



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

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

18 - 22 May 2015

### **MINISTERIAL MEETING**

#### [125th session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#)

19/05/2015 - Council of Europe

Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 47 member states of the organisation were brought together in Brussels. At the close of the session, Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken over from Belgium the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers for the next six months. Outgoing Chairperson Didier Reynders presented the stocktaking of Belgium's chairmanship and Igor Crnadak, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, presented the priorities of his country's chairmanship.

#### [Fight against terrorism in focus when European ministers met in Brussels, says Lavrov](#)

20/05/2015 - ITAR TASS

"A major document was adopted - a declaration on combatting terrorism and extremism. It lays additional principles of joint work of all of us in this direction. An action plan for the implementation of this declaration was approved," Lavrov said.

#### [Le Conseil de l'Europe élargit son arsenal antiterroriste](#)

20/05/2015 - Le Nouvel Obs

Le Conseil de l'Europe a adopté mardi un protocole additionnel à sa Convention pour la prévention du terrorisme afin de répondre aux nouvelles menaces que font peser le recrutement et l'aide au départ d'apprentis djihadistes vers des pays étrangers.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### [Why the European Court of Human Rights is no friend to migrants](#)

21/05/2015 - The Conversation

As the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean continues, the public outcry against deaths at sea has forced the European Union (EU) into response mode.

### [Norway Roma treatment needs improving, says Council of Europe](#)

21/05/2015 - The Foreigner

The Roma community in Oslo and how they are treated is cause for concern, the COE's new report states. Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks makes his statements following his visit to Norway between 19th and 23rd January this year. He held discussions with state authorities, Human Rights structures, and non-governmental organisations.

### [Council of Europe considers creating special group to oversee Macedonian reconciliation](#)

19/05/2015 - Sputnik News

Over recent months, violent political protests have been held in Macedonia, with numerous reports of civil rights violations. Speaking at a joint briefing with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, Jagland told reporters that a special group is needed for an impartial probe into numerous reports on violations of citizens' rights in Macedonia and for political reconciliation in the country.

### [Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights set to visit Donbas](#)

20/05/2015 - Ukrinform

"The first priority for me now is to visit the east of Ukraine, the territories controlled by the separatists. I hope I will manage to do this in the end of June," the Commissioner said.

### [Armenian Parliament Speaker calls on Council of Europe to fight intolerance](#)

19/05/2015 - Panorama

The Council of Europe has a serious work to do in the fight against intolerance, Armenian National Assembly Speaker Galust Sahakyan said in his remarks at the session of PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in Yerevan. "Intolerance generates racism and violence, which eventually grow into conflicts. The Armenian nation has experienced the consequences of xenophobia," Mr Sahakyan said.

### [Abolir la fessée, c'est une étape vers plus de démocratie](#)

19/05/2015 - Libération

La France s'est fait rappeler à l'ordre le 4 mars par le Conseil de l'Europe, qui a considéré «qu'aucun des textes mentionnés par le gouvernement français n'énonce l'interdiction expresse et complète de toutes les formes de châtiments corporels infligés aux enfants» et qu'«une certaine ambiguïté subsiste quant à l'existence d'un "droit de correction" reconnu par la justice». Le droit français est ainsi en violation de la charte sociale européenne révisée.

### [Opposition mounting to UK Human Rights Act suspension](#)

18/05/2015 - EurActiv

The new Conservative government is planning to repeal the Human Rights Act during its first 100 days in office in an attempt to “break the formal link” between UK courts and the European Court of Human Rights. A move, they claim, will make Britain's Supreme Court “the ultimate arbiter of human rights” in the UK.

### [Nils Muiznieks hopes Belarus will join Council of Europe soon](#)

20/05/2015 - Belta

"I hope Belarus will soon become a full member of the Council of Europe", Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muiznieks said at the first Eastern Partnership media conference in Riga on 20 May.

### [Council of Europe asks France to change surveillance law](#)

21/05/2015 - Videonews

The Council of Europe’s commissioner for human rights has urged France to make necessary changes to a proposed law that plans a further expansion of the government’s surveillance program, the council said in an official statement. The surveillance bill was adopted by the French National Assembly on May 5 and sent to the upper house for further debate; it gives French intelligence agencies the power to have real-time access to a data connections, email contents, key log-ins and phone or mobile geo-location data without seeking permission from a judge.

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