

98th meeting, 27 – 30 June 2023

1 General questions

1.1 Title

Abridged Report of the 98th meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), 27 – 30 June 2023

For examination by the GR-... during its meeting of ... 2023...

Information on the meeting

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its 98th meeting in Strasbourg, from 27 to 30 June 2023, with Kristīne LĪCIS (Latvia) in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting appears in the Appendix.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

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

- Comments on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations 2251(2023) “Political strategies to prevent, prepare for, and face the consequences of natural disasters”, 2252(2023) “Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights”, and 2254(2023) “Safeguarding democracy, rights and the environment in international trade”.

As regards the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the CDDH:

- took note of the Committee of Ministers’ adoption on 5 April 2023 of a Declaration on the effective processing and resolution of cases relating to inter-State disputes, prepared by the CDDH;
- exchanged views on the results of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Drafting Group on issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights (DH-SYSC-JC) and gave guidance to the DH-SYSC-JC for its further work;
- received information from the representative of the European Union (EU) and from the Secretariat on developments since the extraordinary meeting of the CDDH on 4 April 2023 concerning the accession of the EU to the ECHR.

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

- held a Workshop on “Human rights of members of the armed forces” and held a preliminary exchange of views on possible future activities in the field of human rights of members of the armed forces;
- exchanged views with Siofra O’LEARY, President of the European Court of Human Rights; decided to leave to its Bureau the decision on whom to invite to its next meeting;
- exchanged views on the results of the 6th and 7th meetings of the Drafting Group on human rights and the environment (CDDH-ENV), and on the results of the High-level Conference on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in practice, organised by the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers with the support of the CDDH Secretariat; took note of the focus on the issue of human rights and the environment in the Reykjavík Declaration;
- exchanged views on the results of the 3rd meeting of the Drafting Group on human rights in situations of crisis (CDDH-SCR); took note that the Polish authorities would organise a “Warsaw Seminar” on issues relevant for the work of the CDDH-SCR on the occasion of its 5th meeting;
- exchanged views on the outcome of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Reykjavík, Iceland, 16–17 May 2023);
- took note of the progress made under its Terms of Reference for 2022–2025, notably the completion within the expected deadlines of all deliverables due so far except some of those under preparation by the CDDH-SCR, for which it had previously noted that the deadlines were clearly unrealistic;
- exchanged views on its draft Terms of Reference for 2024–2027 and agreed to propose certain modifications; as regards its future examination of implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions, agreed to

return to this issue in the light of ENNHRI's Baseline Study on implementation of this recommendation;

- exchanged views on the possibility of proposing an activity relating to the issue of human rights and armed conflicts for its 2024–2027 Terms of Reference;
- exchanged views with Christoph HENRICHS, Chairperson of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), on issues of common interest, notably the CDCJ's ongoing work on a convention on protection of the profession of lawyer;
- exchanged views with its representative to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) on the ongoing work of this committee, notably those aspects also within the mandate of the CDDH;
- took note of the information provided by certain of its representatives in outside activities;
- took note of information concerning the Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No. 205 - Tromsø Convention) provided by the Secretariat, notably the results of the 2nd meeting of the Council of Europe Access Info Group and the inclusion of related activities in the draft Terms of Reference of the CDDH for 2024–2027;
- took note of information provided by the Secretariat on developments concerning the use of the French expression "droits humains" within the Council of Europe, following the decision taken by the CDDH at its 97th meeting;
- took note of the state of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe treaties for which the CDDH is responsible, and of recent notifications, extensions and withdrawals of derogations to the ECHR;
- took note of the recent publication of the proceedings of the High-level Conference on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in practice;
- adopted its calendar of meetings during the second semester of 2023 and took note of a provisional calendar of meetings during the first semester of 2024.

Resource implications

The CDDH noted that all of the above activities were conducted within the foreseen budgetary envelopes. The CDDH noted change within its Secretariat since its last meeting, namely the recruitment of Daniel PAP as secretary of the CDDH-ENV.

Evaluation of completed activities

As noted above, the CDDH took note of the completion within the expected deadlines of all deliverables due so far except some of those under preparation by the CDDH-SCR, for which it had previously noted that the deadlines were clearly unrealistic.

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 issues relating to judges of the European Court of Human Rights (DH-SYSC-JC)

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

ITEM 4: ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ITEM 5: HUMAN RIGHTS IN SITUATIONS OF CRISIS

ITEM 6: HUMAN RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

ITEM 7: FOURTH SUMMIT

ITEM 8: RECENT, ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 9: ACCESS TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

ITEM 10: GENDER EQUALITY

ITEM 11: CONVENTIONS

ITEM 12: REPRESENTATIVES IN OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

ITEM 13: ELECTIONS

ITEM 14: INVITEES

ITEM 15: PUBLICATIONS

ITEM 16: CALENDAR

ITEM 17: OTHER BUSINESS