

Statement explaining the position of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia

Agenda item 13: Adoption of the Report

30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Vienna, 21 May 2021

The Delegation of the Republic of Armenia would like to clarify its position regarding the deliberations and the action taken under Agenda item 1, for the inclusion in the Report of the 30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as requested during the deliberations under Agenda item 13 of the session on 21 May 2021.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia regrets that the prolonged discussions under Agenda item 1, Election of officers, have taken the precious time of the 30th session of the Commission (from 17 to 19 May) due to undue and unnecessary politicization of the issue by one representative and one observer delegation, as well as application of different procedural actions by one representative with a clear intention to delay indefinitely and eventually derail taking the decision envisaged under Agenda item 1.

The delegation of Armenia regrets that due to this prolonged discussions and procedural maneuvers under Agenda item 1, the Commission had to adapt the substantive work of its 30th session and postpone the consideration of some items. It is further regrettable that due to that reason, a number of delegations, including the delegation of the Republic of Armenia decided to refrain from delivering their national statements during the General debate and under other agenda items to help relieve the Commission from the time constraints created as a result of the above-mentioned situation.

As it was stated by the delegation of Armenia during the 30th session, the endorsed nomination of Armenia was submitted to the Commission on the 3rd of February 2021, by the Chair of the Eastern European Group (EEG) for the month of February. This fact was duly reflected in the Outcome of the 2nd meeting of the Extended Bureau of the CCPCJ at its 30th session, which took place on 16 February 2021.

Against this background the desperate attempts of two delegations to convince the Commission that the nomination of Armenia was not endorsed by the EEG were futile and are contrary to the facts, which have been made available to the Commission, including by the consecutive Chairs of the EEG.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia regrets that the attempt of one representative to derail the process of taking decision by the Commission under Agenda Item 1 by putting forward a motion to adjourn the debate, as well as the subsequent request by the same representative to hold a secret ballot regarding the uncontested nomination of the EEG, could adversely affect and undermine the spirit of Vienna. Moreover, it could create a dangerous

precedent of depriving the regional groups of having their representatives in the Bureau as well as of interference of member states outside the regional groups in the internal affairs thereof, questioning the collective wisdom of and decisions taken by the regional groups.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia is relieved that in the end this was not allowed to happen thanks to the collective wisdom of the members of the Commission, which have shown that the Commission remains strong, agile and ready to protect its long-established practices and rules.

The delegation of the Republic of Armenia strongly believes that the whole process of election of the Third Vice-Chair of the CCPCJ at its 30th Session as well as its outcome have sent a strong message that the long-established practices in the regional groups and in the Commission should not be challenged and the Vienna Spirit should be upheld.