Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 2241 (2022)[1]

The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on civil society space and activities

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its Resolution 2471 (2022) "The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on civil society space and activities", the Parliamentary Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

1.1. continue to implement its decision on "the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe", adopted at its 129th session in Helsinki on 17 May 2019;

1.2. call again on the member States of the Council of Europe to implement its recommendations CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe and CM/Rec(2018)11 on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe;

1.3. reflect, in co-operation with relevant Council of Europe bodies, on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures taken to counter it on civil society, and in particular non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and human rights defenders, as well as on the measures that could be taken in order to improve their situation;

1.4. organise exchanges of views on these issues with civil society actors;

1.5. give priority to judgments arising from systemic problems concerning NGO rights and freedoms embodied in Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5), as well as those concerning measures taken to counter the Covid-19 pandemic, when supervising the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;

1.6. establish a mechanism for monitoring and responding to attacks against civil society actors;

1.7. continue to promote European and international standards to protect civil society space and exchange information on good practices developed in this area during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in co-operation with other international organisations such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the European Union.

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee*, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 25 November 2022 (see Doc. 15654, report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, rapporteur: Ms Margreet De Boer).