



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

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe

16 - 20 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.

Russia

[Russian Constitutional Court gets priority over international courts in new bill](#)

18/11 - RT / International

Lawmakers of all four Russian parliamentary parties have jointly drafted the bill that once passed into law would give more powers to the Constitutional Court, allowing Russia to legally ignore the decisions of foreign justice bodies. The sponsors of the bill wrote in explanations accompanying the document that it seeks to secure the “legal sovereignty” of the Russian Federation and to “oppose the prejudiced rulings” that demand huge monetary compensation from Russia’s budget. In particular, the new act would allow Russia’s Constitutional Court to decide whether the country should fulfill the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The head of the parliamentary group that prepared and submitted the bill, MP Vladimir Pligin (United Russia), said that he and his colleagues expected the draft to be considered by the Lower House in the first reading on December 1.



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CommHR

European body: Turkey must safeguard rights battling rebels

18/11 – The Washington Post

A European human rights body has criticized Turkey for imposing dayslong curfews in towns in southeast Turkey as its security forces battle Kurdish militants, calling on the country to uphold human rights even as it battles the rebels. A soldier and six civilians were killed during the latest, 12-day curfew that was imposed in the town of Silvan and ended on Nov. 14, human rights organizations said. The government says only two victims were civilians. Nils Muiznieks, human rights commissioner for the Council of Europe, said Wednesday Turkey's "frequent and widespread" use of curfews were disproportionate and unnecessary. He called on Turkey to compensate victims and ensure that allegations of human rights violations by security forces are investigated.

World Forum for Democracy

Surveillance : quel est le bon dosage ?

18/11 - ARTE / international

Cinq jours après les attentats de Paris, le Conseil de l'Europe a décidé de maintenir le Forum mondial de la démocratie à Strasbourg. Dans un contexte de terrorisme, comment concilier sécurité (inter)nationale et protection des données personnelles ? Surveillance et libertés fondamentales ? Trois experts, très critiques par rapport aux agences de surveillance, se prononcent sur cette équation difficile. Du 18 au 20 novembre, le Forum mondial de la démocratie tient sa 4ème édition à Strasbourg. Le thème cette année : Liberté vs contrôle, ou comment concilier les deux ?

CPT

Failed asylum seekers being held in prison

17/11 - The Times Online / UK

Watchdogs have warned Ireland's justice chiefs about endemic problems in prisons, including high levels of violence and institutions being used to detain failed asylum seekers. Inspectors from the Council of Europe also raised concerns about verbal and physical abuse of suspects by gardai and the detention of mentally ill convicts in ill-equipped and unsuitable prisons. The organisation's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) said that there had been positive reforms up to the time of the review in 2014, including allowing solicitors to attend garda interviews and ending the detention of teenagers in St Patrick's Institution in Dublin.



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European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

One in five EU children is a victim of some form of sexual violence - Council of Europe

19/11 - The Malta Independent/Malta

One in five children in Europe falls victims of some form of sexual violence, Dr Charles Azzopardi said today referring to statistics from the Council of Europe. He was addressing a conference regarding the European Day on the Protection of Childre. He said that 70-85% of such cases involve someone within the circle of trust of the child. Dr Azzopardi mentioned that the Lanzarote convention committee in Malta, which he forms part of, has two roles. The first, is to ensure that the convention is implemented and the second regards sharing information between states. He said that the next challenge is to identify what kind of abuse is most “fashionable”, stressing the need for further research in this regard.

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