



CDDH-BU(2018)R100

19/11/2018

**BUREAU  
OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
(CDDH-BU)**

**100<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
(Berlin, 8-9 November 2018)

**REPORT**

1. The Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights held its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting on 8-9 November 2018 in Berlin under the Chairmanship of Mr Hans-Jörg BEHRENS (Germany). The list of participants appears in [Appendix I](#).

**PREPARATION OF THE 90<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE CDDH (27 - 30 November 2018)**

2. The Bureau approved the draft agenda [CDDH\(2018\)OJ2](#) and the draft order of business of the CDDH meeting (see [Appendix II](#) below). Document CDDH (2018)17 containing the Annotations on the draft agenda and the draft order of business was the basis for its discussions and for those of the plenary in November.

3. The Bureau consented to the participation of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) to the work of the CDDH in November on items 5 (Development and promotion of human rights) and 7 (Bioethics) of the draft agenda.

4. Regarding the two **Recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly** (item 2 of the draft agenda) adopted during the autumn session (8-12 October 2018) and transmitted by the Ministers' Deputies at their 1328<sup>th</sup> meeting (24 October 2018) to the CDDH for information and possible comments, the Bureau considered that all the subject-matters addressed in these texts might warrant comments by the CDDH:

- 2140(2018) - Unlimited access to member States, including “grey zones”, by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies<sup>1</sup>;
- 2141(2018) - Family reunification of refugees and migrants in the Council of Europe member States<sup>2</sup>

5. Following a detailed examination of each of the Recommendations, the Bureau adopted the draft comments set out in Appendix III below as a basis for discussion for the CDDH at its meeting in November. These proposals made by the Bureau are also reflected in document CDDH(2018)18, which contains the text of these Recommendations. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to henceforth indicate which other organs, apart from the CDDH, had been invited by the Committee of Ministers to provide any comments, in order that the CDDH experts contact their counterparts in these bodies.

6. As regards the **implementation of the terms of reference of the CDDH for 2018-2019** and the work for the next biennium (item 3 of the agenda), the Human Rights Director, Mr Christophe POIREL, informed the Bureau of the current budgetary situation of the Organisation and the implications for the CDDH work in terms of financial and human resources. He noted that the Director and the Head of the Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, Mr Mikhail LOBOV, would address these questions at the CDDH meeting in November 2018.

- The Bureau invited the CDDH to exchange views on this important issue afterwards, bearing in mind its current calendar of activities and the expectations for the future biennium. Following that discussion, the CDDH could envisage, if appropriate, to postpone one or more of the meetings currently scheduled to 2019.
- The Bureau further invited the CDDH to exchange views with the experts concerned on the activities envisaged by the future Chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers during the bienniums 2018-2019 and 2020-2021<sup>3</sup>.
- The Bureau finally noted that the CDDH should proceed to a comprehensive exchange of views in November 2018 on the activities which it wishes to pursue or launch in the next biennium 2020-2021 in order to be in a position to submit its formal proposals to the Committee of Ministers in June 2019. It was noted that the latter will adopt its decisions in this regard in autumn 2019. In this perspective, the Bureau highlighted the importance of finalizing the current works before considering new activities in 2020-2021. It noted that the suggestions appearing in Appendices III and IV of document CDDH(2018)17 could constitute a good basis for the discussion. In particular, it noted that, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, the Committee of Ministers had given the CDDH the mandate to elaborate a study on the feasibility of a new legal instrument concerning the prohibition of the trade in goods used for torture and death penalty.

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<sup>1</sup> Text also transmitted by the Committee of Ministers to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), to the Consultative Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).

<sup>2</sup> Text also transmitted by the Committee of Ministers to the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) and to the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).

<sup>3</sup> Finland : 21 November 2018 – 17 May 2019  
 France : 17 May 2019 – November 2019  
 Georgia : November 2019 – May 2020  
 Greece : May – November 2020  
 Germany : November 2020 – May 2021

7. The CDDH Chair reported to the Bureau on his participation in the first meeting of Chairpersons of the intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 20 September 2018) which had been followed by a meeting with the Secretary General.

8. With regard to the **work related to the system of the European Convention on Human Rights** (item 4 of the agenda), the Bureau examined the work in progress in the Drafting Groups DH-SYSC-II and DH-SYSC III and in the Committee of Experts on the system of the Convention (DH-SYSC); the follow-up to the Interlaken and Copenhagen; the other items regarding the system of the Convention appearing in the draft agenda (followed by the Brussels Declaration; second Conference of experts at Kokkedal (Denmark); issues regarding the selection and election of the Judges of the Court; Seminar on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new Court)

9. *The place of the European Convention in the European and international legal order* – The Bureau thanked the Chairperson of the Drafting Group **DH-SYSC-II**, Ms Florence MERLOZ (France), for the works that had already been accomplished by the Group, in particular during its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (25-28 September 2018). On this topic:

- (i) The Bureau considered it useful if the CDDH Chair will send an email to each participant in the CDDH and DH-SYSC II meetings, inviting them to make comments on the current work (possible gaps; issues that they would like to develop, etc.) in order to ensure that in November the work of DH-SYSC II will head of in the rights direction and to avoid, as far as possible, any subsequent request which would put in question parts of the text.
- (ii) That being said, the CDDH was not expected to proceed, in November 2018, with the formal adoption of any material prepared by the DH-SYSC II. In June 2019, the CDDH will be invited to examine parts of the draft report which would be completed at this time and, in the light of its guidance, the Group would finalize the text during its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (11-13 September 2019) in view of its transmission to the DH-SYSC (6<sup>th</sup> meeting, 16-18 October 2018) and then to the CDDH for adoption at its 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting (26-29 November 2019).
- (iii) The Bureau invited the CDDH to authorize an additional day (5 February 2019) for the Group's next meeting (6-8 February 2019) in order to enable it to complete the drafting of theme 1, by finalizing the draft chapters on sub-themes (ii) and (iv).

10. *The ECHR in university education and professional training* – The Bureau welcomed the work accomplished, on 16-17 October 2018, by the **DH-SYSC III** under the Chairmanship of Ms Vasileia PELEKOU (Greece) on the follow-up to the Recommendation Rec(2004)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training (see the preliminary draft of a new Recommendation in Appendix VI of the Annotations CDDH(2018)17).

- (i) It was planned that, in the light of eventual guidance provided by the CDDH in November 2018, the Group would submit its draft document to the DH-SYSC for formal approval at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (16-18 October 2019) and transmission to the CDDH, in order that the latter could adopt it at its 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting (November 2019) within the time-limit set up by the Committee of Ministers (31 December 2019).
- (ii) As education and professional training on the System of the European Social Charter is concerned, the Bureau noted the usefulness of addressing this issue within the framework of the Drafting Group on Social Rights (CDDH-SOC), in accordance with the procedure to be set out during its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (3-5 April 2019).

11. The Bureau exchanged views on the way to organise the work on the follow-up to the **Interlaken Declaration** (2010) in order to submit to the Committee of Ministers, by the end of 2019, a CDDH final report entitled *Contribution to the evaluation provided for by the Interlaken Declaration*. The Bureau suggested to the CDDH to consider, in November 2018, the preliminary draft structure that appears in Appendix IV hereafter. According to the Bureau:

- (i) such a structure would provide an occasion to discuss, in a simple way, the numerous projects carried out the past nine years;
- (ii) without prejudice to eventual changes to the structure that could be necessary later, adopting this framework for the construction of the report, as early as November 2018, would allow the Secretariat to begin the drafting work:
- (iii) concerning the form of the document, it would be appropriate that the document submitted to the Committee of Ministers be as brief as possible, with references to existing documents for more details, and written in an accessible language. A table of contents and a concluding section, which could contain proposals of reflection and/or future actions, would be appreciated.

12. Concerning the questions regarding the **Copenhagen Declaration** that the Committee of Ministers wished to be included in the CDDH report, the Bureau suggested that:

- (i) the Registry of the Court, in cooperation with the CDDH Secretariat, carry out the comprehensive analysis of the backlog of cases of the Court;
- (ii) the CDDH examine the proposal that will be presented by its Bureau on the following topics: (a) how to facilitate the prompt and efficient handling of cases, including by friendly settlements or unilateral declarations; (b) how to handle more effectively cases related to inter-State disputes, in particular regarding the establishment of facts (c) questions relating to the situation of judges of the European Court of Human Rights after the end of their mandate.

- To this end, the Bureau meeting might, if appropriate, have an additional day fully dedicated to this work. The discussion could be based on the written contributions of the relevant delegations.

- Concerning the specific question regarding the establishment of facts in cases related to inter-State disputes, the Bureau noted that the outcomes of the seminar *Evidence before International Courts: Distinct Fora, Similar Approaches?* held in Moscow on 9 October 2018, could provide a good basis for discussion.

- The agenda that will be set up for this work might enable the CDDH to submit proposals or ideas on a possible approach to the Deputies by 15 April 2019.

13. The Bureau considered the other issues regarding the System of the Convention that appeared on the draft agenda:

- (i) Concerning the follow-up to the **Brussels Declaration**, the Bureau noted that the work in progress should be finalised by September 2019 and that it would be reflected in the final report on Interlaken.
- (ii) It welcomed the holding of the Second High-level Expert Conference on the Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration (**Kokkedal**, Denmark, 31 October - 2 November 2018)

- (iii) Regarding the questions related to the **selection and the election of the Judges of the Court**, the Bureau noted that Mr Vít Alexander SCHORM (Czech Republic), former Chair of the Drafting Group DH-SYSC-I which had elaborated the CDDH report on these issues, as well as the Secretariat, would inform the CDDH in November about the work conducted by the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H).
- (iv) As the *Seminar on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new Court* (Strasbourg, 26 November 2018) is concerned, the Bureau invited the CDDH to have an exchange of views.
- (v) Lastly, and despite budgetary constraints in 2019, the Bureau considered that the opportunity for the **DH-SYSC** to meet on 16 -18 October 2019 in order to finalise the work of the Groups SYSC II and III and the draft of the final report on Interlaken was of utmost importance.

14. Concerning the work on the **development and promotion of human rights** (item 5 of the Agenda), the Bureau examined the work in progress in the following areas: social rights; Civil society and National Human Rights Institutions; Human rights and migration; Freedom of expression and links with other human rights.

15. Regarding the work of the Drafting Group on **social rights** (CDDH-SOC), the Chair of the Group Mr Vít A. SCHORM (Czech Republic) recalled that the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (5-7 September 2018) had been dedicated to a detailed review of the structure and substantive content of the second report identifying good practices and making proposals for improving the implementation of social rights in Europe.

- (i) The Bureau thanked the Group for the significant work already accomplished and invited the plenary session in November to provide eventual guidance regarding the continuation and the finalisation of the second report (see document CDDH-SOC(2018)R3, Appendix IV).
- (ii) Concerning the request made by the CDDH-SOC that education and professional training in the Charter system European Social Charter be taken into account in the context of the review by the DH-SYSC III of Recommendation Rec(2004)4, the Bureau considered it would be appropriate that such work be conducted directly under the CDDH-SOC in accordance with the procedure it deemed most appropriate.
- (iii) Regarding the Workshop on Social Rights that the future French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers intend to organise, the Bureau welcomed the initiative and suggested that the CDDH examine in detail which framework would be the most appropriate to give the event the expected impact particularly in the political institutions. It was planned to discuss this item during the plenary session in November.
- (iv) Lastly, as concerns the possible change to the dates of the CDDH-SOC meeting (25-27 September 2019), the Bureau considered that it would be difficult for the Secretariat to fulfil all its tasks in respect of other meetings and concluded that it would be preferable to maintain the initial dates.

16. The Chairperson of the Drafting Group on **civil society** and national human rights institutions (CDDH-INST), Ms Krista OINONEN (Finland), reported that the work during the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (9-21 September 2018) which had enabled the Group to:

- (a) finalise (i) a draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of the civil society space in Europe; (ii) a draft compilation of measures and practices in place in the Council of Europe member States with an accompanying overview document; (iii) a draft Opinion of the CDDH on the draft “Venice Principles on the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution”;
  - (b) prepare (i) the Workshop on the protection and promotion of the civil society space which is organised by the CDDH under the auspices of the Finnish Presidency and will take place on 29 October 2018; (ii) possible structure for revising the Recommendation No. R(85)13 of the Committee of Ministers on the institution of the ombudsman.
- (i) The Bureau thanked the Group for the significant work already accomplished and invited the plenary session in November to provide potential guidance for revising the Recommendation No. R(85)13 (see Appendix IX of the document Annotations, CDDH(2018)17).
  - (ii) Concerning the Group’s work on the revision of Recommendation No R (97) 14 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the establishment of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Bureau considered that this might continue in 2020 in case of budgetary constraints imposing the CDDH to postpone some of its meetings scheduled in 2019.
  - (iii) As regards the survey concerning namely current challenges and good practices, the result of which could be annexed as an explanatory report to Recommendation No. R (85)13 on the institution of the ombudsman, the Bureau suggested that the appointment of an external consultant on the basis of a national voluntary contribution could be an appropriate way to conduct this work.

17. The Chairman of the Drafting Group on human rights and **migration** (CDDH-MIG), Mr Morten RUUD (Norway), reported that the work during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group (23 - 25 October 2018) had enabled the Group to (i) exchange views on current developments relating to alternatives to immigration detention; (ii) review the preliminary draft *handbook on alternatives to immigration detention*; (iii) exchange views on the work to be started in 2019 on appropriate standards for the reception and accommodation of refugee and migrant children and/or Guidelines on alternatives to immigration detention.

- (i) The Bureau thanked the Group for the significant work already accomplished and considered the work of the CDDH-MIG might remain a priority in 2019 and beyond.
- (ii) It invited the plenary in November to provide eventual guidance regarding the order according to which the CDDH-MIG might continue its work in 2019, knowing that the Group would examine this issue at its meeting on 26-28 March 2019.

18. Concerning the work in progress relating to the **freedom of expression** and links with other human rights, it was reported that the Drafting Group CDDH-EXP would hold its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 20-22 March 2019. In this perspective, the Secretariat would present to the plenary the state of preparation of the draft Guide to good and promising practices to reconcile freedom of expression with other rights and freedoms, in particular, in culturally diverse societies.

- (i) The Chairman of the Group, M. Hans-Jörg BEHRENS (Germany), considered that, on the basis of the significant work already accomplished, it should be possible to complete the mandate during the March 2019 meeting. It reported that the Group and its Secretariat would work in this sense.
- (ii) The Bureau thanked the Chairman and invited the CDDH to provide, if appropriate, guidance on the work in progress.

19. Regarding the **monitoring of activities carried out by the CDDH** (item 6 of the Agenda), the Bureau exchanged views on the following works: Human rights and business; older persons; female genital mutilation and forced marriage; victims of terrorist acts; access to official documents; discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

20. The Bureau was informed of the positive developments in the creation and implementation of the CDDH/HELP Online Platform on **Human Rights and Business**. It asked the Secretariat to inform the plenary in view of possible guidance from the CDDH.

21. The Bureau invited the CDDH to examine and to adopt in November the draft report on the follow-up to the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2 on the promotion of human rights of the **older persons** (document CDDH-AGE (2018)04Rev) and to take note of the compiled answers received by the Secretariat.

22. The Bureau noted that the results of the Conference "A Policy of Progress: Ending **FGM and Forced Marriage**" (London, 15-16 November 2018) will be presented by the United Kingdom Expert and the Secretariat during the plenary session in November.

23. The Bureau welcomed the initiative of the future French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on the preparation of the Workshop on the Protection of **Victims of Terrorist Acts**, on 20 June 2019 during the 91<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CDDH (June 2019). The French expert will present to the November plenary the state of preparation of this event.

24. The Bureau suggested that, during the plenary session in November, the possibility of organising an awareness-raising workshop on the Tromsø Convention on access to **official documents**, be discussed, for example within the context of the future Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (November 2019 - May 2020) given that Georgia has signed the Convention, and that it intends to organise a conference on the environment during its Chairmanship, a topic where access to public information held by public authorities is important.

25. The Bureau noted the progress made concerning the follow-up to the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec (2010)05 on measures to combat **discrimination** on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. The representative of the Unit "Sexual orientation and gender identity" (OSIG, DGII) Ms Eleni TSETSEKOU, will inform the CDDH on this matter in November 2018. The Bureau considered appropriate to hold a workshop on the follow-up to the Recommendation during the first semester of 2019, except during the CDDH meeting in June which will already include another workshop (cf. § 23 above).

26. The Bureau noted that the Secretariat would circulate very soon a draft opinion for the Committee of experts on Bioethics (**DH-BIO**) on the draft Additional Protocol concerning the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary

placement and involuntary treatment. The Bureau considered that the draft opinion should reiterate the position already expressed by the CDDH concerning the draft Protocol while mentioning that it is up to the DH-BIO to decide on the organisation and calendar of its modalities on this topic. Furthermore, the Bureau welcomed the initiative of the future French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers to organise an event on public debate concerning human rights issues in the biomedical field, during the meeting of the DH-BIO in June 2019.

27. Concerning the **focal points** representing the CDDH in other bodies/authorities (item 8 of the agenda), the Bureau invited the experts concerned to send information to the Secretariat.

28. Regarding the **guests** of the future meetings (item 9 of the agenda) the Bureau suggested the CDDH to deal favourably with the suggestion included in the Annotation (CDDH(2018)17) and to invite in June 2019 a representative of the FRA (common interest work led or considered by the Agency), a representative of the Secretariat (Human rights and Artificial Intelligence issues) and in November 2019 the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

29. Regarding the follow-up to the **Conventions** for which the CDDH is responsible (item 10 of the Agenda), the Bureau invited the CDDH to exchange views on the future entry into force of Protocol No. 15 and the action of the Court following the entry into force of Protocol No.16.

30. Concerning **publications** (item 11 of the Agenda), the Bureau welcomed the Appendix XIII of the Annotations (CDDH(2018)17) which shows various publications currently in preparation and asked the Secretariat to keep the format in the future.

31. As the calendar (item 12 of the Agenda) is concerned, the Bureau invited the CDDH to review the biennium schedule in the light of the information provided under item 3 of the Agenda (CDDH mandate for 2018-2019). This implies the possibility of holding, in 2019, only one meeting of the CDDH-INST (27 February – 1 March; continuation of the work in 2020) and the CDDH-EXP (20-22 March; end of the Group work). Under all circumstances, priority should be given to the DH-SYSC II work, with a potential additional day for the February meeting, and to the CDDH-SOC and CDDH-MIG work.

32. At the end its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Bureau warmly thanked the German authorities for their hospitality.

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## Appendix I

**List of participants****BUREAU MEMBERS / MEMBRES DU BUREAU****ANDORRA / ANDORRE**

Mr Joan FORNER ROVIRA, Directeur, Département pour les Affaires bilatérales et consulaires, Ministère des Affaires Extérieures, Andorra la Vella

**ESTONIA / ESTONIE**

Mrs Maris KUURBERG, Government Agent before the ECtHR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tallinn

**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

Ms Krista OINONEN, Government Agent before the ECtHR, Director, Unit for Human Rights Courts and Conventions, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki

**FRANCE**

Mme Florence MERLOZ, Sous-directrice des droits de l'homme, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères, Direction des affaires juridiques, Paris

**GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**

Mr Hans-Jörg BEHRENS, Head of Unit IVC1, Human Rights Protection; Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz, Berlin  
*Chairman of the CDDH / Président du CDDH*

**GREECE / GRECE**

Ms Zinovia STAVRIDIS, Head of the Public International Law Department/Special Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens

**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

Mrs Kristine LICE, Government Agent before the ECtHR, Representative of the Government before International Human Rights Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riga

**NORWAY / NORVEGE**

Mr Morten RUUD, Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police, Legislation Department, Oslo

**INVITEES**

Ms Brigitte OHMS, Deputy Government Agent, Division for International Affairs and General Administrative Affairs (dpt. V 5), Federal Ministry for Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice, Wien

Mr Vit Á. SCHORM, Government Agent before the ECtHR, Ministry of Justice, Praha

**SECRETARIAT****DG I – Human Rights and Rule of Law / Droits de l'Homme et État de droit  
Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex**

Mr Christophe POIREL, Director / Directeur, Human Rights Directorate / Direction des droits de l'Homme

Mr Mikhail LOBOV, Head of Human Rights Policy and Development Department / Chef du Service des politiques et du développement des droits de l'Homme

Mr Alfonso DE SALAS, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division / Chef de la Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l'Homme, Secretary of the CDDH / Secrétaire du CDDH

Ms Corinne GAVRILOVIC, Assistant / Assistante, Human Rights Intergovernmental Cooperation Division  
/ Division de la coopération intergouvernementale en matière de droits de l'Homme

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**INTERPRETERS**

Ms Sabine El Sayegh  
Ms Kamal Zimmermann

## Appendix II

**Draft order of business**

On Monday, 26 November 2018, the day before the plenary meeting of the CDDH, two events of interest to the CDDH will be held in the Human Rights Building, press room:

\* 9:30 - 13:00: Meeting of Government Agents with the Registry of the Court

\* 15:15 -18:30: *Seminar on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New Court*

The Bureau will hold a meeting on Tuesday, 27 November 2018, from 9:00 to 9:30, at the Palais de l'Europe, Room 7.

The 90th plenary meeting of the CDDH will take place from Tuesday 27 November (beginning 9:30) to Friday 30 November (end at 13:00) 2018 at the Palais de l'Europe, room 8.

\* The draft agenda appears in Appendix I above.

\* The draft order of business is shown below.

| <b>TUESDAY<br/>27 November</b>  | <b>WEDNESDAY<br/>28 November</b>   | <b>THURSDAY<br/>29 November</b>   | <b>FRIDAY<br/>30 November</b>   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 9:30  | 9:30   | 9:30  | 10:00   |
| <u>Item 1: OPENING</u><br><br><u>Item 2:</u><br>APCE<br>RECOMMENDATIONS<br><br><u>Item 3: TERMS OF<br/>REFERENCE</u><br><br><u>Item 5: DEVELOPMENT<br/>AND PROMOTION OF<br/>HR</u><br><br>5.1. CDDH-SOC<br>5.2. CDDH-INST | 4.1 DH-SYSC-II<br><i>(continuation)</i><br>4.2 DH-SYSC-III<br>4.3. <i>Follow-up Interlaken</i>   | <u>Item 6:</u><br>FOLLOW-UP OF<br>ACTIVITIES OF CDDH<br><br>6.1 <i>HR and business</i><br>6.2 <i>Older persons</i><br>6.3 <i>FGM and FM</i><br>6.4 <i>Victims of terrorist<br/>acts</i><br>6.5 <i>Access to official<br/>documents</i><br>6.6 <i>Discrimination</i><br><br>12:15<br><u>Item 11</u><br>ELECTIONS | <u>Item 8:</u><br>FOCAL POINTS<br><br><u>Item 9:</u><br>GUESTS<br><br><u>Item 10:</u><br>CONVENTIONS<br><br><u>Item 12:</u><br>PUBLICATIONS<br><br><u>Item 13:</u><br>CALENDAR<br><br><u>Item 14:</u><br>GENDER EQUALITY<br><br>Adoption of the draft<br>abridged meeting report<br><br>13:00 <i>End of meeting</i> |
| 13:00 <i>Lunch break</i>  | 13:00 <i>Lunch</i>   | 13:00 <i>Lunch</i>  |   |
| 14:30<br><br>5.3 CDDH-MIG<br>5.4 CDDH-EXP<br><br><u>Item 7: BIOETHICS</u><br><br><u>Item 4: SYSTEM OF<br/>THE ECHR</u><br><br>4.1 DH-SYSC-II  | 14:30<br><br>4.4. <i>Follow-up Brussels</i><br>4.5. <i>Follow-up<br/>Copenhagen</i><br>4.6 <i>Selection and<br/>election of judges of the<br/>Court</i><br>4.7. <i>Seminar on the 20<sup>th</sup><br/>anniversary of the New<br/>Court</i><br>4.8. <i>DH-SYSC (2019)</i> | 14:15<br>Workshop "Protecting and<br>Promoting Space for Civil<br>Society" (See<br><u>Programme</u> )   |   |
| 17:30 <i>End of session</i>   | 17:30 <i>End of session</i><br>18:00 <i>Reception UK<br/>Ambassador's residence</i>  | 17:30 <i>Vin d'honneur</i>  |   |

## Appendix III

**Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations****Draft comments suggested by the Bureau  
for consideration by the CDDH at its meeting in November 2018****RECOMMENDATION 2133 (2018) – “UNLIMITED ACCESS TO MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING “GREY ZONES”, BY COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING BODIES “*****Text of the Recommendation***

1. The Parliamentary Assembly recalls its Resolution 2240 (2018) on unlimited access to member States, including “grey zones”, by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies.
2. The Assembly calls on the Committee of Ministers to hold an urgent discussion whenever a Council of Europe human rights monitoring body is denied access, or allowed access only on conditions that are politically unacceptable or incompatible with the body’s mandate, to all or part of a member State’s territory. Such a discussion should aim at finding rapid, effective solutions to such situations, where appropriate by applying diplomatic pressure on the responsible authorities, including, where applicable, through the State exercising effective control over a territory and its de facto authorities.
3. The Assembly also calls on the Committee of Ministers to consider the introduction within the Council of Europe of a presumption that all member States consent to visits by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies in circumstances where there is reason to believe that there are serious violations of fundamental human rights and dignity such as threats to life, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or denial of basic humanitarian needs. Such a presumption could be rebuttable in exceptional circumstances, for instance where denial of access is necessary for reasons relating to national defence, public safety or serious local public disorder. It would, however, be for the State concerned to raise such objections upon being informed of a monitoring body’s intention to visit in circumstances that invoke the presumption of consent.
4. The Assembly further calls on the Committee of Ministers to undertake a detailed, systematic review of the state of co-operation between Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring mechanisms, in co-operation with the United Nations, with a view to enhancing co-ordination and maximising synergies. Such a review should include exploration of possibilities for reinforcing the overall human rights monitoring of “grey zones” (States’ territories that are under the control of de facto authorities) within Council of Europe member States, including through joint activities of bodies responsible for monitoring comparable human rights issues, whilst respecting the particularities of those bodies’ mandates, composition, structures and working methods. The review could also engage with relevant monitoring mechanisms of other international organisations, including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

***Draft comments***

1. The Steering Committee for Human rights takes note of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2140 (2018) : “*Unlimited access to member States, including “grey zones”, by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies*”. It shared its concerns about the difficulties encountered by Council of Europe and United Nations human rights monitoring bodies, as well as by other international organisations, to access to member States’ territories which are “grey zones”.
2. The CDDH recalls that the Council of Europe’s treaties are applicable on the whole territory of each contracting Party. It observes at the outset that the supervisory bodies acting under the European Convention on Human Rights have, on many occasions, made use of their competencies to carry out inquiries on the ground, including in such zones, with a view to establishing the facts. The European Court of Human Rights fully retains this power, all Contracting Parties being bound by the duty to cooperate with a view to establishing the facts pursuant to Article 38 of the Convention.

3. Concerning the monitoring bodies established by other instruments of the Council of Europe, the CDDH notes that their visits help formulating proposals aimed at improving respect for the conventions in the visited countries. However, whereas the CPT benefits from a presumption that all member States consent to its visit thanks to the combination of Articles 8 and 9 of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, this is not the case for other monitoring bodies such as the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, or the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).
4. Consequently, the CDDH considers that it could be useful to reflect upon the opportunity and feasibility of establishing, within the Council of Europe, a rebuttable presumption of consent to the visits carried out by the monitoring bodies which work on some aspects on human rights protection.
5. Finally, the CDDH shares the approach of the Assembly according to which the strengthening of human rights monitoring in the “grey zones” should be discussed in liaison with the United Nations, with a view, as appropriate, to conducting joint actions by both Organisations.

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## **RECOMMENDATION 2141 (2018) – “FAMILY REUNIFICATION OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES”**

### ***Text of the Recommendation***

The Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its Resolution 2243 (2018), the Parliamentary Assembly emphasises the importance of protecting family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) and recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

- 1.1. develop guidelines for the application of the right to family reunification of refugees and migrants as well as for mutual legal assistance and administrative co-operation between member States and with third countries in this field;
- 1.2. invite member States to establish bilateral arrangements to represent each other for the purposes of collecting visa applications and issuing visas;
- 1.3. invite the member States that have not yet done so to join, or co-operate with, the European Union Schengen Visa Information System with a view to exchanging the data necessary for enabling more rapid family reunification;
- 1.4. co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting mechanisms and action for finding missing family members of refugees, in co-operation with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and national parliaments;
- 1.5. reinforce Council of Europe action on combating trafficking of child refugees, ensuring that unaccompanied child refugees are reunited with their parents, unless this is against the best interests of a child, for example if parents have participated in the trafficking of this child.

### ***Draft comments***

1. The Steering Committee for Human rights takes note of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2141 (2018) “*Family reunification of refugees and migrants in the Council of Europe member States*”. It underlines the necessity to protect the right to respect for family life as recognised by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the relevant case-law of the Court.

2. The CDDH recalls Article 19(6) of the European Social Charter which obliges Contracting States to facilitate the family reunion of migrant workers who legally reside in the country, and the relevant conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights, specifying that this provision also apply to refugees.
3. The CDDH draws attention to Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)9 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors. Paragraphs 18 and 24 encourage member States to seek the parents/guardians of unaccompanied minors, establishing contact to facilitate possible family reunification and/or to expedite departure to a third country to join family members. It also recalls Recommendation No. R(99)23 of the Committee of Ministers on family reunion for refugees and other persons in need of international protection, as well as Recommendation (2002)4 on the legal status of persons admitted for family reunification.
4. In this context, the CDDH welcomes the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Migration and Refugees. This work includes the drafting of a manual on the standards and good practices for restoring family links and family reunification. The manual aims at facilitating the cooperation and training of relevant professionals in Council of Europe member States. The CDDH Drafting Group on Migration and Human Rights (CDDH-MIG) has also, *inter alia*, addressed the topic of the right to respect for family life in the context of immigration detention and alternatives to immigration detention. Besides, in October 2018, it deliberated on future work on reception conditions for migrant and refugee children.
5. As regards the issue of human trafficking emphasized in the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2141 (2018), the CDDH highlights in particular the on-going work of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the field, which in recent years has prioritised and outlined targeted prevention measures against the human trafficking of unaccompanied or separated minors and irregular migrant children.

## Appendix IV

**Contribution of the CDDH  
to the evaluation provided for by the Interlaken Declaration****Preliminary draft table of contents  
as suggested by the Bureau  
for discussion at the CDDH meeting in November 2018**Note

1. Under the mandate it received, the CDDH is expected to contribute to the evaluation, before the end of 2019, of the reform process towards long-term effectiveness of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights required by the Interlaken Declaration. In that evaluation, proposals are to be made to the Committee of Ministers as to whether the measures adopted so far have proven to be sufficient to ensure sustainable functioning of the system of the Convention or whether more profound changes are necessary.

2. The Bureau considers it useful that the CDDH, at its plenary meeting in November 2018, starts its work on the subject-matter by a discussion on the possible structure of the future report. To this end, it prepared the present **preliminary draft table of contents which could form a basis for the discussion.**

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**CONTRIBUTION OF THE CDDH  
TO THE EVALUATION PROVIDED FOR BY  
THE INTERLAKEN DECLARATION****CONTEXT OF THE EVALUATION AND MANDATE OF THE CDDH AND THE DH-SYSC**

1. The evaluation of the reform process towards long-term effectiveness of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights to be carried out according to the Interlaken Declaration is a further stage in the broader context of the reform of the Convention system. Since the Court took up its work in 1959, the member States of the Council of Europe have adopted several protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights with the aim of improving and strengthening its supervisory mechanism. In 1998 in particular, Protocol No. 11 to the Convention entered into force which provided for a wholly judicial system of determination of applications, replacing the original two-tier structure comprising the Court and the Commission by a permanent Court. The continuing rise in the Court's caseload was further addressed by Protocol No. 14, which entered into force in 2010 and notably provided for smaller judicial formations to deal with clearly inadmissible cases and well-founded repetitive cases.
2. In 2010 a first intergovernmental conference on the future of the Court in Interlaken marked the beginning of the so-called Interlaken process of further reform. The Interlaken Declaration sought to establish a roadmap for the reform process towards

long-term effectiveness of the Convention system.<sup>4</sup> It notably invited the Committee of Ministers to decide, before the end of 2019, whether the measures adopted in the course of the reform process, in particular the measures to implement Protocol No. 14 and the Interlaken Action Plan, have proven to be sufficient to assure sustainable functioning of the control mechanism of the Convention or whether more profound changes are necessary.<sup>5</sup>

3. Since the Interlaken conference, the measures proposed to guarantee the long-term effectiveness of the Convention system have been further developed in the Declarations adopted at four further high-level conferences in Izmir (2011)<sup>6</sup>, Brighton (2012)<sup>7</sup>, Brussels (2015)<sup>8</sup> and Copenhagen (2018)<sup>9</sup>.
4. According to its terms of reference for the 2018-2019 biennium, the Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC), under the supervision of the CDDH, is to:

“contribute to the evaluation set out by the Interlaken Declaration, before the end of 2019, with a view to formulating proposals to the Committee of Ministers as to whether the measures adopted so far have proven to be sufficient to ensure sustainable functioning of the system of the Convention or whether more profound changes are necessary (deadline: 31 December 2019).”<sup>10</sup>

5. This work is to be carried out in the light of the results achieved in the framework of the further ongoing activities of the DH-SYSC, that is, the preparation of a draft report concerning the place of the European Convention on Human Rights in the European and international legal order and the follow-up to the decisions that may be taken by the Committee of Ministers further to the submission, in December 2017, of the CDDH report on the process of selection and election of the judges at the European Court of Human Rights.<sup>11</sup>
6. The following preliminary draft table of contents of the future “Contribution of the CDDH to the evaluation provided for by the Interlaken Declaration” proposes conducting the assessment of the sufficiency of the measures adopted in the Interlaken reform process under three headings: 1) The application of the Convention at the national level – preventing and remedying breaches of the Convention; 2) Applications before the European Court of Human Rights; and 3) The execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

<sup>4</sup> See the [Interlaken Declaration](#) of 19 February 2010, PP 10.

<sup>5</sup> See the [Interlaken Declaration](#), Implementation of the Action Plan, point 6.

<sup>6</sup> See the [Izmir Declaration](#) of 26/27 April 2011.

<sup>7</sup> See the [Brighton Declaration](#) of 19/20 April 2012.

<sup>8</sup> See the [Brussels Declaration](#) of 27 March 2015.

<sup>9</sup> See the [Copenhagen Declaration](#) of 12/13 April 2018.

<sup>10</sup> See the terms of reference given by the Committee of Ministers to the DH-SYSC as adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 1300<sup>th</sup> meeting, 21-23 November 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



## PRELIMINARY DRAFT TABLE OF CONTENTS

### INTRODUCTION

- Background: shared responsibility between the States Parties, the Court and the Committee of Ministers in the implementation of the Convention.

### A. THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL – PREVENTING AND REMEDYING BREACHES OF THE CONVENTION

#### ***I. Raising awareness of, and providing training for national authorities on the Convention standards and procedures***

- Translation of significant judgments of the Court into national languages.
- Thematic information on the Court's case-law (with the help of the Court's Registry).
- Training of university students, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law-enforcement officials, officials responsible for the deprivation of a person's liberty and members of the security forces on well-established case-law concerning their respective (future) professional fields (amongst others via the HELP programme)
- Secondment of national judges and, where appropriate, other lawyers to the Court's Registry.
- Coordination of other existing mechanisms, activities and programmes of the Council of Europe, such as the works on Human Rights and Business and in particular the activities of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the Court.
- Cooperation with national human rights institutions or other relevant bodies.

#### ***II. Concrete measures to prevent and remedy breaches of the Convention at the national level***

1. Measures to be taken, as appropriate, at the legislative, executive or judicial level:
  - Ensure that all persons with an arguable claim that their rights and freedoms as set forth in the Convention have been violated have available to them an effective remedy before a national authority providing adequate redress.
  - Implement practical measures to ensure that legislation complies fully with the Convention, including by developing parliamentary expertise to evaluate the compatibility with the Convention of draft legislation.
  - Consider setting up an optional mechanism allowing the highest national courts to request advisory opinions.
  - Encourage national courts to take into account the relevant principles of the Convention in conducting proceedings and formulating judgments.
  - Promote exchange of information and experiences concerning the implementation of the Convention at the national level, in coordination in particular with the Government Agents.
2. Measures to be taken to strengthen the role of civil society:
  - Consider the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution.

3. Measures to be taken by the Council of Europe:
  - Assisting and encouraging national implementation of the Convention by the provision of technical assistance upon request to States Parties and dissemination of good practices; targeting and coordination of technical assistance; co-operation with the European Union.

## **B. APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

### ***I. Measures for dealing with the high case-load***

1. Access to the Court and a sound administration of justice
  - Information to applicants and their representatives on the scope and limits of the Convention's protection, on admissibility criteria and the application procedure before the Court.
  - Change of procedural rules / practices.
  - Improvement of the form for applications to the Court.
2. Filtering of applications
  - Examination of the necessity of a new filtering mechanism requiring amendment of the Convention.
  - Setting up of a filtering mechanism within the existing bench.
3. The order of dealing with applications – priority policy
4. Measures for dealing with specific cases
  - Analysis of the Court's backlog.
  - Streamlining of procedures particularly for the handling of inadmissible cases and repetitive cases (e.g. pilot judgment procedure).
  - Facilitation by member States of the adoption of friendly settlements and unilateral declarations with the support of the Court.
  - More effective handling of cases related to inter-State disputes, as well as individual applications arising from situations of conflict between States.
5. The organisational structure of the Court
  - Examination of a simplified procedure for amending certain provisions of the Convention relating to organisational issues.
  - Appointment of additional judges to the Court to deal with pending Chamber applications.
  - Sufficient funding of the Court.
  - Secondment of national judges and, where appropriate, other lawyers to the Court's Registry.

### ***II. Measures to guarantee the authority of the Court and of its case-law***

1. The selection and election of judges of the Court
  - The national selection procedure.
  - The election procedure.
  - The post-mandate situation of judges.
2. The clarity and consistency of the Court's case-law
  - Ensure clarity and consistency of the Court's judgments, in particular by the Grand Chamber.
  - Ensure a consistent application of the principles of subsidiarity and margin of appreciation.

- Give effect to the new admissibility criterion provided for in Protocol No. 14 (*de minimis non curat praetor*).

3. The Convention in the European and international legal order

- The accession of the European Union to the Convention.
- Long-term strategic reflections about the future role of the Court / evaluation of the fundamental role and nature of the Court.

**III. Dialogue of the Court with the actors in the Convention system**

- Judicial dialogue between the Court and the highest courts of the States Parties.
- Introduction of a power of the Court, which States Parties could optionally accept, to deliver advisory opinions upon request on the interpretation of the Convention in the context of a specific case at domestic level.
- Third-party interventions in cases pending before the Court.
- High-level ministerial conferences.
- Dialogue of the Court's President with the Committee of Ministers.
- Regular meetings between the Government Agents and the Registry of the Court.
- Consultations with civil society.

**C. THE EXECUTION OF THE JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

***I. Ensuring domestic capacities for the rapid execution of judgments***

- Develop domestic capacities taking into account the indications in Recommendation 2008(2) and share good practices.
- Develop the States Parties' capacity to rapidly submit comprehensive action plans, make them widely accessible and ensure their follow-up.
- Facilitate the role of the Government Agents or other officials responsible in co-ordinating the execution of judgments.
- Facilitate the role of the national parliaments in scrutinizing the effectiveness of implementation measures.

***II. Ensuring an efficient and transparent process of supervision of the execution of judgments by the Committee of Ministers***

- Refine the procedures to ensure an effective and transparent supervision of the execution of the Court's judgments.
- Prioritisation (cases requiring urgent individual measures and cases disclosing major structural problems).
- Reinforced subsidiarity (States' choice of means to conform to the Convention obligations).
- Foster the exchange of information and best practices between States Parties particularly for the implementation of general measures.
- Foster the accessibility of information relevant for the execution of judgments
- Increased cooperation with other international organisations and non-governmental organisations.
- Enhance, where necessary, the Department for the Execution of Judgment's bilateral dialogue with States Parties to facilitate the execution process.
- Take effective measures in respect of a State Party that fails to comply with its obligations under Article 46.

- Ensure sufficient budgetary resources, including the secondment of national judges or officials to the Department for the Execution of Judgments

### ***III. Developing interaction with other stakeholders***

- Increased cooperation with the Court and its Registry as well as the Parliamentary Assembly in matters relating to the execution of judgments.
- Encourage the relevant entities of the Council of Europe to take account of issues relating to the execution of judgments in their cooperation activities.
- Awareness-raising activities by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for members of national parliaments to follow the execution of judgments.
- Facilitation, on a case-by-case basis, of the execution of judgments raising complex issues by the Secretary General and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

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## Appendix V

**Calendar of meetings of the CDDH  
and subordinate bodies for 2018 and 2019**

*(as adopted by the CDDH at its 89<sup>th</sup> meeting (19-22 June 2018) and including suggestions by the Bureau at its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting (8-9 November 2018) for consideration by the CDDH at its 90<sup>th</sup> meeting (27-30 November 2018))*

| <b>2018</b>   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b><i>First semester (reminder)</i></b>   |                                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions (CDDH-INST)   | 14–16 March                       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Human Rights and Migration (CDDH-MIG)  | 21–23 March                       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on the place of the ECHR in the European and international legal order (DH-SYSC-II)   | 3–5 April                         |
| <i>High-level Conference under the Danish chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers concerning the future of the ECHR system</i>   | Copenhagen,<br>11–13 April        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Freedom of Expression and links to other Human Rights (CDDH-EXP)   | 25–27 April                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Social Rights (CDDH-SOC)   | 2–4 May                           |
| 99 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)   | Andorra la Vella<br>17–18 May     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)   | 22–25 May                         |
| 89 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and Workshop, under the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, on the promotion of human rights of older persons | 19–22 June<br>21 June (afternoon) |
| <b><i>Second semester</i></b>   |                                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Social Rights (CDDH-SOC)   | 5–7 September                     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions (CDDH-INST)   | 19-21 September                   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on the place of the ECHR in the European and international legal order (DH-SYSC-II)   | 25–28 September                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Drafting Group on the follow-up to Rec (2004) 4 (DH-SYSC-III)  | 16–17 October                     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Human Rights and Migration (CDDH-MIG)  | 23–25 October                     |
| 100 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)  | Berlin, 8–9 November              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)   | 20–23 November                    |
| <i>Meeting of the Government Agents with the Registry of the Court</i>  | 26 November<br>morning            |
| CDDH Workshop on the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the new Court  | 26 November<br>afternoon          |

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 90 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) including the CDDH Workshop (29 November afternoon) on Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions | 27–30 November                    |
| <b>2019</b>  |                                   |
| <b><i>First semester</i></b>   |                                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on the place of the ECHR in the European and international legal order (DH-SYSC-II)  | <b>[5]</b> 6–8 February           |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions (CDDH-INST)  | 27 February–1 <sup>st</sup> March |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Freedom of Expression and links to other Human Rights (CDDH-EXP)  | 20–22 March                       |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Human Rights and Migration (CDDH-MIG)   | 26–28 March                       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Social Rights (CDDH-SOC)  | 3–5 April                         |
| 101 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)   | <b>[Helsinki]</b><br>16–17 May    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on the follow-up to the CDDH report on the longer-term future of the Convention (DH-SYSC-II)   | 22–24 May                         |
| 91 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and Workshop on the protection of victims of terrorist acts   | 18–21 June                        |
| <b><i>Second semester</i></b>  |                                   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group II on the place of the ECHR in the European and international legal order (DH-SYSC-II)   | 11–13 September                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions (CDDH-INST)  | 18–20 September                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Social Rights (CDDH-SOC)  | 25–27 September                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Freedom of Expression and links to other Human Rights (CDDH-EXP)  | 9–11 October                      |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of experts on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (DH-SYSC)   | 16–18 October                     |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the drafting Group on Human Rights and Migration (CDDH-MIG)   | 22–24 October                     |
| 102 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH-BU)   | <b>[Paris]</b><br>7–8 November    |
| 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)   | 26–29 November                    |

***For information – forthcoming chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers***

Finland : 21 November 2018 – 17 May 2019  
 France : 17 May 2019 – November 2019  
 Georgia : November 2019 – May 2020  
 Greece : May – November 2020  
 Germany : November 2020 – May 2021