

SECRETARIAT

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14 April 2025

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

### Synopsis

### of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 7 to 10 April 2025

**The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights**, meeting in Strasbourg from 7 to 10 April 2025, with first Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), Second Vice-Chairperson, then Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, and then Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, in the Chair:

- **on Monday 7 April 2025 at 2pm**, as regards:
    - **Debate under urgent procedure on “Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: the need to ensure accountability and avoid impunity”**: appointed by acclamation Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE) as rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
    - **The situation of political prisoners in Russia and Belarus** (*General Rapporteur for political prisoners: Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC*): considered an information note and agreed to the General Rapporteur's request to declassify it, and to hold a hearing with experts during the fourth part-session, subject to the availability of funds;
    - **How to ensure that Russia implements the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – including paying the compensation awarded**: unanimously adopted a motion for a resolution;
    - **Safeguarding human rights in the AI-driven public sector**: unanimously adopted a motion for a resolution;
    - **Work programme**:
      - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed:
        - following a vote, Mr Titus Corlăţean (Romania, SOC) as rapporteur for the Statutory opinion on the draft Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism;
        - by acclamation, Mr Vladimir Vardanyan (Armenia, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for the Statutory opinion on the draft Third Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- and heard from them declarations of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Call for a rapporteur**
    - **Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards**: made a call for a rapporteur, to be appointed at the next meeting;

- **Appointment of Committee representatives:**
  - **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)**, in Kristiansand, Norway, 4-5 May 2025: appointed Mr Ivan Račan (Croatia, SOC) to sit on the ad hoc committee and Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA) as a substitute, at no cost to the Assembly;
  - **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Meeting of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDig)**, Strasbourg, 12 May 2025: appointed Ms Zeynep Yildiz (Türkiye, NR) and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) to sit on the ad hoc committee, at no cost to the Assembly;
- **Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe** (rapporteur: Ms Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen, Finland, SOC): heard an oral report from the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Brussels, on 3-4 April 2025, and on her participation in the European Whistleblowing Conference;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2025**: took note of the deadline of 30 April 2025 for the submission of nominations as well as the relevant information available on the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website;
- **Other business:**
  - **Sub-committees**: appointed Mr Daniel Milewski (Poland, ECPA) as full member of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights;
- **on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 8.30am**, as regards:
  - **Debate under urgent procedure on “Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: the need to ensure accountability and avoid impunity”** (rapporteur: Mr Iulian Bulai, Romania, ALDE): adopted a draft resolution as amended and unanimously adopted a draft recommendation as amended;
  - **Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine** (rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE): heard an oral report from the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Kyiv on 2-3 April 2025;
  - **Statutory opinion on the draft Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism** (rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Nicola Piacente, Chair of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT);
  - **Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport, established by the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**: appointed Mr Ivan Račan (Croatia, SOC) to participate in the Alliance;
- **on Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 2.00pm**, as regards:
  - **Debate under urgent procedure on “Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: the need to ensure accountability and avoid impunity”** (rapporteur: Mr Iulian Bulai, Romania, ALDE): took position on five amendments and one sub-amendment tabled to the draft resolution, and decided to support two oral amendments and one sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
  - **Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12<sup>th</sup> report** (rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): took position on one amendment tabled to the draft resolution;
  - **Fighting back against transnational repression** (rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to hold a hearing with experts during its next meeting, subject to the availability of funds;

- **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** took note of an oral report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 2.00pm and endorsed by acclamation 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 the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, the Republic of Moldova and Germany, and took note of the postponement of the consideration of the list of the delegation of Bulgaria;
- **on Thursday 10 April 2025 at 9.00am**, as regards:
- **Situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers in Europe** (*General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of
  - Ms Iva Marković, Co-founder of The Right to Water Initiative and Program Director at Polekol (Serbia)
  - Ms Kersty McCourt, Human Rights lawyer and Senior Advocacy Advisor at Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Belgium)
  - Ms Luca Dudits, Executive Board member and Communications Officer at Háttér Society (Hungary);
- **Work programme:**
  - **Reporting back:** heard from Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) about his participation in the 82<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Venice Commission's Council for Democratic Elections, Venice, 13 March 2025;
- **Other business:**
  - **Sub-committees:** appointed Ms Patricia Stephenson (Ireland, NR) as full member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and Mr Conor Murphy (Ireland, UEL) as full member of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights;
- **Next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:
  - 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.)

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**The Sub-Committee on Human Rights**, meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 2:00pm, with first Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and then Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)***: considered the lists of candidates to the CPT in respect of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, the Republic of Moldova and Germany, and postponed the consideration of the list submitted by the delegation of Bulgaria;
- ***Next meeting***: during the Assembly's 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of 2025 (23-27 June 2025).

Guillem Cano Palomares, George Stafford, Rafał Sokół

cc:

Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director 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