

Strasbourg, 12 April 2019

Dear President,

Thank you for your letters of 21 December 2018 and 15 March 2019 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe concerning the human rights implications of drug policies.

The Council of Europe through its Enlarged Partial Agreement, the Pompidou Group, promotes the protection of and respect for the human rights and dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes and strategies. In a policy statement adopted in November 2017 (attached), the Pompidou Group called upon its member states to take full account of human rights when elaborating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating drug policies. This commitment was reiterated at the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna just last month, in a statement delivered by the Portuguese Presidency of the Pompidou Group.

In your letters you refer to case No. 67078/10 of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). I must inform you that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe cannot intervene in respect of any judicial proceedings initiated before the Court, either when they are pending or once they have been concluded.

Nevertheless and in line with the Pompidou Group's work programme 2019-2022 ("Sustainable drug policies respectful of human rights"), I can assure you that the Council of Europe will continue advocating for strengthening the human rights dimensions of drug policies and fully take into account the civil society voices which pursue the same objective.

Finally, your letter and the related documents have been forwarded to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, whose Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights is currently preparing a political report called "Drug policy and human rights in Europe: a baseline study".

Yours sincerely,



Leyla Kayacik

Mr Roar Mikelsen
President
The Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies