



EUROPEAN UNION  
Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

## **Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe** **19 - 23 October 2015**

The Weekly Media Report gives an overview of recent news in international media. Please note that the Report does not constitute a formal communication, does not represent the official position of the Delegation and does not commit the European Union in any way.

Ce rapport donne un aperçu de nouvelles récentes dans les médias internationaux. Ce rapport n'est pas une communication formelle, ne représente pas la position officielle de la Délégation et n'engage en aucun cas l'Union Européenne.

### **Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism**

#### **[EU set to sign major anti-terrorism convention](#)**

*21/10 - EU Reporter / International*

The EU is this week due to sign up to the 47-nation Council of Europe's anti-terrorism convention to criminalize participation in terrorist groups. It also aims to criminalize receiving terrorist training or travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism as well as the financing and planning of those activities. It will be signed at a conference in Riga on Thursday (22 October) as well as an additional protocol to the convention which aims to tackle the problem of foreign terrorist fighters.

#### **[EU, 17 states sign foreign terrorist fighter agreement](#)**

*22/10 - DW / Germany*

The EU and seventeen members of the Council of Europe have signed an agreement seeking to thwart foreign terrorist fighters. Up to 25,000 foreign fighters have joined groups such as the "Islamic State" and al-Qaeda. The Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, signed on Thursday, will criminalize participating in a group for the purpose of terrorism, receiving terrorism training, travelling abroad for terrorism, funding travel abroad for terrorism and facilitating travel abroad to engage in terrorism.



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## **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

### **Congress adopts Recommendations on the local elections in Albania and Moldova**

*22/10 – Council of Europe*

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on 21 October considered the reports prepared by its delegations which had observed on the spot the conduct of the local elections in Albania on 21 June 2015 and in the Republic of Moldova on 14 June 2015. Two separate debates ended with the Congress adopting recommendations and a resolution based on the observations of its two missions.

### **Congress adopts declaration on reception of refugees in Europe**

*22/10 – Council of Europe*

The States of Europe must assume shared responsibility for accommodating refugees on their territory in line with the applicable right to asylum and human dignity. That was the message from the members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in a declaration adopted on 21 October 2015 in Strasbourg, France. The text emphasises in particular that Europe must play a full part in taking in Syrian refugees, only 6% of whom are on European territory (excluding Turkey), while Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are accommodating more than 4 million.

## **ECHR**

### **European Court of Human Rights rules secret hearings legal**

*20/10 - The Guardian / UK*

Strasbourg court says rights of Pakistani students Sultan Sher, Mohammed Rizwan Sharif and Mohammed Umer Farooq were upheld in terror inquiry. Secret hearings to determine whether suspects should be held without charge during anti-terror investigations are legal, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled. Dismissing a claim by three Pakistani students that their detention for nearly two weeks breached their rights, the Strasbourg court said that UK courts were permitted to hold closed sessions when considering arrest warrants on the grounds of national security.



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## Ukraine

### [Ousted pro-Russia president sues Ukraine in European court](#)

*19/10 – AFP/ Yahoo News*

Ukraine's fugitive former president Viktor Yanukovich lodged a claim with the European Court of Human Rights on Monday for unfair treatment by Kiev's Western-backed government. Yanukovich's ouster and flight for safety to Russia in February 2014 set off a tragic chain of events that included Moscow's annexation of Crimea and the pro-Kremlin revolt in the separatist east in which at least 8,000 have died. The Strasbourg-based court confirmed receiving the claim but gave no indication of when -- or if -- his appeal will be examined in closer detail. Yanukovich sparked three months protests over winter 2013-2014 with his shock decision to reject a landmark EU cooperation agreement and boost Ukraine's dependence on Russia.

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