

SECRETARIAT

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7 October 2024

To the members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 1-3 October 2024

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 1 to 3 October 2024, with first Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Chairperson, then with Ms Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine, ALDE), 1st Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- on Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 8.30 am, as regards:
 - ***The detention and conviction of Julian Assange and their chilling effects on human rights*** (Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC): held an [exchange of views with Mr Julian Assange](#);
- on Tuesday 2 October 2024 at 2pm, as regards:
 - ***The detention and conviction of Julian Assange and their chilling effects on human rights*** (Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC): took position on 10 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - ***Updating the Venice Commission's Rule of Law checklist: a contribution from the Assembly***: agreed to table a motion for a resolution on this subject on behalf of the committee;
 - ***Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards***: following a request received from the Chair of the Monitoring Committee, instructed the Secretariat to prepare a motion for a resolution to be tabled on behalf of the committee for the next meeting;
 - ***Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan*** (Rapporteur: Ms Hannah Bardell, UK, NR): heard a summary of the Rapporteur's work on the report and took note of her resignation from her mandate;
- on Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 2.45pm, as regards:
 - ***Sub-Committee on Human Rights***: heard an oral report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held on Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 2pm and endorsed the proposal of the Sub-Committee concerning the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the delegations of Monaco, Croatia, Malta and Poland;

- **Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement** (*Rapporteur: Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor - Ukraine once again facing the threat of genocide** (*Rapporteur: Mr. Knut Abraham, Germany, EPP/CD*): took position on six amendments to the draft resolution;
- **General Rapporteur on the abolition of the death penalty**: appointed Ms Gala Veldhoen (Netherlands, SOC) as the new General Rapporteur to replace Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski (North Macedonia, EPP/CD), who left the Assembly on 30 September 2024, and heard from her a declaration on absence of conflict of interest;
- **References transmitted to the committee:**
 - **Appointment of Rapporteurs:**
 - Proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky found in Switzerland must not be returned to the presumed perpetrators: appointed Ms Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine, ALDE) and heard from her a declaration on absence of conflict of interest;
 - Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine: appointed Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) and heard from him a declaration on absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Call for Rapporteurs for opinion:** called for candidates for a Rapporteur for opinion for:
 - Bürgenstock summit on peace in Ukraine: paving the way
Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE)
 - Support for political negotiations to enforce exchange and release of prisoners of war
Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD);
- **Youth Rapporteur (Assembly Resolution 2553 “Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly”)**: called for candidates;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee**: took note of the following reply:

Recommendation 2252 (2023) on the Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, adopted at the 1500th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (5 June 2024);
- **The Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine**: appointed Ms Bisera Kostadinovska-Stojchevska (North Macedonia, SOC) as the committee’s representative to the Network;
- **World Forum for Democracy**: agreed to propose Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau;
- **Hearings during the next meeting**: agreed to hold hearings (open to the public should the experts agree) on the “Draft Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer”, the “Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights” and other topics related to Armenia, and to invite experts, subject to the availability of funds;

– **Other business:**

- Sub-committees: agreed to the following:

- Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights:

Ms Victoria Tiblom (Sweden, EC/DA), Mr Vasilije Čarapić (Montenegro, ALDE), Ms. Regina Bastos (Portugal, EPP/CD) and Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) to become members and Mr Mathieu Michel (Belgium, ALDE) to become Mr Lacroix's alternate;

- Sub-Committee on Human Rights:

Ms Marie-Christine Marghem (Belgium, ALDE) to replace Ms Kristien Van Varenbergh (Belgium, NR) and Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) to replace Ms Florence Reuter (Belgium, ALDE)

- Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights:

Ms Kristien Van Vaernebergh (Belgium, NR) to replace Ms Florence Reuter (ALDE) and Ms Marie-Christine Marghem (Belgium, ALDE) to replace Ms Latifa Gahouchi (SOC);

– **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- 9-10 December 2024, Yerevan, Armenia
- during the Assembly's 1st part-session 2025 (27-31 January 2025)
- 3 March 2025, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2025 (7-11 April 2025)
- 13 May 2025, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2025 (23-27 June 2025)
- 8 September 2025, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2025 (29th September – 3 October 2025)
- 10 December 2025, Paris Office (t.b.c.)

Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (open to the plenary):

- 18-19 November 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 2pm, with Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair;

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered the lists of candidates to the CPT in respect of Monaco, Croatia, Malta and Poland, and agreed on an order of preference amongst the candidates on these lists;
- **Next meeting:** during the January part-session 2025;

The Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) jointly with **the Sub-Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People** (of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons), held a meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday 3 October 2024, co-chaired by Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE) and Ms Arusyak Julhakyan (Armenia, EPP/CD), respective Chairpersons of the Sub-Committees, as regards:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and migration** (*Rapporteur: Mr Petri Honkonen, Finland, ALDE, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons*): held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr Kristian Bartholin, Head of the Digital Development Unit, Secretary of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Mariam Tartousy, Representative of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), Council of Europe (*online*);
 - Ms Niovi Vavoula, Associate Professor in Cyber Policy at the University of Luxembourg;
 - Ms Ludivine Stewart, PhD Researcher, Law department, European University Institute;
 - Dr William Jones, Associate Professor, Royal Holloway University of London;
- **Next meeting of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights** (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) (open to the plenary): 18-19 November 2024, Geneva, Switzerland.

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, George Stafford, Rafał Sokół

cc:

Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe