
- III. Types of just satisfaction with respect to these remedies
- IV. Institutional reactions to regulation and implementation of these legal remedies - judiciary's reaction (independence of judiciary etc.), Ombudsperson's reactions, other reactions
- V. General (non-binding) conclusions of the round table/seminar: identification of efficient or best practices, identification of obstacles in implementation etc. or maybe only/and just the identification with/support to the progress of the work of the DH-RE concerning the possible recommendation and guide to good practice (the non binding instrument for excessive remedy against delay of proceedings).

Part II, 22 September 2009 (Between Madrid and Interlaken - Bled discussions; Short-term reform of the European Court of Human Rights):

- I. Identification of aims of new Protocol No. 14bis to the European Convention on Human Rights
- II. Assessments on possible developments of practices concerning “Class actions” or collective applications and repetitive applications
- III. Exchange of views on ideas and goals for the short term reform of the European Court of Human Rights

FURTHER INFORMATION:**Location:**

Round table will take place in **Best Western Kompas Hotel Bled** (<http://www.kompashotel.com/>), where also accommodation has been pre-booked (for prices please see the registration form).

Transportation from and to the airport Ljubljana will be taken care by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia.

Meals:

All meals stated in the programme will be provided Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

Interpretation:

Slovenian/English/French

Deadline for registration:

11 September 2009

Contact person at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia:

Ms Helena JAKLITSCH

E-mail: helena.jaklitsch@gov.si

Phone: 00 386 1 369 5275

Mobile: 00 386 51 390 386

Visa requirements:

Please see the information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

Time zone

Slovenia is in the Central European time Zone.

Currency

The legal tender in Slovenia is the Euro (€).

Tourist information

about Bled: <http://www.bled.si/en/>

about Slovenia: <http://www.slovenia.info/>



Council of Europe

Slovenian Chairmanship
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**Round table on ways of protection of the right to a trial
within a reasonable time - countries' experiences
and on short-term reform of the European Court of Human Rights**
Bled (Slovenia), 21 - 22 September 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return this form by
11 September 2009 to the following address:

logistics.mp@gov.si

First Name:

SURNAME:

Title and / or Position:

Institution:

Address:

Town:

Country:

Tel:

Mobile:

Fax:

E-mail:

HOTEL BOOKING -
Best Western Hotel Kompas Bled
<http://www.kompashotel.com/>

Standard double room for single occupancy (lake view) ♦ Per night	Standard double room for single occupancy ♦ Per night
<input type="checkbox"/> 115 EUR	<input type="checkbox"/> 105 EUR

*Buffet breakfast and taxes included.

DATE OF ARRIVAL :

DATE OF DEPARTURE :

Payment:

- The hotel requires your credit card details in order to guarantee your booking.
- Participants will pay for the entire duration of their stay directly to the hotel.

Credit cards details:

<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Eurocard	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Card	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Diners
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Card number:

Expiry date:

Card holder's name:

Cancellation:

- Cancellations must be in writing and sent to the Round table Secretariat logistics.mp@gov.si and also to the hotel andreja.pazlar@kompas-lovec.eu.
 - The hotel will be able to charge the following amounts to your credit card:
 - 1 night's accommodation if cancellations are made after 18 September 2009
 - The whole accommodation if the reservation is either not cancelled, or it is cancelled on the day of arrival.
- I will choose another accommodation. (Local transportation will not be available.)

TRAVEL INFORMATION

(Transportation from and to the airport Ljubljana will be provided.)

- Date & time of arrival in Ljubljana:
Flight number:
- Date & time of departure from Ljubljana:
Flight number:
- If you will arrive by other means of transport, please specify:

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Will you attend the accompanying programme - guided tour of Bled (at no extra charge)? Yes No
- Do you have any specific dietary requirements? Yes No
If yes, please specify:
- Do you have any specific medical needs? Yes No
If yes, please specify:



VISA REQUIREMENTS

Visas shall be granted to the seminar participants upon their request to the respective embassies of Slovenia or other Schengen embassies abroad - see http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/representations_abroad_and_information_on_countries/ Details on the visa requirements and procedures can be found and downloaded from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/visa_information/ Please check carefully whether you require a visa to travel to Slovenia well in advance as the procedure for obtaining one can take up to three weeks. Participants who will not observe this strict timetable or might arrive to Slovenia without appropriate visa **will not be guaranteed entry**.

Please note that Slovenia is part of Schengen area of European visa regime, therefore all participants in a possession of a valid Schengen visa for the time of the seminar will not require any additional visas.

List of Council of Europe member states, states candidates for membership, the observers to the Committee of Ministers and the observers to the Parliamentary Assembly with ordinary passports, which require visas for Slovenia:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia - FYRM, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Diplomatic passport holders may not have the same restrictions, therefore check carefully.