

Nyt fra E u r o p a r å d e t

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A new Council of Europe Convention to protect children against sexual exploitation and abuse

Strasbourg, 13.07.2007 – The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has adopted the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, which represents a major advance in this field.

“There should be no hesitation or complacency in the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse of children,” said Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis when he welcomed the adoption of the Convention.

“This Convention is a true added value for member states to reinforce their action to prevent and combat this intolerable violation of children’s most fundamental rights”, continued the Deputy Secretary General of the Organisation, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.

This new Convention is the first instrument to establish the various forms of sexual abuse of children as criminal offences, including such abuse committed in the home or family, with the use of force, coercion or threats.

In addition to the offences traditionally committed in this field – sexual abuse, child prostitution, child pornography, children’s forced participation in pornographic performances - the text also addresses the issue of “grooming” of children for sexual purposes and “sex tourism”.

The Convention will be opened for signature at the Conference of European Ministers of Justice in Lanzarote on 25 and 26 October this year.

Its adoption is to be seen also in the context of the three-year Programme run for a year by the Council of Europe “[Building a Europe for and with children](#)”.

[The full text of the Convention and the explanatory report](#)

Appointment to the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights

[06/07/2007] Following their 5 July meeting, the Ministers' Deputies have appointed Guy De Vel, as the Council of Europe's independent person to take part in the meetings of the bodies of the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights. Mr De Vel was the Council of Europe's Director General of Legal Affairs and of Local and Regional Democracy, until December 2006.

Mr Rudolf Bindig was appointed as the alternate member to Mr De Vel. Mr Bindig served over 18 years (1988-2006) as a member of the German Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

PACE President again calls for Russia's assent to vital reform of the European Court of Human Rights

Strasbourg, 02.07.2007 – René van der Linden, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), made the following statement today, concerning ratification of Protocol No. 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights:

"I am disappointed that the Russian State Duma has still not assented to ratification of this vital protocol, blocking its entry into force. The delay beyond the end of June has triggered a partial renewal of the European Court, a complicated and time-consuming process which must now begin.

By helping the Court to deal more quickly with its backlog of cases, the protocol's main aim is to ensure individuals receive speedier and more effective justice. We are all the poorer for this failure, and it is Europeans – including from Russia – who will suffer most.

All I can do is to urge, once again, Russia to ratify this Protocol as soon as possible."

Murder of Anna Politkovskaya: PACE President welcomes today's arrests

Strasbourg, 27.08.2007 – The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), René van der Linden, today warmly welcomed the efforts by the Russian authorities which have led to the arrest of a group of people allegedly involved in the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

"Journalists are indispensable advocates of the freedom of expression and thus an important pillar of democracy. The assassination of one of the most courageous journalists in Russia, who did outstanding work in exposing human rights abuses in Chechnya, was a direct attack on democracy," he said.

"I am confident that a thorough investigation in the framework of the forthcoming court proceedings will shed full light on this murder. I would like to thank the Russian authorities for the work that has been done so far, and encourage them to spare no effort to reveal the truth," he added.

Since the assassination of Anna Politkovskaya, both PACE and its President René van der Linden have [urged the Russian authorities](#) to bring the perpetrators to justice on many occasions.

PACE President confident that Abdullah Gul's presidency will lead to further integration of Turkey in Europe

Strasbourg, 28.08.2007 - The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), René van der Linden, today congratulated Abdullah Gul by letter on his election as President of Turkey.

"I warmly welcome the election of our former colleague, Abdullah Gul. He is a modern reformer and I am confident that he will be a President for all Turks. He was a member of the Turkish delegation to our Parliamentary Assembly for eight years(*) and has always shown his strong attachment to the Council of Europe and the values this organisation stands for. I hope that his presidency will lead to the further integration of Turkey in Europe and I count on him not only to abide by Council of Europe standards, but also to spread the European spirit in Turkey. Abdullah Gul is very well acquainted with European and international affairs and I am confident he will succeed in bringing his country closer to the EU as well as further developing the role of Turkey as an important player in the international arena," Mr van der Linden said.

(*) Abdullah Gul was a PACE member from February 1992 to January 1996, from April 1996 to September 1996 and from January 1998 to September 2001.

Commissioner for Human Rights presents Memorandum on Denmark

Strasbourg, 11.07.2007 - Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, today presented a Memorandum on Denmark to the Committee of Ministers.

Prepared after a visit by members of the Commissioner's office in December 2006, the memorandum contains an assessment of progress in implementing the recommendations made in 2004 by the previous Commissioner, Alvaro Gil-Robles. It also contains new recommendations to the Danish authorities.

Commissioner Hammarberg urges authorities to be less restrictive concerning family reunifications for immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and makes a number of concrete proposals in this regard.

He calls on authorities to find alternative solutions to the indefinite stay of adults and children in reception centres for asylum seekers, when it is impossible to deport foreigners whose applications have been definitively rejected.

The Commissioner also recommends strengthening the independence and powers of the Police Complaints Boards, and granting at least temporary residence permits to victims of trafficking who cooperate with authorities.

The Memorandum contains a number of recommendations concerning the fight against discrimination, racism, exclusion and the issue of violence against women.

Finally, the Commissioner calls on Denmark to ratify the revised European Social Charter, to sign and ratify the 1991 Protocol amending the European Social Charter, and to ratify the 1995 Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints.

He also calls for the signature and ratification of Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, and the ratification of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

On the same day, Commissioner Hammarberg also presented a Memorandum on Estonia and a report assessing the effective observance of human rights in Germany.

The full text of the Memorandum can be accessed via the Commissioner's website www.commissioner.coe.int under "Latest reports".

Debat-indlæg

Jyllands-Posten den 17. juli 2007: Europarådets menneskerettighedskommissær Thomas Hammarberg: "Friheds ansvar - ytringsfriheden er afgørende for, at selve demokratiet fungerer ordentligt".

Jyllands-Posten den 11. august 2007: Formanden for den danske Europaråds-delegation Hanne Severinsen: "Vil vi Europarådet? - Europarådets indflydelse er faldende i disse år".

Artiklerne kan læses på www.jp.dk (søgeord "Europarådet"). Hanne Severinsens artikel står under den 10. august.

Domme i nordiske sager ved Den Europæiske Menneskerettighedsdomstol

- 5.7.2007 Sara Lind Eggertsdóttir v. Island (no. 31930/04): Violation of Article 6 § 1, (right to a fair hearing);
- 17.7.2007 F. and M. v. Finland (no. 22508/02): Violations of Article 6 § 1 (length of proceedings and fairness);
- 17.7.2007 Andria Oy and Kari Karanko v. Finland (no. 61557/00): No violation of Article 6 §1 (length of proceedings);
- 24.7.2007 Ekholm v. Finland (no. 68050/01): Two violations of Article 6 § 1 (length of proceedings and fairness);
- 31.7.2007 Ekeberg and Others v. Norway (no. 11106/04, 11108/04, 11116/04, 11311/04, 3276/04): Violation of Article 6 § 1 (fairness) angående Roger Elvsveen. No violation of Article 6 § 1 angående de øvrige.

Den 13. juli 2007 blev sagen Thiermann and Others v. Norway (den såkaldte lebensborn-sag eller krigsbarn-sag) erklæret inadmissible.

Møder i september

(hvor intet andet er nævnt, holdes mødet i Strasbourg)

- 3.-7. Menneskerettighedskommissæren: Assessment visit to Azerbaijan
5. Ministerkomitéen
12. Ministerkomitéen
- 20.-22. European Heritage Days (Beograd), herunder
21. Round table on Common heritage in Europe on the move – adding value to the development of potential of European regions
- 24.-25. Menneskerettighedskommissæren: Workshop on housing rights (Budapest)
26. Ministerkomitéen
30. Observation af parlamentsvalget i Ukraine (**Pre-election mission of the Parliamentary Assembly Ad hoc Committee for the observation of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine 4-6 September, Kiev (Ukraine)**): Pre-electoral delegation of the Assembly, consisting of a representative of each of the five political groups of led by Hanne Severinsen (Denmark, ALDE). Meetings with various leading figures, including the President, Prime Minister and President of the Constitutional Court, Ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs, officials of the political groups represented in parliament, election officials and representatives of civil society and the media.)

European Heritage Days i de nordiske lande: (Nærmere oplysninger se www.ehd.coe.int)

7. Finland: Public interiors (www.rakennusperinto.fi/muuta_sisaltoa/fi/FI/ehd)
7. Island: Houses of the past and their residents (www.fornleifavernd.is)
- 8.-9. Danmark: Industriens bygninger (www.kulturarv.dk/bygningskulturensdag)
9. Norge: Til glæde og besvær - forsamlingshus, ungdomshus og bedehus (www.kulturminnedagen.no)
9. Sverige: K-märkt (www.raa.se/khusdag)

1.-5. oktober: Session i Den Parlamentariske Forsamling – udkastet til dagsordenen opdateres på bureau-mødet den 10. september i Rom. Dagsordenen kan ses på assembly.coe.int

”Nyt fra Europarådet” sendes til nyhedsmedierne i de nordiske lande 11 gange om året.

Nærmere oplysninger om tidligere og kommende møder kan fås ved henvendelse til:

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