



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly media report of developments in the Council of Europe

26 - 30 January 2015

RUSSIA

PACE deprives Russia of voting rights until April, Russia quits for 1 year

29/01/2015 - Sputnik News

Russia has suspended work in the PACE for a year following the adoption of a resolution depriving the Russian delegation of its voting rights in the organization until the April session.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150128/1017470828.html>

Duma chief hints at Russia's exit from Council of Europe

29/01/2015 - Russia Today

Sergey Naryshkin has confirmed that Russia was leaving the PACE until the end of 2015 and added that next year the country might cease its membership in the Council of Europe.

<http://rt.com/politics/227407-russia-europe-exit-naryshkin/>

Council of Europe Secretary General warns against new Cold War with Moscow

29/01/2015 - Sputnik News

Thorbjorn Jagland urged the warring sides in Ukraine to observe the ceasefire. He underscored his support of PACE's decision to strip Russia of voting rights.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150129/1017493717.html>

PACE President calls for continuation of dialogue with Russia

28/01/2015 – Sputnik News

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe president stated that despite the suspending of Russia's voting rights, the assembly is ready to continue a dialogue with Russia.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150128/1017473375.html>

Russian Supreme Court rules out closure of NGO Memorial

28/01/2015 - Russian Legal Information Agency

Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjorn Jagland welcomes the ruling of the court. "I am pleased that the decision of the Supreme Court was positive and in line with Council of Europe standards".

http://rapsinews.com/judicial_news/20150128/273047545.html

Russia's Justice Ministry in no hurry to act on ECHR's Yukos case ruling

29/01/2015 - ITAR TASS

"For the time being the process is proceeding as it should. There is no hurry. The procedure of enforcing ECHR decisions is rather long. We are not violating anything," Justice Minister Alexander Kononov told the media.

<http://itar-tass.com/en/russia/774122>

UKRAINE

PACE's refusal to brand DPR and LPR as terrorist organizations is "balanced approach"

29/01/2015 - Interfax

The leadership of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) has welcomed a decision adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe not to brand the LPR and the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) as terrorist organizations.

<http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?pg=9&id=567832>

PACE delegation will not be able to visit Ukrainian pilot Savchenko in Russian jail

29/01/2015 - Kyiv Post

The head of Russia's delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Alexei Pushkov, has said that Russia is withdrawing its invitation to a PACE delegation to visit Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko, in custody in Moscow over the killing of two Russian journalists in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/russia-and-former-soviet-union/pace-delegation-will-not-be-able-to-visit-ukrainian-pilot-savchenko-in-russian-jail-378774.html>

Thorbjorn Jagland: We must do everything to save life of Savchenko

29/01/2015 - National Radio Company of Ukraine

Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjorn Jagland will not terminate his attempts to convince the Russian authorities of the need to release Ukraine's MP, member of PACE Nadiya Savchenko, who is illegally detained in Moscow prison.

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/588458/>

Council of Europe pledges to assist Ukraine in designing new Constitution

29/01/2015 - Sputnik News

Council of Europe can assist Ukraine in designing a constitution which guarantees the territorial integrity and at the same time gives way to a process of decentralization opening the way to a political resolution of the conflict in the country's east.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150129/1017491098.html>

Porochenko remercie l'APCE pour son soutien à l'Ukraine

29/01/2015 - Sputnik News

Mercredi 28 janvier, l'APCE a privé la délégation russe du droit de vote et de participation aux organes dirigeants de l'Assemblée jusqu'à avril prochain sur fond d'aggravation de la situation dans le sud-est de l'Ukraine.

<http://fr.sputniknews.com/international/20150129/1014159645.html>

HUMAN RIGHTS

L'assemblée du Conseil de l'Europe tire les leçons des attentats

29/01/2015 - La Voix du Nord

Le Conseil de l'Europe, à Strasbourg, a voté à l'unanimité une résolution du sénateur nordiste Jacques Legendre sur la lutte contre le terrorisme et la liberté d'expression.

<http://www.lavoixdunord.fr/france-monde/l-assemblee-du-conseil-de-l-europe-tire-les-lecons-ia0b0n2629389>

Le Conseil de l'Europe livre un rapport très critique sur les pratiques de la NSA

26/01/2015 - Le Monde

Après plus d'un an de travail, le député démocrate-chrétien néerlandais Pieter Omtzigt (groupe PPE), membre de l'assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe, a présenté un rapport très critique sur les programmes américains de surveillance électronique de masse de la National Security Agency (NSA) révélés par Edward Snowden, et leurs conséquences pour l'Europe.

http://www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2015/01/26/le-conseil-de-l-europe-livre-un-rapport-tres-critique-sur-les-pratiques-de-la-nsa_4563851_4408996.html

Secretary General of Council of Europe says freedom of speech has limits

29/01/2015 - Sputnik News

In the wake of terrorist attacks in Paris, Thorbjorn Jagland urges the Council of Europe to act as "a voice of reason" in the debate over what limits the freedom of speech has.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150129/1017492412.html>

Bulgarie: le Conseil de l'Europe dénonce la torture

29/01/2015 - Le Figaro

La situation dans les prisons en Bulgarie, qui conjugue conditions de détention inhumaines et mauvais traitements confinant à la torture, n'a que peu évolué depuis les années post-communistes, dénonce un [rapport publié](#) aujourd'hui à Strasbourg par le Conseil de l'Europe.

<http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/2015/01/29/97001-20150129FILWWW00110-bulgariele-conseil-de-l-europe-denonce-la-torture.php>

Le Conseil de l'Europe ne veut pas du Mondial 2022 au Qatar

29/01/2015 - Le Soir

Un rapport du Conseil de l'Europe demande à la Fifa de procéder à un nouveau vote pour attribuer l'organisation du Mondial 2022 de football, après la procédure «profondément entachée d'illégalité» emportée par le Qatar.

<http://www.lesoir.be/770116/article/sports/football/2015-01-27/conseil-l-europe-ne-veut-pas-du-mondial-2022-au-qatar>

PACE

President Higgins: Politicians are deserting democracy

28/01/2015 - Irish Examiner

In a thinly veiled reference to the EU's troika and austerity programmes, President Higgins warned that democracy was in peril, and said it was time parliaments took back power, and rejected narrow-focused automatic rules governing their economies.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/president-higgins-politicians-are-deserting-democracy-309326.html>

PACE rapporteur Andrea Rigoni to visit Belarus in February

28/01/2015 - Belorussian News

Andrea Rigoni, rapporteur of the PACE's Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, is expected to pay a visit to Belarus in February 2015, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus Vladimir Andreichenko said at the meeting of the Council of the House of Representatives on 28 January.

http://eng.belta.by/all_news/society/PACE-rapporteur-Andrea-Rigoni-to-visit-Belarus-in-February_i_79023.html

ARMENIA

Council of Europe slaps Armenia over inhuman treatment of prisoners

28/01/2015 – Azernews

Detainees in Armenia have been subjected to physical or psychological ill-treatment and excessive use of force, reported a committee of the Council of Europe.

<http://www.azernews.az/aggression/76716.html>

Amal Clooney accuses Turkey of hypocrisy on freedom of speech in Armenian genocide trial

30/01/2015 - The Daily Telegraph

Amal Clooney, the human rights barrister, has accused Turkey of double standards on freedom of expression for defending a Turkish Leftist who described the Armenian genocide an "international lie".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/11373991/Amal-Clooney-accuses-Turkey-of-hypocrisy-on-freedom-of-speech-in-Armenian-genocide-trial.html>

AZERBAIJAN

Council of Europe appoints new rapporteur on Azerbaijan

29/01/2015 - Turan Information Agency

The meeting of the PACE Monitoring Committee elected a new speaker on Azerbaijan. Instead of the MP from Malta, Joseph Gresh, whose term of office has been completed, MP Tadeusz Iwinski from Poland was elected for a 5-year term, according to sources in the Monitoring Committee.

<http://www.contact.az/docs/2015/Politics/012900104585en.htm#.VMtRHS50fp8>

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