



SECRETARIAT

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 8-11 April 2019

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Strasbourg from 8 – 11 April 2019:

- **on Monday 8 April 2019 at 2pm**, with Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) (second Vice-Chairperson) and then Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) (Chairperson), in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Laundromats: responding to new challenges in the international fight against organised crime, corruption and money-laundering*** (Rapporteur: Mr Mart van de Ven, the Netherlands, ALDE): took position on 8 amendments presented in the addendum to the report and considered and approved the addendum;
 - ***Establishment of a European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights*** (Rapporteur for opinion: Lord Richard Balfe, United Kingdom, EC), (Rapporteur for the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs: Ms Petra De Sutter, Belgium, SOC): considered and approved the Committee's opinion;

– ***Appointment of rapporteurs:***

For report:

Should politicians be prosecuted for statements made in the exercise of their mandate?: appointed Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) and heard from him a declaration of no conflict of interest;

- ***Adoption of a statement by the Committee:*** adopted a [statement](#) on the criminal investigation launched against Ms Laura Kovesi, Prosecutor and former head of the Romanian Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA), by the “Section for the Investigation of Criminal Offences in the Judiciary” (SIJ);
- **on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 8.30am**, first with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) (oldest member present) in the Chair, as regards:
 - ***Other business:*** decided to request the Bureau to authorise the extension of two references, “*The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 10th report*” (Rapporteur: Mr Evangelos Venizelos, Greece, SOC) until 30 April 2020 and “*The principles and guarantees of advocates*” (Rapporteur: Mr Georgii Logvynsky, Ukraine, EPP/CD) until 30 April 2020;

- ***The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 10th report*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Evangelos Venizelos, Greece, SOC*): held a public exchange of views with Mr Zsolt Németh, Chairperson of the Hungarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; agreed to declassify the information notes regarding Hungary and Italy;
 - Then with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) (Chairperson), in the Chair, as regards:
- ***Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and the rule of law in Malta and beyond: ensuring that the whole truth emerges*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Pieter Omtzigt, the Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held a public [hearing](#) with the participation of:
 - Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Malta
 - Dr Peter Grech, Attorney General, Malta
 - Mr Martin Kuijer, Substitute member for the Netherlands, European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Council of Europe;
 - **on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 2pm**, as regards:
- ***The implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – 10th report*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Evangelos Venizelos, Greece, SOC*): held a public exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Mr Alvise Maniero, Chairperson of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
 - Ms Maria Giuliana Civinini, Co-agent for the Italian government at the European Court for Human Rights;
 - Then, meeting jointly with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), co-chaired by Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) (Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) and Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) (Rapporteur on Azerbaijan for the Monitoring Committee), as regards:
- ***Political prisoners in Azerbaijan*** (*Rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC*): held a public hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Otari Gvaladze, Head of Unit, Department for work with law enforcement agencies and military affairs, Administration of the President of Azerbaijan
 - Ms Leyla Yunusova, Director, Institute for Peace and Democracy, Leiden, the Netherlands
 - Mr Ilgar Mammadov, former political prisoner (live video conference)
 - Mr Rasul Jafarov, Chairman of the Human Rights Club and former political prisoner;
 - **on Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 2pm**, meeting jointly with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons, co-chaired by firstly Lord Donald Anderson (United Kingdom, SOC) (oldest member present of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), then Ms Olena Sotnyk (1st Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), and Ms Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE) (Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons), as regards:
- ***Investment migration: trends, advantages, standards*** (*Rapporteur for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons: Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD*) (*Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: to be appointed*): held a public hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Gillian More, Policy Officer, DG Justice, D.3 – Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement, European Commission, Brussels (live video conference)
 - Ms Ekaterine Rostomashvili, Advocacy and Campaigns Coordinator, Transparency International, Berlin;

- **on Thursday 11 April 2019 at 8.30am**, with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) in the Chair, then Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) (second Vice-Chairperson) as regards:
 - **Sub-Committee on Human Rights:** took note of the election of Ms Alexandra Louis (France, NR) as Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, heard from her a report regarding the meeting held in Strasbourg on Wednesday 10 April 2019; endorsed the proposals of the Sub-Committee concerning order of preference amongst candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) on the lists presented by the delegations of Armenia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, and North Macedonia, for transmission to the Bureau; endorsed the Sub-committee's recommendation to reject the lists of candidates presented by the delegations of Azerbaijan and Poland; took note that consideration of the lists for Italy and Ireland had been postponed until the June 2019 part-session;
 - **Laundromats: responding to new challenges in the international fight against organized crime, corruption and money-laundering** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mart van de Ven, the Netherlands, ALDE*): took position on 17 amendments to the draft resolution;
 - **Justice by algorithm – the role of artificial intelligence in policing and criminal justice systems** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to hold a hearing with up to three experts, subject to the availability of funds;
 - **Human rights and climate change** – postponed until the next meeting;
 - **Improving the protection of whistleblowers all over Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Sylvain Waserman France, ALDE*): authorised Mr Waserman to participate on 17 April 2019, as the Assembly's rapporteur, in a joint press conference with the Rapporteur of the European Parliament on the new European Union 'whistleblowers directive' to mark the adoption of said directive;
 - **Hearings during the next meeting:** decided to open the following hearings foreseen for the next meeting on 29 May 2019 to the public:
 - Hearing on "Improving the protection of whistleblowers all over Europe" (*Rapporteur: Mr Sylvain Waserman France, ALDE*)
 - Exchange of views on "Ombudsman Institutions in Europe – the need for a set of common standards" (*Rapporteur: Lord Richard Balfe, United Kingdom, EC*);
 - **Other business:**
 - **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize** – noted the upcoming deadline of 30 April 2019 for submissions of candidates and the relevant information available on the [website](#);
 - **Next meetings**
 - **Paris, 28 May (afternoon only) and 29 May 2019 (Council of Europe Office):** noted the change of date of the May meeting made to avoid overlap with the European Parliament election campaign; the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights is now scheduled to meet in the afternoon of Tuesday 28th May and in the morning of Wednesday 29 May. The Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights shall meet in the afternoon of Wednesday 29 May, this being open to all members and to the public.

Plenary Committee:

- Paris, 28 May (afternoon only) and 29 May 2019 (morning) (Council of Europe Office)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 3rd part-session of 2019 (24-28 June 2019)
- Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 4th part-session of 2019 (30 September - 4 October 2019)
- Berlin, 14-15 November 2019
- Paris, 10 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office) (to be confirmed)

Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

- Paris, 29 May 2019 (in the afternoon) (Council of Europe Office)

The Sub-Committee on Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 2pm, with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) (Chairperson of the plenary Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Sub-Committee's Bureau:** elected Ms Alexandra Louis (France, NR) Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
 - Then with Ms Alexandra Louis (France, NR) in the Chair:
- **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):** examined the lists of candidates to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) presented by the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, North Macedonia and Poland; proposed orders of preference amongst candidates on the lists presented by Armenia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece and North Macedonia; decided to recommend the rejection of the lists of candidates presented by the delegations of Azerbaijan and Poland; and postponed examination of the lists presented by the delegations of Italy and Ireland until the June 2019 part-session;
- **Next meeting:** during the June 2019 part-session.

Günter Schirmer, David Milner, Agnieszka Szklanna, Kelly Sipp

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