



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

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe **9 - 13 November 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.

ECHR

[Court Rules Against French Comedian Dieudonné in Free-Speech Case](#)

10/11- The New York Times / US

In 2008, the French comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala finished a performance in Paris by inviting a Holocaust denier onstage to receive a prize from an actor dressed in striped pajamas resembling a concentration camp uniform, with a yellow star bearing the word "Jew." The prize was a three-branch candelabrum with three apples on top. Mr. M'bala M'bala was convicted the next year on hate crime charges and fined 10,000 euros, or \$10,750, in connection with the performance, and he eventually took his case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. On Tuesday, the court ruled against him, saying that laws on freedom of expression did not offer protection for anti-Semitic comments or statements denying the Holocaust. The case has highlighted growing tensions in France between the country's commitment to free speech and the desire to prevent hate crimes.



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

[Paris Match had right to reveal Prince Albert II of Monaco's love child, court rules](#)

11/11 – The Guardian / UK

French magazine's story about boy born to flight attendant in 2003 had public interest because of the principality's rules of succession, European judges decide. The European court of human rights ruled on Tuesday that Paris Match magazine was justified in revealing the existence of Prince Albert II of Monaco's love child because the story was in the public interest. The judges said a French court was wrong to convict the magazine for publishing a 10-page spread on the issue in 2005, because the story had an importance that "went beyond the scope of [the prince's] private life". The Strasbourg-based court first made the ruling in June 2014, but the French government appealed against the decision.

CM

[Bulgaria Assumes Council of Europe Chairmanship from Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)

10/11 – Novinite / Bulgaria

Bulgaria assumed on Tuesday the rotating Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from Bosnia and Herzegovina. This occurred at a meeting attended by representatives of the organisation's 47 member states at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg. The meeting was attended by Bulgarian Foreign Minister Daniel Mitov and his Bosnian counterpart Igor Crnadak. Before handing over the chairmanship, the outgoing Chair Crnadak presented an overview of the achievements during his country's chairmanship. The new chair Mitov presented the priorities of the Bulgarian chairmanship, which will run for six months from November 10 to May 2016.

CommHR

['Alarming trends' in treatment of asylum seekers in member states](#)

11/11 - Malta Today/Malta

The European Commissioner for Human Rights has warned of alarming trends in the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as of irregular migrants in all parts of Europe. Some 50 to 60 European and African leaders are gathering on the Mediterranean island of Malta today for a special summit on migration. But the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, said states were engaging ever more intensely in extensive border patrols, trying to deter the entry of migrants into their territory.



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

CPT

[Council of Europe Calls for Measures "at the Highest Political Level" Against Ill-treatment in Bulgaria's Penitentiaries](#)

12/11 - BTA / Bulgaria

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) published Thursday the report on its most recent visit to Bulgaria (February 13 to 20, 2015). In its report, the CPT urges the Bulgarian authorities to "take exhaustive measures at the highest political level to ensure that there is 'zero tolerance' of ill-treatment in all penitentiary establishments in Bulgaria". The CPT calls on Bulgarian authorities to ensure that the victims of ill-treatment by the police or in prisons are seen by a doctor and the data on their injuries are recorded, as well as that every case of a detainee making allegations of ill-treatment gets investigated.

Russia

[En Russie, l'ONG Mémorial accusée de haute trahison](#)

11/11 - Le Monde /France

Les accusations du ministère russe de la justice rappellent au directeur de l'association de défense des droits de l'homme «l'époque de la lutte du régime soviétique contre les dissidents». La lecture du document a laissé Alexandre Tcherkassov pantois. «Nous sommes les héros du livre absurde de Kafka», constate avec amertume le président de Mémorial, dans ses locaux moscovites. L'ONG russe de défense des droits de l'homme fait face à une redoutable accusation lancée par le ministère de la justice, celle de «porter atteinte aux fondements constitutionnels de la Fédération de Russie en appelant au renversement du gouvernement actuel et à un changement de régime politique de notre pays».

[Russian diplomat calls for further contacts with Council of Europe despite PACE attacks](#)

11/11 – ITAR-TASS – Russia

Russia shouldn't pay any great attention to PACE's attacks on Russia because the body's political influence is small, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexey Meshkov said on Wednesday. "I would not make a fetish of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Many European politicians and diplomats do not even know that it exists. They are interested in the executive power bodies," the Russian diplomat went on to say.

You can receive this newsletter by email if you subscribe to our mailing list. To subscribe / to unsubscribe from the mailing list, please send an e-mail to DELEGATION-STRASBOURG-1@eeas.europa.eu

Vous pouvez recevoir cette lettre d'information par email si vous vous inscrivez sur notre liste de distribution. Pour s'inscrire / se désinscrire de la liste, il suffit d'envoyer un courriel à DELEGATION-STRASBOURG-1@eeas.europa.eu