



SECRETARIAT

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27 March 2023

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 22 March 2023

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 22 March 2023, with Mr Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **European Convention on Human Rights and national constitutions** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Katrougalos, Greece, UEL*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 11th report** (*Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efstathiou, Cyprus, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
- **Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Ms Tonje Meinich, Deputy Director General, Legislation Department, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway, Chair of the “46+1 Group” (online);
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:**

Reply to [Recommendation 2229 \(2022\)](#) on “How to put confiscated criminal assets to good use?”: noted the reply from the Committee of Ministers and the Rapporteur’s (Mr André Vallini, France, SOC) comments regarding the reply;
- **References transmitted to the committee:** made a call for candidates for the following reports:

Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress [Doc. 15676](#);

Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine (Bureau decision);
- **References for information:**
 - Recognising Russian warmonger political parties as groups and entities involved in terrorist acts that are subject to institutional sanctions ([Doc. 15638](#)) (to be taken into account in the report on “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”);
 - Growth in number of political prisoners in Azerbaijan ([Doc. 15646](#)) (to be taken into account in the preparation of the report on “Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan”);
 - Escalation in the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine (Bureau decision) (to be taken into account in the report on “Legal and Human Rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”);
 - The serious problem of conflicts of interest at the European Court of Human Rights ([Doc. 15661](#)) (to be taken into account within the framework of the consideration of the admissibility of the petition on the same issue);

- **Follow-up to the Committee's proposal to establish an ad hoc sub-committee to visit Ukraine in the near future** – held a discussion on a proposed second visit to Ukraine by an ad hoc sub-committee and proposed to submit the agreed time frame and itinerary to the Bureau for approval;
- **Statement on the Lachin corridor:** adopted [a statement](#) on the obstruction of the Lachin Corridor;
- **Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Ms Hannah Bardell, UK, NR*): considered an introductory memorandum (presented in the Rapporteur's absence). Agreed to the declassification of the introductory memorandum, an eventual fact-finding visit, and a request for a hearing (open to the public) to be held jointly with the Committee on Honouring Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (the visit and hearing subject to the availability of funds);
- **UK reform of its human rights legislation: consequences for domestic and European Human Rights protection** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kamal Jafarov, Azerbaijan, EC/DA*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Sanchita Hosali, Director of British Institute for Human Rights, United Kingdom and heard a presentation prepared by Baroness Hale, Former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, in her absence;
- **Allegations of systemic torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in places of detention in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur: Mr Constantinos Efsthathiou, Cyprus, SOC*): held a [hearing, livestreamed on the Assembly's YouTube channel](#), with the participation of:

Mr Alan Mitchell, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)
Mr Vladimir Osechkin, President of New dissidents Foundation, founder of Gulagu.net project
Mr Siarhei Savelyeu, Hotline Coordinator Gulagu.net;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:** Reply to [Recommendation 2230 \(2022\)](#) on "Fighting and preventing excessive and unjustified use of force by law-enforcement officers": took note of the reply and the Rapporteur's comments on the reply;
- **Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, The Netherlands, EPP/CD*), agreed to declassify an introductory memorandum by the Rapporteur and to hold a hearing at the April part-session, subject to the availability of funds;
- **Approval of the mandate of the General Rapporteur for political prisoners:** agreed the proposed terms of reference to be submitted to the Bureau for approval;
- **Hearings during the next meeting:** noted that the following hearings to be held during the April part-session 2023, subject to the availability of funds, shall be open to the public:
 - Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, The Netherlands, EPP/CD*);
 - Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan (*Rapporteur: Ms Hannah Bardell, UK, NR*) (to be held jointly with the Committee on Honouring Obligations and Commitments by member States of the Council of Europe and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media);
 - Accountability for the Russian aggression against Ukraine (to be held jointly with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy);
 - Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence, the sub-committee on Education, Youth and Sport of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and the sub-committee on Children of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, on artificial intelligence in school education, with the presentation of a humanoid robot by a school;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2023:** reiterated a call for nominations and noted the deadline of 30 April 2023 ([Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#));

– **Other business:**

- agreed to invite the elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to attend its meetings during the Assembly's 2023 Ordinary Session;
- **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** added Ms Sunna Aevardottir (Iceland, SOC) to the waiting list to be a titular member as soon as a seat becomes available;
- **Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights:** appointed Mr Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD) as a titular member;

– **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2023 (24-28 April 2023)
- 22-23, May 2023, Larnaca, Cyprus
- during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2023 (19-23 June 2023)
- 8 September 2023, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2023 (9-13 October 2023)
- 1 December 2023, Paris Office (t.b.c.)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Paris on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 12.35pm, with Mr André Gattolin (France,ALDE), oldest member present in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Chairperson:** elected Mr Kamal Jafarov (Azerbaijan, EC/DC) Chairperson by acclamation;

Then with Mr Kamal Jafarov (Azerbaijan, EC/DC) in the Chair:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Vice-Chairperson:** elected Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) by acclamation;
- **Next meeting:** during the April part-session 2023.

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, Eleanor Hourigan

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