



SECRETARIAT

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11 September 2025

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 8 September 2025

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 8 September 2025, with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA), Chairperson, then with Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Journalists matter: the need to step up efforts to liberate Ukrainian journalists held in captivity by the Russian Federation** (*rapporteur for opinion: Ms Nadejda Iordanova, Bulgaria, NR; rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE*): approved an opinion;
- **Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine** (*rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Mr Jörg Polakiewicz, Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL), Council of Europe;
- **Updating the Venice Commission Rule of Law Checklist: a contribution by the Assembly** (*rapporteur: Ms Klotilda Bushka, Albania, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Iain Cameron, member of the Venice Commission in respect of Sweden (online), Ms Erinda Ballanca, People's Advocate of Albania, and Professor Laurent Pech, Dean of Law and Head of the Sutherland School of Law at the University College Dublin, followed by an exchange of views;
- **Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards** (*rapporteur: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Charles Baubion, Team Leader for Information Integrity and Foreign Interference, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Dr András Kristóf Kádár, attorney-at-law and Co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, and Ms Katarína Batková, Executive Director at VIA IURIS (Slovakia) (online), followed by an exchange of views;
- **The need to modernise International Humanitarian Law** (*rapporteur: Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Armenia, EPP/CD*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan** (*rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered an information note;

— **Work programme:**

- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed, by acclamation:

- Mr Tony Vaughan (United Kingdom, SOC) as rapporteur on “How to ensure that the Russian Federation implements the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, including paying the compensation awarded”;
- Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, ECPA), as rapporteur on the Statutory Opinion on the Draft Council of Europe Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine (subject to the request from the Committee of Ministers and reference to the committee for opinion);

and heard from them declarations of absence of conflict of interest;

- **Appointment of a rapporteur for opinion:** by acclamation, appointed Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as rapporteur for opinion on “Follow-up to the 4th round of GRECO recommendations relating to parliamentarians”, and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;

- **Call for candidatures for rapporteurs for report:** made a call for rapporteur, to be appointed at the next meeting on:

- *Corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law in Europe: the emergency of the situation in Spain;*
- *Accountability for the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine;*

- **Call for candidatures for a rapporteur for opinion:**

- *Situation in Belarus:* made a call for a rapporteur for opinion, to be appointed at a later meeting;

— **Ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 4-7 November 2025:** appointed Ms Meryem Göka (Türkiye, NR), Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, ECPA), Ms Pelin Yilik (Türkiye, NR), and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD), to sit on the *ad hoc* committee;

— **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the committee:** considered the reply from the Committee of Ministers to the following recommendation:

- Recommendation 2270(2024) “Right to freedom of information: ensuring access to historical documents”;

— **Reporting back on participation in meetings:** heard a statement from Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC) about her participation in the 69th Plenary meeting of MONEYVAL, Strasbourg, 10-13 June 2025;

— **Changes in the composition of the sub-committees:** approved the change as follows:

- *Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights:* Ms Victoria Tiblom (Sweden, ECPA) as a full member;

— **Next meetings:** took note of the next meetings to be held as follows:

- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2025 (29 September – 3 October 2025)
- 1-2 December 2025, London

Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

- 13-14 October 2025, Warsaw

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

- 2 December 2025 (morning), London

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Guillem Cano Palomares, Rafał Sokół, Maria Rodriguez Polo

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

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe