



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

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

09 - 13 March 2015

## **RUSSIA**

### [Russian lawmaker says PACE can join efforts for Ukraine crisis settlement](#)

13/03/2015 - OANA NEWS

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has isolated itself from participation in resolving the Ukraine crisis although it could have played a different - constructive - role, Konstantin Kosachev, the chairman of the committee for international affairs at the Federation Council upper chamber of parliament, said at a meeting with Petr Sich, head of the Council of Europe programme office in the Russian Federation.

## **UKRAINE**

### [CoE Secretary General to visit Ukraine](#)

11/03/2015 - Interfax Ukraine

Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland will visit Ukraine on March 16-18. The main purpose of the visit is to present the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2015-2017. He plans to meet with the leadership of the state and the members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine permanent delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

### [Les accords de Minsk doivent être appliqués plus vite](#)

12/03/2015 - La Libre

Malgré quelques développements positifs, le cessez-le-feu en vigueur dans l'est de l'Ukraine reste fragile. De ce fait, l'adaptation des mesures prises en soutien de l'accord de cessez-le-feu de Minsk signé par toutes les parties doit être plus rapidement et plus résolument mise en œuvre.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

### [Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to visit Azerbaijan in April](#)

12/03/2015 - Vestnik Kavkaza

A delegation of the Committee of Ministers headed by the chairman of this structure, Belgian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs Didier Reynders, will visit Azerbaijan in April.

### [PACE rapporteur on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict arrives in Azerbaijan](#)

12/03/2015 - Azer Press

Robert Walter, rapporteur of the PACE Political Affairs Committee, has embarked on a two-day visit to Azerbaijan in the context of the preparation of his report on the escalation of tension in Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

## **BELARUS**

### [Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Alena Kupchyna meets CoE Director of Political Affairs](#)

11/03/2015 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus

The parties discussed the state of the relations and possible ways to advance cooperation of the Republic of Belarus with the Council of Europe, including the activities of the CoE Information Point in Minsk.

## **TUNISIA**

### [Venice Commission willing to make its Member States' experience available to Tunisia](#)

10/03/2015 - All Africa

House of People's Representatives (HPR) Speaker Mohamed Ennaceur had, Tuesday in Bardo, a talk with European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) President Gianni Buquicchio.

### [La lutte contre le terrorisme est un combat de longue haleine](#)

12/03/2015 - L'Economiste Maghrébin

La Tunisie, comme d'autres pays dans le monde, est confrontée à une véritable menace : le terrorisme. Pour aborder cette thématique, une réunion s'est tenue le 12 mars à Tunis sur le thème "Lutte contre le terrorisme dans le respect des droits de l'Homme"; réunion organisée par le Conseil de l'Europe.

## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

### [Anne Brasseur praises reform process in Serbia since 2003](#)

11/03/2015 - Parliamentary Assembly

In a speech to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia today, PACE President Anne Brasseur praised the Serbian authorities, as well as political stakeholders, for having resolutely embarked on the path of reform since accession to the Council of Europe in 2003.

### [PACE rapporteur expresses concern over LGBT 'propaganda' law in Kyrgyz Republic](#)

10/03/2015 - Parliamentary Assembly

PACE rapporteur Tinatin Khidasheli (Georgia, ALDE) has expressed deep concern at a draft law currently being discussed in the Kyrgyz Parliament which criminalises 'propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations' in a letter to Kyrgyz Speaker Asilbek Jeenbekov.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### [Human Rights Commissioner publishes report on Armenia](#)

10/03/2015 - Massispost

In his report the CoE Commissioner addresses a number of issues concerning the administration of justice and the protection of human rights in the justice system of Armenia, in particular, in regards to the deadly 2008 post-election clashes, the conviction of an oppositionist's teenage son, non-combat deaths in the Armenia and others.

### [Human Rights Court: Hungary's prisons inhumanely overcrowded](#)

10/03/2015 - Hungary Today

In their chamber judgment in the case of Varga and Others v. Hungary the ECHR judges held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment) of the European Convention on Human Rights, and a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) read in conjunction with Article 3 of the convention.

### [It's time to give prisoners the vote](#)

11/03/2015 - Politics.co.uk

Westminster needs to hurry up and allow prisoner voting, the joint committee on human rights [announced today](#). MPs and peers said the UK has been dragging its heels over the issue for far too long.

[Malta 'leading example' on LGBT rights](#)

10/03/2015 - Malta Independent

Malta's efforts on LGBTI equality were commended by Ms Marja Ruotanen, Director of Justice and Human Dignity Directorate of the Council of Europe, who singled out Malta in her intervention as a "leading example" in Europe.

[ECHR rules Turkey cannot make sterilization a requirement for gender reassignment](#)

10/03/2015 - Buzzfeed News

Europe's top human rights court ruled Tuesday against the government of Turkey in a case brought by a trans man who was denied the right to gender reassignment surgery unless he agreed to be sterilized.

[Call to change law on smacking in wake of council findings](#)

10/03/2015 - The Irish Times

The Government is under pressure to introduce a ban on smacking children following a finding by the Council of Europe that "reasonable chastisement" is a violation of young people's rights.

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