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## **High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatiana Moskalkova held a number of meetings in Strasbourg**

**High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatiana Moskalkova met with Secretary General of the Council of Europe Maria Peichinovich-Bourich.**

Tatiana Moskalkova and Maria Peichinovich-Bourich discussed a wide range of human rights issues, particularly, measures to combat domestic violence and prevention of torture in places of detention. During the meeting, the participants noted the role of the CPT in these areas.

Focusing on the protection of the rights of citizens of the Russian Federation outside of its borders, the High Commissioner expressed concern for the life of Russian citizen Alexander Vinnik, who was extradited to France on 23 January by decision of the State Council of the Hellenic Republic.

Tatiana Moskalkova also raised issues, that she found unacceptable for a civilized society. In particular, the suspension of Estonian news agency Sputnik, violation of veterans' rights, falsification of history, discrimination of language rights and glorification of Nazism by a number of European states.

In this regard, Tatiana Moskalkova highlighted the importance of developing the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen, which next meeting will be held in April 2020 in Moscow. This session will be dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

In conclusion, Tatiana Moskalkova assured Maria Peichinovich-Bourich that the amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation will not affect Russia's interaction with international structures, including the European Court of Human Rights.

High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation **Tatiana Moskalkova met with President of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos.**

During the conversation, Tatiana Moskalkova and Linos-Alexandre Sicilyanos noted the crucial importance of the ECHR for the protection of human rights both in a preventive way and in specific cases. The Russian ombudswoman emphasized that due to the preservation of Russia's membership in the Council of Europe, citizens of the country have additional human rights mechanisms and can defend their rights not only in the national judicial system, but also at the supranational level.

In turn, the ECHR President emphasized the role of the Russian Commissioner in the implementation of ECHR standards in the NHRI activities. In addition, the parties paid special attention to the number of complaints sent to the ECHR by Russian citizens. To date, 40 percent of complaints examined by the ECHR are from the Russian Federation, their number is 18 thousand.

In conclusion, Tatiana Moskalkova and Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos discussed a number of tasks to improve cooperation in the field of human rights protection, the prospects for the development of legislation and the resolution of existing problems. The ECHR President noted his readiness for cooperation and exchange of experience with the Russian ombudswoman.

High Commissioner also took part in the **opening ceremony of a seminar dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights**. The seminar touched upon the further development of international human rights instruments, the significance and prospects of multilateral cooperation in this area.

"The Convention is one of the most important international documents that has launched numerous positive changes and has contributed to raising the standards of human rights protection around the world. 830 million people in 47 countries

of Europe are under protection of this important European document," Russian ombudswoman noted.

At the end of the visit Tatiana Moskalkova participated in the opening ceremony of the ECHR judicial year.