

SECRETARIAT

AS/Jur (2024) CB 04
23 May 2024

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 21 May 2024

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 21 May 2024 with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine**
(Rapporteur: Mr. Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered a draft report presented by the Chair on his behalf and unanimously adopted both a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Transnational repression as a growing threat to the rule of law and human rights**
(Rapporteur for follow-up: Sir Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, EC/DA): held a hearing with the participation of:

Ms Lily Sparks, Advocacy Research Associate, Human Rights Watch, Paris
Ms Kanae Kanki, Senior Counsel, Notices and Diffusions Task Force (NDTF), INTERPOL
Ms Slavica Cubric, Legal officer, Notices and Diffusions Task Force (NDTF), INTERPOL
Mr Pouria Zeraati, television journalist, Iran International, London;

- **References transmitted to the committee:**

- **For report:**

Ensuring better protection of whistle-blowers in Europe [Doc. 15919](#): appointed Ms Anna-Kristiina Mikkonen (Finland, SOC) and heard a statement of no conflict of interests from Ms Mikkonen;

- **Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine**
(Rapporteur: Mr. Knut Abraham, Germany, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum and held a [hearing, livestreamed on the Assembly's YouTube channel](#), with the participation of:

Mr Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine (online)
Professor Martin Schulze-Wessel, Professor of Eastern European History, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany;
Professor Yaroslav Hrytsak, Lviv University, Ukraine (online);

- ***The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum. Agreed to hold up to two hearings at future meetings (one on the journalistic aspect and the other on the possible impact of the case on whistleblowing), open to the public (should the experts agree), both subject to the availability of funds;
- ***Appointment of a General Rapporteur for political prisoners***: reappointed Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) for a second year;
- ***Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc***: heard oral reports on the following events:
 - Report by Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) on the “Roundtable on the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights”, organised by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe on 23 April 2024, Brussels;
 - Report by Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) on "Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence", organised by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Portuguese Parliament on 20 May 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal;
- ***Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2024***: noted the extension of the deadline for candidatures until 30 June 2024 and the details on criteria and procedures available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);
- ***Hearings during the next meeting***: agreed to hold the following hearings with invited experts, subject to the availability of funds and open to the public, provided the experts agree:
 - “*Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards*”: joint hearing with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
 - “*Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation*” ([Resolution 2519 \(2023\)](#)) (*Rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
 - *The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights* (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC)*);
- ***Other business***:
 - ***Invitations to hold meetings outside of Strasbourg and Paris***:
 - *Invitations to the Sub-committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (Geneva, 18-19 November 2024) and to the Plenary committee (Yerevan, 9-10 December 2024)*: thanked the Swiss and Armenian delegations for their invitations to hold the above-mentioned meetings in Geneva and Yerevan respectively and accepted both subject to agreement of the Bureau and the availability of funds;
- ***Next meetings***:

Plenary Committee:

 - during the Assembly’s 3rd part-session of 2024 (24-28 June 2024)
 - 10 September 2024, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
 - during the Assembly’s 4th part-session of 2024 (30th September – 4 October 2024)
 - 9-10 December 2024, Yerevan, Armenia (subject to approval by the Bureau and the availability of funds)

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

- 4-5 July 2024, Tirana - Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

Sub-committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights:

- 18-19 November 2024, Geneva (subject to approval by the Bureau and the availability of funds)

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, 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