



**Brussels, 4 August 2017
(OR. en)**

11597/17

**FREMP 89
COHOM 93
JAI 727
DROIPEN 109**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 13 July 2017
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of the Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) of 13 July 2017

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. [CM 3435/2/17 REV 2](#).

2. 2016 Report on the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Representatives of the Commission presented the 2016 Report on the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (doc. [9511/17](#)). Most MSs welcomed the report except for one delegation not completely satisfied with the assessment made by the Commission of the rule of law situation. The Presidency informed delegations that draft Council conclusions on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2016 will be distributed ahead of the next FREMP meeting.

3. Annual report of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

The FRA Director presented the Fundamental Rights Report 2017 (doc.10744/17 + ADD 1 + ADD 2). General appreciation expressed by most MSs for FRA's high quality independent work on the development of fundamental rights in the EU.

4. Code of Conduct to the Istanbul Convention - Information paper by the Commission

Representatives of the Commission presented an information paper setting out the general context of the preparation of the Code of Conduct to the Istanbul Convention (doc. 7524/2017). Several delegations made preliminary comments, in particular on how the EU should be represented in the Council of Europe committee (GREVIO), what would happen to national reservations after EU accession, if and how the competences (EU - MSs) should be divided (e.g. for monitoring and data collection) and how the EU delegate should be nominated. One delegation repeated its opposition to the EU accession to the Convention. A few delegations asked the Council legal service to clarify if the conclusion of the EU accession would be possible although not all MSs have ratified it yet. The Presidency concluded that the discussion will continue at the next FREMP meeting on 6 September, with some clarifications on legal issues.

5. Any other business

- **The high-level symposium 'Is Europe doing enough to protect fundamental rights?' on 28 June 2017¹**

The Maltese delegation and the FRA Director debriefed delegations on the conference celebrating the FRA 10th-year anniversary. Based on the FRA's annual Fundamental Rights Report, the event took stock of broader human rights developments in the EU over the last 10 years, with special attention on the issues of migration and poverty taking into account the children's perspective.

- **Expert seminar 'Media pluralism and the rule of law in the digital age' on 12 July 2017²**

The Estonian Presidency informed delegations about the seminar focused on possible actions that different actors could implement in order to ensure credibility of information, trust in the media and accurately informed political debates in the digital age where many, especially younger, citizens use the internet and social networks as their primary source of news. The main objective of the seminar was to provide input for the dialogue of Ministers at the **General Affairs Council** on 17 October 2017.

¹ <http://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2017/presenting-fra-fundamental-rights-report-2017-high-level-symposium>

² <http://pilv.mfa.ee/public.php?service=files&t=403433e6d44e7506e65cc53c6ae88e89>