

SECRETARIAT

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6 March 2023

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 4 March 2024

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 4 March 2024 with Lord Richard Keen (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Sanctions of persons on the "Kara-Murza list"** (*Rapporteur: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE)*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Private military companies, mercenaries, foreign fighters and their impact on human rights** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Orlando (Italy, SOC)*): postponed until the April part-session;
- **Support for the reconstruction of Ukraine** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD)* *Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy Mr Lulzim Basha (Albania, EPP/CD)*): considered a report tabled by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and unanimously approved the Committee's opinion thereon;
- **Alexei Navalny's death and the need to counter Vladimir Putin's totalitarian regime and its war on democracy**: agreed to table a motion for resolution on the subject and to request the Bureau that it be fast-tracked and that the Bureau seize the committee for a debate under urgent procedure at the April part-session 2024. In anticipation of this reference, the committee appointed *in absentia* Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD, as Rapporteur (with the proviso that the Bureau seizes the committee for this reference).
- **Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Mr. Davor Ivo Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD)*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Dr Anton Moiseienko, Lecturer, College of Law, Australian National University, Canberra (online)
Ms Yuliya Ziskina, Senior Legal Fellow, Razom for Ukraine, Washington DC
Mr Rupert Skilbeck, Director, Redress, London;
- **Replies from the Committee of Ministers to recommendations emanating from the Committee:**
 - Reply to Recommendation 2261 on "Call for the immediate release of Osman Kavala": the Committee unanimously expressed dissatisfaction with the reply and agreed to add the Kavala case to the agenda of the Committee meeting during the April part-session to discuss in more detail the follow-up given to this case. It also decided to add the matter to the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European

- Court of Human Rights in Tirana on 4-5 July 2024 (this meeting subject to Bureau authorisation and the availability of funds);
- **Consultation - draft convention on the protection of the profession of lawyer:** appointed Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC/DA) to propose submissions in the final stages of drafting of the convention;
 - **References transmitted to the committee:** took note of the following:

The need to investigate politically motivated persecution in Azerbaijan ([Doc. 15852](#)) (to be taken into account in the framework of the report on “*Threats to life and safety of journalists and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan*”)

Tools to prevent and address transnational repression ([Doc. 15847](#)) (for information);
 - **Statements of no conflict of interest:**

The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights ([Doc. 15777](#)): heard a statement of no conflict of interest by Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC), appointed *in absentia* on 23 January 2024;

Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic ([Doc 15810](#)): (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Marietta Karamanli, (France, SOC)*): heard a statement of no conflict of interest by Mr Serhii Kalchenko (Ukraine, EC/DA) appointed *in absentia* on 25 January 2024;
 - **Update on the proposed meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights:** heard an update by Sub-Committee’s Chairperson, Mr Givi Mikanadze (Georgia, SOC), confirming receipt of a formal invitation from the Albanian delegation to host a meeting in their parliament on 4-5 July 2024 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau and the availability of funds) and noted that this meeting would be open to all members of the plenary. ;
 - **Hearings during forthcoming meetings:**

Agreed to hold hearings (open to the public, subject to the agreement of invited experts) during the May meeting on the following:

Legal aspects of the accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights (Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC)

Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Rapporteur: Mr. Knut Abraham, Germany, EPP/CD);
 - **Authorisation to attend future events**
 - CAHDI Seminar on the Special Tribunal on 10 April 2024, Strasbourg – Invitation received by Mr Stier (Croatia, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for “Legal and human rights aspects of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine”: agreed to the participation of Mr Stier, subject to the availability of funds;
 - CCBE Roundtable Execution of the ECtHR Judgements, 23 April 2024, Brussels – Invitations received by Mr Efstathiou (Cyprus, SOC), Rapporteur for Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 12th report, and by Mr Mikanadze (SOC, Georgia), Chair of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: agreed to the participation of Mr Efstathiou and Mr Mikanadze, subject to the availability of funds;

Fact-finding

- **The detention of Julian Assange and its chilling effects on human rights** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC)*): agreed to a future fact-finding visit to London, United Kingdom, date to be confirmed, subject to the availability of funds;

- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2024**: noted the deadline of 30th April 2024 for applications and the information available on the [Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website](#);

Other business

- **Women Political Leaders, Summit 2024 “Democracy for the 21st Century” 19-21 March 2024**: agreed to propose Ms Domenica Spinelli, Italy EC/DA, as candidate for the Bureau's ad hoc committee on this matter;

- **Draft Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law**: noted that the probable request for an Opinion on this Draft Framework Convention would be forthcoming from the Committee of Ministers and decided to request the Bureau that the debate on this Opinion be accelerated as a debate under urgent procedure at the April part-session 2024; In anticipation of being seized for this opinion, appointed Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC), former Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, as Rapporteur, this with the proviso that the request from the Committee of Ministers is indeed received and that the Bureau seizes the committee for opinion;

- **Civil society and the Parliamentary Assembly: towards greater transparency and engagement** (*Rapporteur: Ms Azadeh Rojhan (Sweden, SOC)*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Jeremy McBride, President of the Expert Council on NGO law at the Council of Europe's Conference on International Non-Governmental Organisations, Barrister, Monckton Chambers, London

Mr Didier Migaud, President of the *Haute Autorité pour la transparence de la vie publique*, Paris, France

Mr Gerhard Ermischer, President of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe (CINGO), Strasbourg, France

Agreed to change the title as reflected above;

- **The arbitrary detention of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the systematic persecution of anti-war protesters in the Russian Federation and Belarus** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC)*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Ms Tatsiana Khomich, Viktor Babaryka Team Coordinator, Coordination Council Representative for political prisoners, Belarus

Ms Katsiaryna Bublís, Lawyer at the Viasna Human Rights Centre, Vilnius

Agreed to the Rapporteur's proposal to request the Bureau that the debate of this report be accelerated as a debate under urgent procedure at the April part-session 2024 and also agreed to change the title as reflected above;

Next meetings

Plenary Committee:

- during the Assembly's 2nd part-session of 2024 (15-19 April 2024)
- 21 May 2024, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2024 (24-28 June 2024)
- 11 September 2024, Paris Office (t.b.c.)
- during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2024 (30th September – 4 October 2024)

- 10 December 2024, Paris Office (t.b.c.)

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 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau and the availability of funds).

Günter Schirmer, Guillem Cano-Palomares, George Stafford, 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