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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ACFC/MR(2022)3-prov2

# Meeting report

## 76<sup>th</sup> meeting

Approved by the Advisory Committee on 5 December 2022

## Opening of the meeting

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities held its 76<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting from 3 to 7 October 2022 in Strasbourg. Mikko Puumalainen, Acting President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee.

## Adoption of the Agenda and Order of Business

The Agenda and Order of Business, as reproduced in Appendix I, were adopted without amendment.

## Approval of the report of the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee

Having examined the report of its 75<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Advisory Committee approved it as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2022)002.

## Report from the Acting President

The Acting President informed the Advisory Committee about his activities since June, in particular the presentation of four opinions to the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights and the presentation of the 13<sup>th</sup> activity report of the Advisory Committee (June 2020-May 2022) to the Committee of Ministers. He stressed that many delegations expressed their appreciation of the Advisory Committee's work and welcomed the activity report. In an interesting and interactive exchange, several questions were also asked by national delegations.

The Acting President also informed the Committee that he held several meetings with high-level officials from Ukraine on the current situation of national minorities in Ukraine and the impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on them.

Finally, he presented the procedure for the election of the Bureau (President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President).

## Update by the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary informed the Advisory Committee about developments in the Committee of Ministers, in particular the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of Resolution [CM/Res\(2022\)30](#) on 27 September 2022, which provides that "An expert elected in respect of a Party that has ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe following a procedure launched under Article 8 of the Statute of the Council of Europe for a serious violation of Article 3 of the Statute shall participate only as additional member in the work of the Advisory Committee and to the extent provided in rules 20 and 21 of the present resolution." Consequently, the appointment of a new ordinary member will be held by the Committee of Ministers on 3 November 2022. She also informed the Committee that Alexei Avtonomov, expert elected in respect of the Russian Federation, decided to resign from the Advisory Committee, as from 1 October 2022.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee about the examination of Committee of Ministers' draft resolutions on the implementation of the Framework Convention, as well as about state reports received and to be received.

## Elections

With Tomáš Hrustič, as the longest serving member present not being a candidate, in the chair, the Advisory Committee elected its Bureau for a term of office of two years, as follows:

- Petra Roter, as President,
- Emma Lantschner, as First Vice-President,
- Nicolas Levrat, as Second Vice-President.

## Consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on the ACFC work

The Advisory Committee exchanged views on the consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, including with regards to the impact on persons belonging to national minorities of the recent decree of the Russian President on partial mobilisation.

The Advisory Committee decided to establish a standing working group on Ukraine, which will perform desk research and conduct a limited number of online meetings with minority representatives and other stakeholders. On this basis, the working group will assess the concerns of persons belonging to national minorities that require immediate attention by the Advisory Committee and propose a way forward for the Advisory Committee to be discussed at its December 2022 plenary.

## Approval of draft opinions

In application of Rule 37 of Resolution CM/Res(2019)49, the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the following draft opinions:

- 5<sup>th</sup> opinion on United Kingdom on 6 October 2022,
- 5<sup>th</sup> opinion on Kosovo\* on 6 October 2022,
- 5<sup>th</sup> opinion on Switzerland on 7 October 2022.

The Advisory Committee also decided to communicate these draft opinions to the authorities concerned, and to invite UNMIK for Kosovo\* and the authorities of the United Kingdom to provide written observations by 7 December 2022, and the authorities of Switzerland by 19 December 2022 to allow time for the translation of the draft opinion into French.

## Adoption of final opinions

On 5 October 2022, in application of Rule 25 of Resolution CM/Res(2019)49, the Advisory Committee adopted the final 5<sup>th</sup> opinion on Italy (unanimously) and the final 5<sup>th</sup> opinion on Armenia.

## Composition of Working Groups/Planning of visits

The Advisory Committee took note of the planning of visits and noted that the visit to the Russian Federation had to be postponed pending the conclusion of an agreement between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation on the privileges and immunities of Council of Europe monitoring delegations. A standing working group on the Russian Federation was set up.

Furthermore, the Advisory Committee approved the composition of the working groups as reproduced in document ACFC/DOC(2022)11. It agreed to discontinue the reflection group on religious minorities for the time being and encouraged members to make use of the Guide on Religion during monitoring visits. Gender Equality Rapporteur, Alexandra Castro, also mentioned the Gender Equality Checklist as an important tool to be used during visits. She also recalled the importance of ensuring gender balance in the composition of working groups.

## Any other business

As regards the preparation of the December plenary meeting, it was agreed that the draft opinions to be examined would be transmitted to the Advisory Committee by 18 November 2022, with a deadline for comments on 28 November, so as to allow the working groups concerned to examine them before the start of the plenary and to prepare possible changes of the text for the first reading at the plenary.

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\* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The Advisory Committee adopted the dates of the following plenary meetings:

- 77<sup>th</sup> plenary from 5 to 8 December 2022;
- 78<sup>th</sup> plenary from 13 to 17 February 2023;
- 79<sup>th</sup> plenary from 5 to 9 June 2023;
- 80<sup>th</sup> plenary from 9 to 13 October 2023;
- 81<sup>st</sup> plenary from 5 to 9 February 2024;
- 82<sup>nd</sup> plenary from 27 to 31 May 2024.

## Appendix I – Agenda and Order of Business

### Monday 3 October 2022

- 10.00 – 11.00 Opening of the meeting  
Adoption of the agenda & Order of Business  
Approval of the 75th meeting report  
Report from the Acting President  
Consequences of the aggression of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on the ACFC work  
Procedure for electing the Bureau  
Recent developments
- 11.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft 5th Opinion on Switzerland
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft 5th Opinion on Switzerland (cont'd)

### Tuesday 4 October 2022

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft 5th Opinion on the United Kingdom
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 17.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft 5th Opinion on the United Kingdom (cont'd)

### Wednesday 5 October 2022

- 9.00 – 12.15 Monitoring: Adoption of the final 5th Opinions on Armenia and Italy  
Monitoring: First reading of the draft 5th Opinion on Kosovo\*
- 12.15 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 17.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft 5th Opinion on Kosovo\* (cont'd)

### Thursday 6 October 2022

- 9.30 – 12.30 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft 5th Opinions on Switzerland/the United Kingdom
- 12.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 – 18.00 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents  
Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft 5th Opinions on the United Kingdom/Kosovo\* (cont'd)  
Composition of Working groups/Planning of visits

### Friday 7 October 2022

- 9.00 – 13.00 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft 5th Opinion on Kosovo\* (cont'd)  
Dates of the next plenary meetings  
Any other business  
List of decisions  
Closing words

## Appendix II – List of participants

- Ordinary members:

Pedro AGUILERA CORTÉS (Spain)  
Alexandra CASTRO (Portugal)  
Emilia DRUMEVA (Bulgaria)  
Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)  
Emma LANTSCHNER (Italy) – First Vice-President (elected on 6 October 2022)  
Nicolas LEVRAT (Switzerland) – Second Vice-President (elected on 6 October 2022)  
Oliver LOODE (Estonia)  
Teymur MALIK-ASLANOV (Azerbaijan)  
Jørgen MØLLEKÆR (Denmark)  
Egly PANTELAKIS (Cyprus)  
Mārtiņš PĀPARINSKIS (Latvia)  
Klaus POIER (Austria)  
Mikko PUUMALAINEN (Finland) – Acting President  
Petra ROTER (Slovenia) – President (elected on 6 October 2022)  
Harald Christian SCHEU (Czech Republic)  
David SMITH (United Kingdom)  
Nebojša VUČINIĆ (Montenegro)

- Additional member:

Emil ORDUKHANYAN (Armenia)

### ► Secretariat of the Council of Europe

Elise CORNU, Executive Secretary and Head of the National Minorities and Minority Languages Division  
Lusine DRAMPYAN, Administrator  
Ben FREEMAN, Senior Project Officer  
Michaël GUET, Administrator, Policy Adviser  
Agnes Von MARAVIĆ, Administrator, Policy Adviser  
Kristina DEDAJ, Administrative Assistant  
Katharina FOUQUET, Administrative Assistant  
Brigitte ZWICKERT, Administrative Assistant  
Nikola XAVIEREFF-WECKWERTH, Trainee