

SECRETARIAT

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5 March 2025

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 3 March 2025

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 3 March 2025 with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12th report** (*rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC*) : considered a draft [report](#) and adopted a draft resolution as amended and a draft recommendation, the latter unanimously; agreed to instruct the secretariat to prepare a draft motion for a resolution on ensuring the payment of just satisfaction awarded by the European Court of Human Rights in judgments against the Russian Federation, with a view to its examination at a future meeting;
- **Proceeds of the crime denounced by Sergei Magnitsky found in Switzerland must not be returned to the presumed perpetrators** (*rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of Sir William Browder, CEO Hermitage Capital Management, Head of the Global Magnitsky Justice Campaign, and Professor Mark Pieth, Founder of the Basel Institute on Governance, founding member of the Financial Action Task Force (online);
- **Follow-up to “Pegasus and similar spyware and secret State surveillance”** (*rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Iain Cameron, Member of the Venice Commission (Sweden), rapporteur for [“Report on a rule of law and human rights compliant regulation of spyware”, adopted by the Venice Commission at its 141st plenary session \(Venice, 6-7 December 2024\)](#) (online); Mr Andreu Van den Eynde, lawyer, Spain; Mr Dušan Pokuševski, Program Director at the Belgrade Center for Human Rights, Serbia; and Ms Milena Berić, Executive Director of the Association KROKODIL, Serbia;
- **Updating the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly** (*rapporteur: Ms Klotilda Bushka, Albania, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to the rapporteur’s request to declassify it and to hold a hearing with experts at a future meeting, subject to the availability of funds;
- **Motions to be tabled on behalf of the Committee**: adopted three motions for a resolution respectively on *Ensuring lawful and ethical use of artificial intelligence in warfare*; *Use of artificial intelligence by parliaments: risks and opportunities*; and *Threats to the International Criminal Court*;

- **References transmitted to the Committee**
  - **Appointment of a rapporteur:**
    - “Improving the selection/election procedure of CPT members”: appointed Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
  - **Appointment of rapporteurs for opinion:**
    - “Protecting democracy from disruptions caused by artificial intelligence” (rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD): agreed to postpone the appointment of a rapporteur for opinion, and to request the Bureau to refer the motion “The use of artificial intelligence in public-decision making processes and its impact on human rights” ([Doc. 16061](#)) to the Committee for report;
    - “The situation in Belarus” (rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD): appointed Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD) and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Increasing members’ active participation in and contribution to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its committees** (rapporteur for the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC): held a discussion on this issue and instructed the secretariat to prepare a reply to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs based on members’ comments;
- **Authorisation to attend future events**

Conference organised by the European Whistleblowing Institute on 4 April 2025 in Brussels – Invitation to Ms Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen (Finland, SOC), rapporteur for “Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe”: authorised the rapporteur to attend the conference and agreed to declassify her introductory memorandum;
- **Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment:** agreed to nominate Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC) as its representative to participate in the Network;
- **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau established to participate in the parliamentary conference on “Envisioning effective public policy to prevent and address cases of missing migrants”** organised as a follow-up to Resolution 2569 (2024) “Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – A call to clarify their fate” (23-24 April 2025, in Strasbourg): asked members to inform the secretariat of their interest;
- **Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the meeting between parliamentarians from the Nordic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Kristiansand, Norway, 4-5 May 2025:** asked members to inform the secretariat of their interest;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2025: call for nominations:** noted the deadline of 30 April 2025 for applications and that details were available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);
- **Other business:**
  - **Sub-committees:** agreed to a request from the Ukrainian delegation to add Ms Lesia Vasylenko (ALDE) as a full member of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights and of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights;

- **Next meetings:** took note of the following meetings and confirmed the meeting on 13 May 2025 in Paris:

during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2025 (7-11 April 2025)  
13 May 2025, Paris Office  
during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2025 (23-27 June 2025)  
8 September 2023, 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.)

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