



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

### **Weekly media report of developments in the Council of Europe**

19 – 23 January 2015

## **RUSSIA**

### **Naryshkin: Russia to suspend involvement in PACE in case of another attempt to limit its powers**

19/01/2015 – The Telegraph

The Russian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is likely to suspend its involvement in PACE activity in the near future if its powers are limited again at the January session, State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin said.

<http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?pg=2&id=565435>

### **Russia's withdrawal from CoE would not be conducive to Russia-EU dialogue**

22/01/2015 – Interfax

Moscow's statements on its possible withdrawal from the Council of Europe are hardly conducive to maintaining dialogue between Russia and the European Union, says Head of the EU Delegation to Russia Vygaudas Usackas.

<http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?pg=5&id=566296>

### **Russia will continue paying its Council of Europe dues even if its delegation stops work**

22/01/2015 – New Europe

“We are a Council of Europe member and we are going to meet our commitments, including financial ones, in this capacity,” Naryshkin said when asked whether Russia would continue paying its membership dues if the Russian delegation suspended its work at PACE.

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/russia-will-continue-paying-its-council-europe-dues-even-if-its-delegation-stops-work>

### **Crimea issue used as excuse to strip Russia of PACE vote — Russian parliament speaker**

22/01/2015 – ITAR TASS

Russia’s delegation was stripped of the right to vote in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) last April not because of Crimea - they only needed to “invent an excuse,” speaker of the State Duma lower house of parliament Sergey Naryshkin said on Thursday.

<http://itar-tass.com/en/world/772661>

## UKRAINE

### **PACE President sets deadline for Savchenko release**

21/01/2015 – Ukrainian Radio

Anne Brasseur, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, has asked Russia to release detained Ukrainian pilot and MP Nadiya Savchenko to let her participate in the opening of the PACE session on January 26.

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/587757/>

### **Venice Commission to call on Ukraine in February over 'lustration' law**

19/01/2015 – Russian Legal Information Agency

The representatives of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission will visit Ukraine in February, to hold additional consultations over the recently adopted 'lustration' law, for prosecuting corrupt officials from the Yanukovich administration, RIA Novosti reports on Monday.

[http://rapsinews.com/legislation\\_news/20150119/272974881.html](http://rapsinews.com/legislation_news/20150119/272974881.html)

## TERRORISM

### **Le Conseil de l'Europe envisage de moderniser son arsenal**

20/01/2015 – Le Matin

Le Conseil de l'Europe travaille à une modernisation de son arsenal antiterroriste, en réaction aux attentats en France, qui devrait permettre notamment de renforcer la lutte européenne contre les réseaux d'entraînement au jihad à l'étranger, a-t-on appris mardi de sources diplomatiques.

<http://www.lematin.ma/express/2015/antiterrorisme- le-conseil-de-l-europe-envisage-de-moderniser-son-arsenal/216216.html>

### **Retour des djihadistes français: la CEDH permet-elle des "dérogations" ?**

20/01/2015 – France Info

Valérie Pécresse veut, comme l'UMP, empêcher les Français partis sur des terres de jihad de rentrer en France. Il existe, dit-elle, des dérogations à la Convention européenne des Droits de l'Homme pour ce faire. Bernard Cazeneuve affirmait il y a quelques jours que la mesure était impossible, justement à cause des textes de droit.

<http://www.franceinfo.fr/emission/le-vrai-du-faux/2014-2015/retour-des-djihadistes-francais-la-cedh-permet-elle-des-derogations-20-01-2015-07-23>

## **Déroptions aux Droits de l'homme: le précédent britannique**

20/01/2015 – Numerama

Rares sont les pays à avoir demandé une dérogation au respect des droits de l'Homme, telle que le voudrait Valérie Pécresse en France, pour lutter contre le terrorisme. Mais la Grande-Bretagne l'avait fait au lendemain des attentats du 11 septembre 2001, avec des arguments qui pourraient être repris mot pour mot par la France.

<http://www.numerama.com/magazine/31928-derogations-aux-droits-de-l-homme-le-precedent-britannique.html>

## **Terror suspects and criminals to be stripped of human rights**

20/01/2015 – The Telegraph

The draft bill, to replace the Human Rights Act, would allow British judges to ignore the European Court of Human Rights.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/11356512/Terror-suspects-and-criminals-to-be-stripped-of-human-rights.html>

## **TURKEY**

### **Court lifts travel ban on Perinçek ahead of Strasbourg trial on 'genocide' denial**

19/01/2015 – Today's Zaman

A Turkish court ruled on Monday to lift a travel ban on a Turkish ultranationalist politician ahead of a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) hearing on the denial of an alleged Armenian genocide in 1915.

[http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy\\_court-lifts-travel-ban-on-perincek-ahead-of-strasbourg-trial-on-genocide-denial\\_370273.html](http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy_court-lifts-travel-ban-on-perincek-ahead-of-strasbourg-trial-on-genocide-denial_370273.html)

### **PACE draft report criticizes Turkey's media environment, citing Dink assassination and Gezi Park**

22/01/2015 – Today's Zaman

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) published a draft report, on Jan. 12 focusing on the deteriorating situation of journalists, independent media and freedom of speech in Turkey, among other countries; specifically citing in Turkey's case the Hrant Dink investigation and the Gezi Park protests.

[http://www.todayszaman.com/national\\_pace-draft-report-criticizes-turkeys-media-environment-citing-dink-assassination-and-gezi-park\\_370586.html](http://www.todayszaman.com/national_pace-draft-report-criticizes-turkeys-media-environment-citing-dink-assassination-and-gezi-park_370586.html)

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### **Torture in Europe: a new CoE report**

21/01/2015 – New Europe

The Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has called on the 47 Council of Europe states to protect detained persons against intimidation and reprisals after having been interviewed by the Committee on their detention conditions and possible ill-treatment by staff. The CPT has also urged states to protect public officials who act as whistle-blowers.

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/torture-europe-new-coe-report>

### **Council of Europe: social rights violations in 41 countries**

23/01/2015 – New Europe

The European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) published today its annual conclusions for 2014 showing 252 violations of the European Social Charter, a counterpart to the European Convention on Human Rights in the social and economic field, across 41 Council of Europe member states.

<http://www.neurope.eu/article/council-europe-social-rights-violations-41-countries>

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