



SECRETARIAT

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26 May 2015

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Yerevan, Armenia on 19-20 May 2015

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Yerevan from 19 to 20 May 2015 with Mr James Clappison (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

- on Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 10 am,
 - **Opening session** (*open to the media*): heard a welcoming address by Mr Galust Sahakyan, President of the Armenian Parliament, and an opening statement by Ms Hermine Naghdalyan, Chairperson of the Armenian PACE delegation;
 - **The Armenian Legal System: recent developments**: held an exchange of views with the participation of:

Ms Alvina Gyulumyan, Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, former Judge on the European Court of Human Rights
Mr Ara Zohrabyan, President of the Chamber of Advocates, Republic of Armenia
Mr Gevorg Danielyan, former Minister of Justice, member of the Committee on Constitutional Reforms
Ms Tatevik Khachatryan, Deputy Ombudsperson, Republic of Armenia;
 - **Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bernd Fabritius, Germany, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Yaron Gottlieb, Assistant Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Interpol, Lyon, France
Mr Alex Tinsley, Law Reform Officer, Fair Trials International, Brussels, Belgium
Ms Anna Koj, Head of the EU Office, Open Dialog Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
 - **Judicial Corruption: urgent need to implement the Assembly's proposals** (*Rapporteur: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation;
 - **Follow-up to Bureau decisions**:
 - i) Motion for a resolution: 'When human rights provide protection to individuals who represent a threat to national security' (motion sent to the Committee by the Bureau for consultation on a possible follow-up to be given): decided to return to this item during the June 2015 part-session to discuss it in the presence of the mover, Mr Morten Wold (Norway, EC);
 - ii) Petition for the rights of new-borns surviving their abortion (petition referred to the Committee to determine whether there was a legitimate interest of the Assembly in the matter and whether there were other regulatory grounds which might affect the admissibility of the petition): decided to return to

the matter at the June 2015 part-session in the light of, *inter alia*, possible further information on admissibility issues provided by members;

- **Strengthening the rule of law in South-East European countries through targeted reform of the legal system** (*Rapporteur: Mr Bernd Fabritius, Germany, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Ms Zdravka Kalaydjieva, former Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Sofia, Bulgaria
Ms Cristina Guseth, Director, Freedom House, Bucharest, Romania

- **on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 10 am,**

- **Human Rights in the North Caucasus: what follow-up to Resolution 1738 (2010)?** (*Rapporteur: Mr Michael McNamara, Ireland, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:

Mr Kirill Koroteev, Legal Director, Human Rights, Centre “Memorial”, Moscow, Russian Federation
Ms Vanessa Kogan, Stichting Russian Justice Initiative, Moscow, Russian Federation

- **Urgent need to prevent human rights violations during peaceful protests** (*Rapporteur: Mr Antii Kaikkonen, Finland, ALDE*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, considered an introductory memorandum presented by the Chair. Agreed to the Rapporteur’s request to invite a third expert to the hearing on the subject already foreseen for the June 2015 part-session, if need be and subject to the availability of funds,. Asked the Secretariat to circulate the Rapporteur’s speech read out on his behalf by the Chair, in order to allow Committee members to submit written observations;

- **The fate of critically ill detainees in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, asked the Secretariat to circulate the Rapporteur’s speech in order to allow Committee members to submit, to him, written observations;

- **Other business:**

- Invitation to Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD) to attend the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee in Brussels on 28 May 2015: agreed to the intervention of Mr Pieter Omtzigt before the European Parliament’s LIBE Committee to present PACE Resolution 2045 (2015) on “Mass Surveillance” and his report on “Improving the protection of whistle-blowers”, subject to the availability of funds;

- **Next meetings:** took note of forthcoming meetings and agreed that the Committee will meet on 8, rather than on 7, December 2015, as had initially been scheduled;

Plenary Committee:

- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 3rd part-session of 2015 (22-26 June 2015)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly’s 4th part-session of 2015 (28 September – 2 October 2015)
- Paris, 2 November 2015 (Council of Europe Office)
- Paris, 8 December 2015 (Council of Europe Office).

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Agnieszka Szklanna, Anne-Katrin Speck

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, 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