

SECRETARIAT

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2 July 2024

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 24-27 June 2024

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 24 to 27 June 2024:

- on **Monday 24 June 2024 at 2pm**, with Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Safeguarding human rights for future generations*** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Gala Veldhoen, Netherlands, SOC; Rapporteur for the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Mr Pedro Cegonho, Portugal, SOC*): approved the Committee's opinion;
 - ***Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor - Ukraine once again facing the threat of genocide*** (*Rapporteur: Mr. Knut Abraham, Germany, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report, agreed to the change of title of the report as aforementioned and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - ***Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC*): agreed to postpone the adoption of this report;
 - ***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*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur for follow-up presented by the Vice-Chairperson in Sir Christopher Chope's absence. Adopted a draft motion for a resolution and agreed to table it on behalf of the Committee;
 - ***References transmitted to the committee:***
 - **Appointment of a Rapporteur for opinion:**

Media concentration and threats to media pluralism and independence ([Doc. 15916](#))
(Rapporteur for the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Valentina Grippo (Italy, ALDE)): appointed Ms Gala Veldhoen (Netherlands, SOC) and heard from her a statement of no conflict of interest;

- **Call for a Rapporteur for opinion:**

The Situation in Belarus
(Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC)): made a call for a Rapporteur for opinion to be appointed at the next meeting;
- **Conference on “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport”, 4-5 November 2024, Athens:** nominated the following members to be proposed to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau attending the aforementioned event: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD); Ms Domenica Spinelli (Italy, EC/DA);
- **World Forum for Democracy:** decided to propose the following members to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau attending the World Forum on Democracy on 6-8 November 2024 in Strasbourg: Mr Saša Magazinović, (Bosnia et Herzegovina, SOC) and Mr Yunus Emre (Türkiye, SOC);
- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars etc :** heard oral reports on the following meetings and events by the appointed representatives listed below:

Mr Constantinos Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV), Strasbourg, 4-7 June 2024
 Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, (Iceland, SOC), hearing of the US Congress on “Silence dissent: the plight of political prisoners and search for accountability”, appointed by the President of the Assembly in her capacity as General Rapporteur on Political Prisoners, 13 June 2024, Washington DC
 Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission) 20 June 2024, Venice
 Mr Sergiy Vlasenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), 21-22 June 2024, Venice;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2024:** noted 30 June 2024 as the closing date for nominations;
- **Hearings during the next meeting:** agreed to hold a hearing at the next meeting on “Private military companies, mercenaries, foreign fighters and their impact on human rights” (Rapporteur: Mr. Andrea Orlando, Italie, SOC) with invited experts, subject to the availability of funds and open to the public, provided that all experts agree;
- **Other business:**
 - **Fact-finding visit:** agreed to a request from Mr Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC) to conduct a fact-finding visit to Poland on 18-19 September 2024 in the framework of his report on “The Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights”, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **Sub-committees:** agreed to a request from the Andorran delegation to add Mr Cerni Escalé (SOC) as a titular member of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights; agreed to a request from the United Kingdom’s delegation to replace Lord Keen (EC/DA) with Sir Edward Leigh (EC/DA) as titular member on the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and to replace Sir Edward with Lord Leslie Griffiths (SOC) as alternate member (Lord Keen remaining as *ex officio* member on this Sub-committee);
 - **Online questionnaire:** noted the request to reply to the questionnaire circulated to members in preparation of the report on “*Increasing members’ active participation in and contribution to*

the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its committees” sent by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;

- **European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti:** took note of the Bureau’s ad hoc committee to attend the conference on the “80th anniversary European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti” in Krakow on 2 August 2024 and made a call for interested members to notify the secretariat by 25 June 2024;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed the meeting of the plenary committee on 10 September 2024 in Paris. Took note of the forthcoming meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, to be held in Tirana on 4-5 July 2024 (open to members of the plenary) and noted that registration was still open for interested members; confirmed the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, to be held in Geneva on 18-19 November 2024 (open to members of the plenary committee);
- **on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 2pm**, with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair as regards:
- **The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Aevardóttir, Iceland, SOC*): held a [hearing](#) with the participation of:

Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin KC (Hons), Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, former UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights (online)
Ms Rebecca Vincent, Director of Campaigns, Reporters without Borders (online)
Mr Simon Crowther, Legal Adviser, Amnesty International, London;
- **on Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 2pm**, with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Chairperson, 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*): took position on three of the four amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - then with Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
- **Reparation and reconciliation processes to overcome past conflicts and build a common peaceful future – the question of just and equal redress** (*Rapporteur: Lord Richard Keen, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): took position on 5 amendments tabled to the draft resolution and 5 amendments tabled to the draft recommendation;
- **on Thursday 27 June 2024 at 8.30am**, with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Chairperson, in the Chair as regards:
- **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** heard an oral report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held on Wednesday 26 June 2024 and endorsed the proposal of the Sub-Committee concerning the list of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) submitted by the delegation of the Slovak Republic;
- **Improving the selection/election procedure of CPT members:** postponed consideration of a draft motion for a resolution owing to the lack of a quorum;
- **Appointment of a General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers:** reappointed Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) to serve the second year of a two-year mandate;
 - then with Lord Keen and Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee, jointly chairing:

- **Regulating foreign influence: best practices and European standards:** held a joint [hearing](#) with the Committee on Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) with the participation of:

Ms Veronika Bílková, Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

Ms Tanya Lokshina, Associate Director, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch;

- **on Thursday 27 June 2024 at 2pm**, with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA), Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Ms Elisabetta Gardini (Italy, EC/DA), 3rd Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, jointly chairing as regards:

- **Examining the legitimacy and legality of the ad hominem term-limit waiver for the incumbent President of the Russian Federation” ([Resolution 2519 \(2023\)](#) ([live streamed on the Assembly’s YouTube channel](#)))** (*Rapporteur for follow-up: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held a joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy with the participation of:

Mr Mikhail Kasyanov, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

Dr. Gleb Bogush, Expert in public international law / Research Fellow, Cologne University, Germany

Ms Veronika Bílková, Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Co-Rapporteur of the interim opinion on constitutional amendments and the procedure for their adoption in the Russian Federation, adopted by the Venice Commission;

- **Next meetings:**

Plenary Committee:

- 10 September 2024, Paris Office
- during the Assembly’s 4th part-session of 2024 (30th September – 4 October 2024)
- 9-10 December 2024, Yerevan, Armenia

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

- 4-5 July 2024, Tirana

Sub-committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights:

- 18-19 November 2024, Geneva.

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting on Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 3.15pm, with Ms Octavie Modert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair;

- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** considered the list of candidates to the CPT in respect of the Slovak Republic and agreed on an order of preference amongst the candidates on this list;
- **Next meeting:** during the October part-session 2024.

Günter Schirmer, 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

