

NATIONAL SEMINAR

on the role of national parliaments in implementing the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights

organised by

the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
for members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

STRASBOURG, 20-21 April 2017

PROGRAMME

1. Objectives

The main objective of the seminar is to support members of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in improving the institutional and case-law knowledge of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), including the Verkhovna Rada's capacity to provide effective parliamentary oversight of Strasbourg human rights standards, as well as preparation of draft legislation and policy measures.

Meetings will be organised with staff members of the Registry of the ECtHR and the Department of the execution of judgments of the ECtHR, in order to discuss the case-law of Ukraine and the implementation of the Court's judgments at the national level.

A final discussion on the creation of a specific structure within the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, responsible for the supervision of the implementation of ECtHR standards, is also expected.

2. Participants

The participants are members, representing Human Rights / Legislative / Legal Committees of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Working languages of the seminar will be **English** and **Ukrainian**.

3. Background documents

1. PACE Resolution 2145 (2017) The functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine;
2. PACE Rec 1974(2014) The functioning of democratic institutions in Ukraine;
3. PACE Resolution 1988(2014) Recent developments in Ukraine, threats to the functioning of democratic institutions;
4. PACE Resolution 1823(2011) National Parliaments, guarantors of human rights in Europe;
5. CDL-AD(2010)025 Report of the Venice Commission on the role of the opposition in a democratic parliament;
6. AS/Jur/Inf(2016) 04 Impact of the European Convention on Human Rights in States Parties: selected examples;
7. PPSD (2016) 23 The role of parliaments in implementing ECHR standards: overview of existing structures and mechanisms

4. Draft Programme

THURSDAY 20 April 2017

8.30 – 8.50 am Registration of participants (main entrance of the Palais de l'Europe)

[Palais de l'Europe, Room 14]

OPENING SESSION

9.00 am **Welcome by Mr Wojciech SAWICKI**, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Ms. Iryna SUSLOVA, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and Non-discrimination of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

9.15 - 10.00 am	<p>Short introduction to the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly</p> <p>Ms Olga KOSTENKO, Secretary, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Ukrainian staff member of PACE: introduction to the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly</p> <p>Mr David MILNER, Deputy to the Head of Secretariat, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, PACE: the work of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights</p> <p>Exchange of views</p>
10.00 - 10.15 am	<i>Coffee break</i>
SESSION 1	THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – AN OVERVIEW
10.15 – 12.30 am	
Facilitator:	<p>Mr Andrew DRZEMCZEWSKI, Visiting Professor at Middlesex University School of Law, London</p> <p>Mr Oleksiy GOTSUL, Lawyer, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights: the role of the European Court of Human Rights in the Convention system</p> <p>Mr Fredrik SUNDBERG, Deputy to the Head of Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I): the role of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the Convention system</p>
General discussion	<p>Exchange of views with the participation of members of Verkhovna Rada</p>
12.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch at the invitation of the Parliamentary Assembly at the Restaurant Bleu of the Council of Europe</i>
SESSION 2	Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning Ukraine and their implementation
14.30 – 15.30	<p>Ms Clare BROWN, Head of Section, Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (DG I)</p> <p>Mr Oleksiy GOTSUL, Lawyer, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights</p> <p>Exchange of views</p>
15.30 – 15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
SESSION 3	European Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe (the ‘Venice Commission’)
15.45 – 16.30	<p>Ms Simona GRANATA-MENGHINI, Deputy Secretary, European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)</p> <p>Exchange of views</p>
16.30	<i>Conclusions of the first day by Mr. Andrew DRZEMCZEWSKI, Facilitator</i>

FRIDAY 21 April 2016

[Palais de l'Europe, Room 14]

SESSION 4

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

9.30 – 11.00 am Facilitator: **Mr Andrew DRZEMCZEWSKI**,

Panel I: Overview on the situation in Member States

Ms Anne-Katrin SPECK, Research Associate, School of Law Middlesex University, London

Mr. Gedevan POPKHADZE, First Deputy Chairman of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, member of the Legal Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia

11.00 – 11.15 am *Coffee break*

11.15 – 12.00 am **Panel II: Overview of the situation in Ukraine**

Ms. Iryna SUSLOVA, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and Non-discrimination of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Mr. Ihor ALEKSIEIEV, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Activity of Justice Bodies and Implementation of Court Rulings of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Policy and Justice of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Exchange of views

CLOSING SESSION

12.00 – 13.00 Round table on the results of the session and future developments, with the participation of the Facilitator, **Mr. Andrew DRZEMCZEWSKI**

13.00 – 13.15 **Concluding remarks**

Ms. Iryna SUSLOVA, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and Non-discrimination of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Mr Wojciech SAWICKI, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Bilateral meeting between the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and members of Committee on Legal Policy and Justice, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

15.00 pm **Ms Genevieve MAYER**, Head of Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACE

Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD)

Mr	Geza MEZEI	Head of Secretariat
Mr	Alessandro MANCINI	Deputy to the Head of Secretariat ☎ +33 3 88 41 22 65 alessandro.mancini@coe.int
Ms	Anna LUNGU	Project Manager ☎ + 33 (0) 3 88 41 23 28 ☎ emergency number: +33 6 144 155 27 anna.lungu@coe.int

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Mr	Günter SCHIRMER	Head of Secretariat guenter.schirmer@coe.int
Mr	David MILNER	Deputy to the Head of Secretariat david.milner@coe.int