



Doc. 13598

16 September 2014

New cases of prosecution of anti-fascists in Estonia - Situation concerning Mr. A. Zarenkov's detention in Estonia

Reply to Written question¹: Written question No. 652 (Doc. 13413) and Written question No. 654 (Doc. 13415)

Committee of Ministers

1. During the Committee of Ministers' consideration of the above questions, the Estonian delegation indicated that Mr Zarenkov had been arrested on suspicion of corruption in the discharge of his duties at the Maardu Culture Centre, and on no account for his political or civic activities, and that his detention on remand was ordered on the ground that there was a risk of interference with the course of justice. In addition, the Estonian delegation informed the Committee that the court which had heard the case had decided to place Mr Zarenkov in detention for up to six months, this decision being subject to regular review. The Estonian delegation also pointed out that Mr Zarenkov had not submitted a request to be released on bail or to be given an alternative measure to imprisonment. Since then, the Estonian delegation has indicated that Mr Zarenkov was released from pre-trial detention on 11 March 2014, the court having considered, in view of the evidence gathered, that there was no longer a risk of interference with the ongoing judicial proceedings.

2. The Committee of Ministers underlines that it is not its role to take a position on ongoing judicial proceedings in a member State, while pointing out the fundamental importance of the right to freedom and security and the right to a fair trial, in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It also points out that anyone falling within the jurisdiction of a member State may, as a last resort and after exhaustion of all domestic remedies, apply to the European Court of Human Rights if he or she believes himself or herself to be a victim of a violation of those rights.

1. Adopted at the 1206th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (10 September 2014).

