

Parliamentary Projects Support Division



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA

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6 September 2019

## FIFTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE on implementing standards of the European Convention on Human Rights: key role of national parliaments

*Organised by*

**The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)**

*Hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia*

**RIGA  
9 September 2019**

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### **VENUE**

**Parliament of Latvia  
BALTIC HALL  
Saeima  
Jēkaba iela 6/8  
Riga  
Latvia**

## 1. Background

Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution 1823 (2011) calls for adequate parliamentary procedures to verify the compatibility of national draft legislation with ECHR standards, the supervision of Strasbourg Court judgments and the provision of relevant human rights awareness-raising activities for parliamentarians and training for the staff of national parliaments.

As from 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has held seminars for parliamentarians from Council of Europe member States in order to improve their knowledge on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), including the need to implement the Court's judgments. Such parliamentary meetings were held in London in October 2013, in Warsaw in February 2014, in Madrid in October 2014 and in Budapest in November 2018. Other country-specific activities on this subject were also held in Georgia, Ukraine, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2015-2018.

These events, addressed to parliamentarians, are organised in order to:

- enlarge their practical knowledge of the provisions of the ECHR and the Strasbourg Court's case-law and the need for national legislation to comply with its standards;
- better inform them of the structure and functioning of the ECtHR and its case-law;
- increase their awareness of the role of national parliaments in the execution of judgments of the ECtHR;
- support their efforts in the creation and/or reinforcement of specific bodies (committees, sub-committees, legal affairs divisions, etc.) dealing with human rights and/or execution of the ECtHR judgments within national parliaments on regular basis.

As a result of this work, undertaken in co-operation with the Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, a handbook for parliamentarians entitled "National parliaments as guarantors of human rights in Europe" was published in 2018 in English and French. This handbook is to be translated into a number of other European languages.

## 2. Participants and working languages

Members of Parliaments from the following countries will participate in this seminar: Armenia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova and Sweden. They will meet international experts and PACE members of the Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in four languages: English, Latvian and Russian. Documents will be available mainly in English.

## 3. Reference Documents

- **Parliamentary Assembly (PACE):**
  - ✓ Resolution 1823 (2011) "National parliaments: guarantors of human rights in Europe" <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=18011&lang=en>
  - ✓ PACE Recommendation 2110 (2017) *Implementation of judgments of the ECHR* <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/Xref/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23988&lang=en>
  - ✓ AS/JUR/Inf. (2016) 04 "Impact of the ECHR in States Parties: selected examples" <http://website-pace.net/documents/19838/2008330/AS-JUR-INF-2016-04-EN.pdf/12d802b0-5f09-463f-8145-b084a095e895>
  - ✓ PPSD (2019) 03 "Inter-parliamentary Cooperation activities- The role of parliaments in implementing the ECHR standards"
  - ✓ PACE Handbook for Parliamentarians (2018) – "National parliaments as guarantors of human rights in Europe" <http://website-pace.net/documents/19838/4986890/HumanRightsHandbook-EN.pdf/2318235f-b1fd-4cd9-8a29-83cc98615917>
- **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR):** Text of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR): [https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf)
  - ✓ ECtHR – Country profiles available on the EctHR portal: [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int)
- **Council of Europe Department for the execution of judgments of the ECtHR (DG I):**
  - ✓ Country Factsheets: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/execution/country-factsheets>
  - ✓ CM Recommendation (2004)5 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805dd194](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805dd194)
  - ✓ CM Resolution (2004)3 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805dd190](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805dd190)
  - ✓ Annual Report 2018: <https://rm.coe.int/annual-report-2018/168093f3da>

## 4. Programme

09.00 – 09.30 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09.30 – 10.00  
OPENING SESSION

**Ms Inese LĪBIŅA-EGNERE**, Deputy Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**Ms Liliane MAURY PASQUIER**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Ms Thorhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR**, Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of the Parliament of Iceland

10.00 – 13.00  
SESSION 1

**THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR) SYSTEM: AN OVERVIEW**

Chaired by: **Mr Boriss CILEVIČS**, former Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Election of Judges to the ECHR, Member of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Speakers:

**The ECHR in domestic law by:**

**Ms Ineta ZIEMELE**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia, former Judge and Chamber President of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Latvia

**The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) by:**

**Ms Isil KARAKAS**, former Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights and former judge in respect of Turkey

**The execution of judgments of the ECtHR by:**

**Mr Pavlo PUSHKAR**, Head of Division on Execution of ECtHR judgments, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I) of the Council of Europe

**The ECHR in Domestic role by:**

**Mr Konstantin KORKELIA**, Professor of International Law of Human Right, Faculty of Law, Tbilisi State University, Georgia and former Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe

General discussion

13.00. – 14.30 *Lunch hosted by the Parliament of Latvia*

**14.30 – 17.00**

**SESSION 2**

**THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING STANDARDS OF THE CONVENTION AND IN SUPERVISING THE EFFECTIVE EXECUTION OF THE ECtHR JUDGMENTS**

Chaired by: **Mr Davor Ivo STIER**, Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of judgments of the ECtHR of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the PACE, Member of the Croatian Parliament

**Presentation of the PACE project on ‘National parliaments as guarantors of Human Rights in Europe’ by:**

**Mr Günter SCHIRMER**, Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the PACE

Discussion Panel, with the participation of the facilitator of the session, **Mr Günter Schirmer**:

**Mr Mart van de VEN**, Chairperson of the National Delegation of The Netherlands to the PACE, former Senator of The Netherlands

**Mr Boriss CILEVIČS**, former Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Election of Judges to the ECHR, Member of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

**Mr George TUGUSHI**, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration of the Parliament of Georgia

General discussion

**17.00 – 17.15**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Ms Thorhildur Sunna ÆVARSDÓTTIR**, Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of the Parliament of Iceland

**Ms Inese LĪBIŅA-EGNERE**, Deputy Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and Chairperson of the National Delegation of Latvia to the PACE

*17.20 – 18.20 Visiting tour of the Old town with a guide*

*20.00 Dinner hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

## 5. Secretariat

### **PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)**

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#### ***Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD)***

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#### ***Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (AS/JUR)***

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### ***SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA (Host country)***

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