

96th meeting, 14 – 17 June 2022

1 General questions

1.1 Title

Abridged Report of the 96th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Hybrid, 14 – 17 June 2022

For examination by the GR-... during its meeting of ... 2022...

Information on the meeting

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its 96th meeting in a hybrid format, from 14 to 17 June 2022, with Ms Kristine LICIS (Latvia) in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in the Appendix.

Items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

The CDDH adopted the following draft instruments and decided to transmit them to the Committee of Ministers for possible adoption:

- draft Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the prevention and remedying of violations of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and the protection of the environment;
- draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation;

The CDDH also adopted the following text and decided to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for its consideration:

- Comments on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations 2230(2022), "Fighting and preventing excessive and unjustified use of force by law enforcement officers", and 2231(2022), "The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine: ensuring accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes".

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

Regarding the system of the European Convention on Human Rights, the CDDH:

- exchanged views on the work of the Drafting Group on the effective processing and resolution of cases relating to inter-State disputes (DH-SYSC-IV);
- designated the Czech Republic as a member State whose expert could participate in the DH-SYSC-IV with their expenses reimbursed by the Council of Europe, following the cessation of the Russian Federation's membership of the Council of Europe;
- exchanged views on the consequences of the cessation of the Russian Federation's membership of the Council of Europe for the system of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- exchanged views on issues to be examined by the new Drafting Group on issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights (DH-SYSC-JC) and on that basis, adopted terms of reference for this group;
- designated 10 member States whose experts could participate in the DH-SYSC-JC with their expenses reimbursed by the Council of Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom); and elected by acclamation the Chair of the DH-SYSC-JC (Mr Hans-Jörg BEHRENS (Germany)).

As regards the other items on its agenda, the CDDH:

- exchanged views with Mr Robert SPANO, President of the European Court of Human Rights;
- exchanged views on the work of the CDDH ad hoc negotiation group on European Union accession to the European Convention on Human Rights ("46+1 Group");

- exchanged views on the future work of the Drafting Group on human rights and the environment (CDDH-ENV) concerning the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments in this field;
- designated Armenia as a member State whose expert could participate in the CDDH-ENV with their expenses reimbursed by the Council of Europe, following the cessation of the Russian Federation's membership of the Council of Europe;
- exchanged views on the results of the first meeting and the future work of the Drafting Group on human rights in situations of crisis (CDDH-SCR);
- exchanged views with its Rapporteur on Human Rights and Business, Ms Nicola WENZEL (Germany), and took note of her participation and that of Mr Morten RUUD (Norway) in the International Workshop on Business and Human Rights, organised by the Italian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (Rome, 28 March 2022);
- exchanged views with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) on its preparation of a baseline study on the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)1 to member States on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions;
- took note of the information concerning the Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No. 205 - Tromsø Convention) provided by the Secretariat, notably on the election of ten experts to the Council of Europe Access Info Group by the Consultation of the Parties and on the future work of this Group;
- exchanged views with its Rapporteur on gender equality, Mr Philippe WERY (Belgium), on the evaluations carried out by its subordinate groups of the gender equality aspects of their activities, and on the possible use of the expression "*droits humains*" in the French version of documents of the CDDH and its subordinate bodies; decided to ask the chairpersons of its subordinate bodies to complete the CDDH's thematic form on gender equality and transmit it to the Rapporteur on gender equality at the conclusion of work on each deliverable;
- exchanged views on the status of signatures and ratifications of the conventions for which the CDDH is responsible; exchanged views with Ms Alina OROSAN, chairperson of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), on the situation of the Russian Federation with respect to conventions for which the CDDH is responsible;
- took note of the information provided by its representatives in outside activities; appointed Ms Susan DICKSON (UK) as its representative to the Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT);
- exchanged views with Mr Thomas SCHNEIDER, chairperson of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), on the work of the CAI and the future work of the CDDH on human rights and artificial intelligence; appointed Mr Vahagn PILIPOSYAN (Armenia) as its representative to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI);
- decided to leave to its Bureau the decision on whom to invite to its next meetings;
- took note of the recent publications of the work of the CDDH and decided on the forthcoming publications by the end of 2022;
- adopted its calendar of meetings during the second semester of 2022 and took note of a provisional calendar of meetings during the first semester of 2023.

Resource implications

The CDDH noted the recent reinforcement of its Secretariat, following the inclusion of work on European Union accession to the European Union within the responsibilities of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division of the Directorate-General Human Rights and Rule of Law.

Evaluation of completed activities

The CDDH completed work on three of the deliverables foreseen under its terms of reference for 2022-2025, namely deliverable 1 (draft Recommendation on human rights and the environment; deadline 30/06/2022), deliverable 2 (draft Recommendation on measures against trafficking in human beings for the purposes of labour exploitation; deadline 30/06/2022), and deliverable 10 (Guidelines to prevent and remedy violations of the Convention at the national level; deadline 31/12/2023). Deliverable 10 corresponds to deliverable 2 in the DH-SYSC terms of reference for 2022-2025.

Work on all three deliverables was completed within the expected deadlines.

With the completion of work on these three deliverables, the CDDH considered that its DH-TET and DH-SYSC-V drafting groups had fulfilled their mandates.

Appendix I

Agenda

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

ITEM 2: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ITEM 3: WORK ON THE SYSTEM OF THE CONVENTION

3.1. Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC)

3.1.1 Drafting Group on effective processing and resolution of cases relating to inter-State disputes (DH-SYSC-IV)

3.1.2 Drafting Group on enhancing the national implementation of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC-V)

3.1.3 Creation of a new Drafting Group on the effectiveness of the system for the selection and election of Court's judges and the means to ensure due recognition for judges' status and service on the Court and providing additional safeguards to preserve their independence and impartiality (DH-SYSC-JC)

3.2 CDDH ad hoc negotiation Group on the EU accession to the ECHR ("46+1 Group")

3.3 Consequences of the cessation of the Russian Federation's membership of the Council of Europe for the system of the European Convention on Human Rights

ITEM 4: ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ITEM 5: HUMAN RIGHTS IN SITUATIONS OF CRISIS

ITEM 6: MEASURES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOR EXPLOITATION

ITEM 7: HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

ITEM 8: CIVIL SOCIETY AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

ITEM 9: ACCESS TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ITEM 10: GENDER EQUALITY

ITEM 11: CONVENTIONS

ITEM 12: REPRESENTATIVES IN OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 13: INVITEES

ITEM 14: PUBLICATIONS

ITEM 15: CALENDAR

ITEM 16: OTHER BUSINESS