



ACTIVITY REPORT

AEDH

2011-2012

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Through its constitutive charter and statutes, the AEDH's goal is the defence and promotion of Human Rights in the European Union.

The AEDH supports any initiative for the training, promotion and defence of such rights, recognised for their universality, indivisibility and effectiveness. It advocates:

- A democratic Europe in which citizens have real power
- A Europe grounded on the respect of the freedoms of each and every person
- A Europe which ensures economic, social and cultural rights
- A Europe respectful of the environment and engaged in sustainable development
- A Europe without discrimination
- A Europe that is open to the world and upholds its international responsibilities

The AEDH calls for the existence and the recognition of a real citizen counter-power.

The AEDH's priority areas of work for 2011-2012 were:

- Immigration: Special dossier on the "legal migration" directives.
- Asylum: Particular attention was given to the lack of progress on the "asylum package".
- The protection of personal data and, in particular, the monitoring of the reform of the European legal framework on the protection of personal data (modification to the 1995 Data Protection Directive).
- The fight against discrimination in the EU, especially monitoring of the legislative process of the "anti-discrimination" directive. Furthermore, the situation of Roma is a particular concern, and the AEDH has created a report on the violence of which they are victims in EU countries.
- Detention in Europe, for which a working group has been developed and a response provided to the European Commission's review of the Green Paper on detention in Europe.

Among the important issues raised by AEDH members during its General Assembly on 28 May 2011, the following merit particular attention:

- The improvement of information sharing with member leagues and the participation of member associations in European projects.
- The updating of IT tools in AEDH's head offices.
- The implementation of a campaign for individual membership.

To achieve its objectives, the AEDH must:

- Carry out political and legal monitoring
- Collaborate with European institutions
- Participate in the collective debates and actions of the European networks working for the respect of fundamental rights
- Develop and manage its network of member leagues
- Write press releases, letters, files and position papers
- Manage communication tools and the dissemination of information
- Procure materials and human resources.

This annual activity report reviews the actions carried out by the AEDH during the 2011-2012 year by first presenting the results of the actions in line with its priority issues raised during the General Assembly in May 2011. The second part of this report will highlight the various actions carried out by the AEDH throughout this same time period. With the support of its office, members, staff, interns and volunteers – some of whom are individual members of the AEDH – the Association was able to further its mission and priorities.



PART I: THEMATIC REPORT

**AEDH ACTIVITIES
IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS
WORKING PRIORITIES**

The AEDH set certain working priorities at its 2011 General Assembly. The priority activities led to writing reports, press releases, positions taken by the AEDH, as well as other various activities, are detailed below.

PRIORITY I: IMMIGRATION

The “immigration” priority was one of the causes the AEDH most actively pursued in 2011-2012. This was in part because the organisation was focused on analysing the “legal migration” legislative package (I), but also because the AEDH was closely monitoring other issues linked to migration (II).

I. The European Commission’s Legal Migration Legislative Package

Since the European Commission’s adoption of the “Policy plan on legal migration” in December 2005, the AEDH began working on the directive proposals making up the “legal migration” package. This grouping of European directives aimed to regulate the professional immigration of non-European nationals within the European Union.

The AEDH first examined the “Blue Card” directive proposal which regulates the entry and residence of highly skilled third-country nationals. This proposal from the “Legal Migration” package is the only one to have been adopted so far by the EU. It also reviewed the general directive known as the “single permit directive”, meant to establish a general framework for all foreign workers in the EU (adopted by the European Parliament in December 2011). In July 2010, the EU published two directive proposals: the first dealt with the entry and residence of seasonally employed migrant workers, while the second concerned intra-corporate transferees. The AEDH focused its work in 2011 on these two legislative directives.

After having attended several conferences held to analyse the two directives, the AEDH decided to focus on writing a detailed analysis of the “foreign worker” directives.

The AEDH was extremely active with the European Parliament, where it closely followed the Parliamentary Committee meetings for “Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs” (LIBE) and “Employment and Social Affairs” (EMPL) held to discuss these texts, as well as the Council’s “Justice and Home Affairs” (JHA) meetings when these topics were on the agenda. In October 2011, the AEDH also attended a conference on this theme, organised at the European Parliament by the political group GUE/NGL and entitled “Working time and EU migration policy: new attacks on workers’ rights”. During this conference, the AEDH announced its position on the “Legal Migration” packet.

The AEDH also took the opportunity to distribute its analysis entitled “Foreign workers in the EU: moving towards multiple standards, founded on unequal treatment?”. This detailed ten-page analysis examines the “single permit”, “seasonal work” and “intra-corporate transferees” directive proposals and highlights the unequal treatment that these three directives would create among third-country nationals and migrant workers. It discusses the reasons why the AEDH believes the proposed texts infringe on the social rights of migrant workers, create a fragmented labour market, and use legal immigration as a tool for European growth and to fight illegal immigration. This analysis was widely disseminated (to member leagues, individual members, Member of the European Parliament, the European Commission, permanent representations of Member States, NGOs and press contacts, among others) and was translated into English.

The AEDH was also extremely active within European organisation networks and unions. These two directive proposals were the subject of numerous meetings held by civil society organisations, both at the “migration sub-group” level of the NGO asylum and immigration platform as well as within specific working groups.

With regards to working groups, the AEDH took an active part in a working group whose actions were focused exclusively on the “seasonal work” directive proposal. This group was made up of a dozen NGOs working on migration issues, and included such groups as PICUM, Solidar, FEANTSA and ENAR. The many meetings the AEDH par-

icipated in – just under ten meetings between January 2011 and April 2012 – gave the organisation the chance to speak to MEP rapporteurs about the texts in the LIBE and EMPL Parliamentary Committees, inform them about the AEDH's position, and suggest ways to improve the directive's content, while insisting on the need to make this directive part of an overarching plan for equal treatment. MEP Claude Moraes was present during each of these meetings and showed his willingness to work closely with the AEDH and other NGOs. Furthermore, the NGO group adopted two positions which were disseminated and sent to the MEPs. It also implemented a strategy to lobby Members of the European Parliament with a view to influencing the forthcoming proposal.

The AEDH was very active in 2011 concerning the issue of “foreign workers”, and published its analysis on 7 November 2011. This analysis was well received, particularly by unions which showed strong interest in it.

Additionally, the AEDH published a press release prior to this analysis on 17 October 2011 under the same name. This press release presented the main points of the analysis and referred back to it.

II. Other migration issues

Although the AEDH was focused on the “foreign workers” topic in 2011, it also dealt with broader migration issues.

The AEDH participated in the annual European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) conference, held on 21-22 November 2011 in Warsaw, entitled “**Dignity and rights of irregular migrants**”. It was the first time the topic of the conference – the situation of irregular migrants – was discussed at the institutional level. The conference was much more interactive than in previous years, which gave members of civil society the opportunity to speak with representatives from European institutions. The AEDH was able to promote its viewpoint on the subject during various working groups as well as to Morten Kjaerum, Director of the FRA, with whom informal discussions were held during a dinner outside of the conference. The debates dealt mainly with the respect of the rights of migrants without working papers. The AEDH also participated in the plenary session which dealt with the detention of minors and asserted its view that that the practice is unacceptable, and that it is illogical to focus on the issue of detention conditions. From a broader standpoint, the issue of whether undocumented foreign nationals should be imprisoned only on the basis that they are undocumented was raised. The annual FRA conference was also an opportunity for the AEDH to meet with organisations (non-governmental, national, international) and individuals working on migration issues, who were able to provide more specific information regarding undocumented migrants in Poland. Pierre Barge also spoke several times with Michele Levoy, Director of PICUM (a network of associations in Brussels working with undocumented migrants with which the AEDH maintains excellent working relations), with the hope that they will be able to collaborate more closely on certain issues.

The AEDH also attended three hearings organised by political groups within the European Parliament. One, entitled “Migration: the rights of the undocumented” was held by the S&D group (Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) on 19 October 2011. This hearing brought to light the European Commission's security-based approach on the issue of migration and the desire of the general public to see the Charter of Fundamental Rights applied in an effective way to all individuals in the European Union. The second, held by the EPP group (European People's Party) on 7 September 2011, called attention to the issue of migration within the EU with regards to the recent addition of members to the Schengen Area. This same topic was covered again by the third hearing held by the S&D group on 8 February 2012.

Catherine Teule attended the conference on foreign students on 3 February, which was

organised by the *Union Nationale des Étudiants de France* and dealt with the rights, reception and integration of foreign students in France.

The AEDH also attended four meetings that were part of the “NGO asylum and immigration platform” held between June 2011 and April 2012, where legislative and pre-legislative developments by European institutions were discussed. In addition to these meetings and hearings, the AEDH took part in three meetings of the “NGO migration sub-group platform” as well as three specific meetings on the response to the **consultation of the Family Reunification Directive** launched by the European Commission.

The AEDH had decided to respond to this review because it felt the issue of family reunification was extremely important and that the responses would lead to a possible revision of Directive 2003/86/EC. The AEDH especially wished to draw attention to the tendency of certain Member States to put specific conditions for entry in place for the family members of migrants living in the EU, such as “integration”-based or linguistic requirements. On 10 November 2011, the AEDH attended the conference organised by the European Women’s Lobby (EWL), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the European Network of Migrant Women, which dealt with European legislation on family reunification and its discriminatory consequences for women.

The AEDH submitted its response to the review, which is available on its website, in late February 2012.

The AEDH also responded to another consultation by the European Commission on migration issues in June 2011 on “**The Global Approach to Migration**”. This consultation led to the European Commission’s 18 November 2011 adoption of the Communication entitled “Global Approach to Migration and Mobility”.

The AEDH also participated in the drafting of the report “**Calais, the Violence of the Border**”, published by the REMDH network, which details the results of an observation mission aiming to identify the consequences of the police operation on 22 September 2010 on the situation of migrant and refugee rights in the area around Calais. The mission established that the destruction of the “Jungle” led to a degradation of migrant rights. Generally speaking, the closing of clandestine camps does not solve the problem of the displacement of persons but rather aggravates the human rights situation of those needing the most protection. In conjunction with the publication of this report, and following a complaint lodged in France by several associations, Catherine Teule participated in a June 2011 meeting with Dominique Baudis, a human rights advocate in France.

The AEDH maintained its vigilance with regards to changes within the **Frontex agency**. Following the 12 September 2011 adoption of a resolution by the European Parliament which amends Frontex regulations, a press release was published entitled “Frontex: the AEDH calls for more guarantees for human rights”. The AEDH also attended the 21 September presentation by NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) of its report on Frontex’s activities in Greece.

Finally, the AEDH participated in a discussion linking migration and personal data, two major topics for the association. Pierre Barge was personally invited by MEPs Franziska Keller and Jan-Philip Albrecht (both German members of the Green party) to this discussion, the subject of which was “Two years after the Stockholm Programme, moving towards a **European e-fortress**?”. Participation was excellent in the seminar, in which Pierre Barge and Maryse Artiguelong (responsible for the protection of personal data at AEDH) took part. The issue of a European fortress was approached in terms of migration and personal data. From the standpoint of migration, Europe is becoming more and more isolationist, with Member States reaffirming their desire to control migratory flows through their national borders, and more controlling of incoming migrant flows, closing its doors to those populations needing international protection. Personal data was also discussed because, in addition to controlling flows in terms of figures, Europe is also controlling them using a system of migrant registration.

PRIORITY II: ASYLUM

I. The creation of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

A. Analysis of the directives being amended

As decided during the May 2011 General Assembly, the AEDH focused its action on asylum matters and the **hold-up of the “asylum package”**, intended to lead to the creation of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) in 2012.

In order to better understand the issues involved in establishing the future CEAS, the AEDH attended four conferences on this specific subject between October and December 2011. The first, “Knocking on Heaven’s Door? Access of asylum seekers and migrants to international protection and humanitarian assistance in the EU”, was organised by the Red Cross and aimed to highlight the shortcomings of existing procedures to access asylum and subsidiary protection in the European Union. The second was a LIBE Parliamentary Committee hearing entitled “Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by 2012?”, in which European parliamentarians and the European Commission debated. The AEDH also attended a conference of the High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) on “Alternatives to Detention for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons” as well as a Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) conference where asylum seekers and refugees were invited to share their experiences, at the end of which conclusions were made on the new challenges for the United Nations Convention of 1951.

These numerous conferences, combined with the meetings of the “NGO Platform on EU Asylum and Migration Policy” (four between June 2011 and April 2012), as well as those of the asylum subgroup of the NGO Platform (also four), led the AEDH to choose to take a closer interest in the sticking points which were blocking the asylum package’s progress, in order to better focus its lobbying work with the European institutions on these specific points.

Extensive analysis of two “asylum package” directives – **the “reception” directive and the “procedures” directive** – was conducted in order to determine the positive progress made and the negative points by examining the two directives in their current form as well as proposals for amendments. To take a step further in this analysis, the intern working on this procedure, under the supervision of Catherine Teule, in charge of asylum matters for the AEDH, met the parliamentary assistant of Sylvie Guillaume, French MEP for the S&D group and LIBE Committee rapporteur for the proposal for amendment of the “procedures directive”, in October 2011. The sticking points between the Council and the European Parliament were presented to her in detail.

On 15 November 2011, backed by this analysis, Catherine Teule participated in a simulation of European institution negotiations at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where she represented civil society. It covered the amendment of the “reception” directive, which lays down the minimum conditions for receiving asylum seekers and beneficiaries of national protection who are found in all EU Member States. She was thus able to put across the AEDH’s point of view on the amendment of the directive.

Following these actions, the AEDH drafted a note of about ten pages analysing the current “reception” directive in detail, as well as the amendments proposed under the reform. The AEDH will do the same for the “procedures” directive.

B. Other AEDH activities on asylum matters

The AEDH also participated, following its selection in Malta on 15 December 2011, in the first **Consultative Forum of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)**. This Consultative Forum, which was attended by Catherine Teule, must be a mechanism for exchange of ideas and best practices between EASO and civil society and

governmental and international organisations operating in the asylum policy field. The AEDH is disappointed that the discussions and reflections remained very technical and not at all political. Issues such as the validity of the “safe country of origin” concept or those related to the tendency of certain European Union Member States to renationalise their asylum policy were not raised.

Catherine Teule also contributed during the “*Immigration: le défi des droits*” (Immigration: the challenge of rights) colloquium on 11 January 2012, highlighting the deconstruction of discourse around the right to asylum in France.

It is also important to note that Catherine Teule participates on behalf of the AEDH in the meetings of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) asylum group. One such meeting took place this year. She also participated in a conference entitled “*Le droit d’asile en question*” (The Right to Asylum in Question) in Rouen (France) on 17 September 2011 as part of a week of training for the *Réseau Education Sans Frontières* (RESF, Education without Borders Network).

The AEDH, as part of its efforts to engage with the general problems of asylum, also attended the “EU Resettlement Awareness Day” as it does every year. This was organised by MEP Rui Tavares from the Greens group, alongside ECRE.

II. The impact of the Arab revolutions on European asylum policy

The AEDH also took an interest in issues relating to the response and reactions of the European Union in the face of the arrival of waves of migrants and asylum seekers in EU territory from the winter and spring of 2011.

It also followed several conferences on the subject and organised one itself through the “Friends of the AEDH” group.

A. Various conferences and press releases

The AEDH began by attending the conference organised by the Robert Schuman Foundation on 27 June 2011, entitled “Immigration, Borders, Asylum: What European Policies?”

Following its April 2011 press release expressing its views on the European Union shirking its responsibilities by refusing to receive certain migrants the AEDH participated in a **joint press release** published on 28 July 2011 by Migreurop, entitled “The Mediterranean: NATO finally comes to the aid of shipwrecked migrants, but the European Union refuses to admit them”.

Catherine Teule participated on behalf of the AEDH in a colloquium in Blois (France) on 14 October 2011 organised under the “*Rendez-vous de l’Histoire 2011*” (Rendezvous with History 2011) programme, entitled “*Face aux bouleversements dans le monde arabe, fantasmes sur les risques migratoires en Europe*” (In the face of turmoil in the Arab world, envisioning migratory risks in Europe). She also participated in a colloquium in Tunis organised by the **Centre de Tunis pour les Migrations et l’Asile** (CETUMA, Tunis Centre for Migration and Asylum) from 30 September-1 October 2011 on unrestricted mobility in the Mediterranean space, tackling the issue of mobility and security between the EU and southern Mediterranean countries, and the place for the basic rights of migrants and refugees.

The AEDH also attended the final conference of the DRIVE project, which was conducted by various NGOs. The conference was on the response to the arrival of migrant boats and mixed flows of migration in the Mediterranean and was organised by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) on 21 September 2011.

During the seminar organised by the Euromed Platform in Rabat on 9, 10 and 11 December 2011, the AEDH was invited, as a Platform member, to make a contribution on the subject of the seminar “**Youth and democratic transition in the southern Mediterranean**”. Pierre Barge was invited to give his point of view during the conclusion of the conference. He observed, for example, how young people were committed to moving beyond the boundaries of their own national spaces and that the

movements created during the Arab spring should be encouraged and supported. He insisted on the fact that mobility is a right and that a utilitarian, short-term vision must be opposed in Euro-Mediterranean relations. He underlined that human rights should not be a mere objective, but rather a collective Mediterranean instrument. The AEDH also took advantage of the occasion to approve the final declaration of the conference on the creation of a network of young people in the Euro-Mediterranean space.

B. "The Consequences and Repercussions of the Arab Revolutions on the Politics of the European Union", a conference at the European Parliament on 12 October 2011

Given the subject's importance, AEDH decided to dedicate its conference, organised within the **informal parliamentary "Friends of the AEDH" group**, to it. From the beginning of 2011, the AEDH undertook to consolidate ties of reciprocal consultation with MEPs from various political groups. The aim of this group is to contribute to the development of deep reflection on all the issues related to basic rights in the European Union.

The meeting was organised on 12 October 2011 jointly by the AEDH and Marie-Christine Vergiat, a French MEP from the GUE/NGL group with whom the AEDH works closely. It brought together MEPs (Carmen Romero Lopez from the S&D group; Judith Sargentini from the ALDE group; Mariya Nedelcheva from the EPP group; and Marie-Christine Vergiat), and civil society members from the European Union (Michel Tubiana, Vice President of EMHRN; Caroline Stannier, EMHRN; Catherine Teule, AEDH; Pierre Barge, AEDH) but also from the southern Mediterranean (Tarek Mahrous, AMERA Egypt; Amor Boubakri, University of Sousse) thanks to the support of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). Its theme was "The Consequences and Repercussions of the Arab Revolutions on the Politics of the European Union".

The half-day meeting fully achieved its aim: to bring together and enable dialogue between civil society actors and European parliamentarians. The AEDH is pleased with the interest paid to the meeting, which was the first of its kind, and with its success. Nearly forty people attended.

The AEDH wrote a **press release** on 3 November 2011, relating the success of the conference and the conclusions made during debate, in which it called upon the EU to make a paradigm shift in migration policy, abandoning the priority given to counterproductive measures which are inhumane and contrary to Article 13 of the UDHR.

PRIORITY III: PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

The AEDH, in its priorities determined during the General Assembly of 2011, committed to work on two major matters in terms of protection of personal data within the European Union (I): monitoring the passenger name record (PNR) agreements between the European Union and third countries and reform of the general legislative framework on data protection in the European Union, i.e. reform of the directive commonly known as the "1995 directive".

It is also important to note that the AEDH has been accepted as an observer member within the Council of Europe Consultative Committee of Convention 108 (T-PD Committee) (II).

I. The AEDH's action for the protection of personal data with European institutions

A. Reform of the "1995 Directive" on the general data protection framework

This reform was undertaken by the European Commission partly on the basis of technological developments, but above all because of legal changes linked to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2010. The scope of the "1995 Directive" did not make it applicable to police and judicial activities, which was to change with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

During the year 2010-2011, the AEDH responded to several European Commission consultations in order to determine the direction the amendment of the "1995 Directive" would take and in order to highlight the principles and basic conditions it wanted to see in the proposed amendment to the directive.

The stakes of the reform are significant, as it is this directive which defines the general framework for the protection of European residents' personal data.

In May 2011, in order to best prepare for the publication by the European Commission of the proposed amendment of the general data protection framework, the AEDH produced a **summary of its response to the European Commission public consultation on a general approach to personal data protection in the European Union**, keeping in mind the reform of the general data protection framework and with the aim of comparing the legislative proposal with the minimum requirements in a more detailed manner. The AEDH published this eight-page summary in French and English on 1 June 2011.

The AEDH also followed all the meetings of the LIBE Committee, where discussions took place concerning the general approach to data protection. It submitted its response to the consultation as well as the summary thereof to the LIBE Committee rapporteur on this matter: Axel Voss, a German MEP from the EPP group. The subject was also raised during the Privacy Platform of 7 September 2011, where Françoise Le Bail, Director General for the European Commission's DG Justice, presented the reform, albeit in no great depth.

In the end, the European Commission only published its proposed directive and regulation on 25 January 2011, along with a communication. The AEDH therefore continues to work on a detailed analysis of these proposals. It did, however, produce a major infoflash on the day of the proposals' publication, which it also added to its website pending a more detailed analysis. These mediums made it possible to demonstrate to individual members, member associations, Office members, and any visitors to the AEDH website, that the AEDH recognises the efforts made to improve the protection of citizens and that the level of protection had been improved under the proposed regulation, although it believes that it is impossible to exclude police and judicial activities and grant them specific rules, making the protection granted to citizens much weaker.

B. PNR procedures

Passenger Name Records (PNR) are personal data concerning the details of air journeys for a given person. The United States, Canada and Australia have such surveillance systems.

In the view of the AEDH, the exchange of PNR data between States raises major personal data protection questions, problems linked to profiling, breach of privacy, and

possible misuse of files with no proven necessity.

Following the European Parliament's rejection of the agreement between the United States and the EU on the processing and transfer of PNR data by air carriers to the American Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the European Commission was mandated to renegotiate the existing agreement between the United States and the EU (dating from 2007). Sophia in 't Veld, a Dutch MEP from the Liberals group (ALDE) was appointed LIBE Committee rapporteur on this procedure in early 2011.

The AEDH has been following the matter of the PNR agreement between the United States and the European Union since 2007. It conducted a comparative analysis of the previous agreement with the proposed new agreement and concluded, in a press release on 25 January 2012 ("**New EU-US PNR Agreement: with no improvement of guarantees, the agreement must be rejected by the European Parliament!**"), that the new proposed agreement does not satisfy the criteria for protection of personal data and that, for that reason, the European Parliament must refuse to consent to the entry into force of the new agreement. In her draft recommendation for the LIBE Committee dated 30 January 2012, Sophia in 't Veld, the rapporteur on this procedure, requested the rejection of the agreement by the European Parliament. On 27 March 2012, the LIBE Committee voted against Ms In't Veld's recommendation, meaning it is in favour of the EU-US PNR agreement, in spite of the problems underlined by AEDH.

The AEDH also regularly monitors legislative developments for other PNR procedures. A first example is that of the "Agreement between the European Union and Australia on the processing and transfer of PNR data by air carriers to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service", for which Sophia in 't Veld is also the rapporteur, and a second example is that of a similar agreement between the European Union and Canada. These cases are of a similar nature to the other PNR agreements even if they appear more protective. In order to preserve its resources, the AEDH has chosen to concentrate on the EU-US PNR agreement, which is by far the most problematic.

The second case is that of the **procedure on the use of EU passenger name record data**, a proposed European Commission directive aimed at implementing a European PNR system for "prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime". The rapporteur nominated for this procedure is Timothy Kirkhope, MEP for the Conservative group (ECR). This current procedure will be closely followed, as it commits the European Union to a system of supervision and retention of personal data for all European air passengers, or even sea passengers.

Through its political and legal monitoring activities, the AEDH was invited to, and attended, a European Parliament Open Workshop on PNR on 19 October 2011, led by Eva Lichtenberger, an Austrian MEP from the Greens group, where Edward Hasbrouck, a renowned American expert working on the agreements, was also present. This Open Workshop allowed the AEDH to gain deep technical expertise regarding the process of the transfer and use of PNR data under the agreement between the EU and the United States. The AEDH press release of 25 January 2012 was widely read and circulated. Edward Hasbrouck himself forwarded it to his civil society contacts working on PNR agreements and data.

Another notable consequence of the press release was the meeting between Pierre Barge and Annika Oberg, Counsellor on Justice and Home Affairs at Sweden's permanent representation to the EU, on 9 February 2012, to discuss the AEDH's position on the PNR procedures, in addition to the reform of the "1995 directive" and the protection of personal data in general. The meeting was very productive. Ms Oberg was willing to hear the view of an NGO on this matter and was therefore very open to discussion. Pierre Barge was thus able to highlight the most important points regarding the PNR procedures. The AEDH considered this meeting a good opportunity to have direct contact with someone working directly in the framework of the negotiations within the working groups of the Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA Council).

These last two examples show that the AEDH's press releases are more and more widely read and respected, have certain influence and contribute to the organisation's reputation.

C. Miscellaneous activities

As part of its legal and political monitoring of the work of the European institutions, the AEDH has attended various meetings and conferences related to the protection of personal data.

For example, it participated in the two annual meetings of the **Privacy Platform**, a cross-party group of the European Parliament brought together and chaired by Sophia in 't Veld, which aims to promote discussions on subjects linked to respecting privacy between MEPs and civil society. The 1 June 2011 meeting tackled the issue of government monitoring of citizens, whereas the meeting of 7 September was more oriented towards the matters the AEDH is dealing with, as they regarded the transatlantic dimension of personal data protection. The discussions highlighted the need, particularly in the case of the PNR agreements, to ensure that European citizens have some recourse against the systematic collection and retention of their data by American authorities. The Commission, represented by Françoise Le Bail, Director General for the European Commission's DG Justice, promised that the strongest safeguards possible would be provided for European citizens under the new agreements the EU signs. Peter Hustinx, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), was also present.

AEDH was invited to and attended the DG Home Affairs Workshop on "future options for **data retention in the EU**" on 8 June 2010. This meeting, which discussed more technical points, involved exchange with civil society on the downsides of the current "data retention" directive. The Commission demonstrated a reasonably open attitude during this meeting, and took note of the numerous comments, often negative, made by civil society representatives. This meeting will help the Commission determine the direction to work in concerning amendment of the "data retention" directive.

On 15 June 2011, Pierre Barge attended the presentation of the EDPS annual report to the European Parliament, where Peter Hustinx, European Supervisor, and Giovanni Buttarelli, Assistant Supervisor, were present. This meeting allowed the AEDH to further strengthen its relations with EDPS.

On 17, 18 and 19 September, the AEDH participated actively in the **European "Freedom not Fear" event**, organised in Brussels by AKVorrat, a German organisation specialised in data protection, and EDRI, a partner member of the AEDH. Numerous workshops covering a variety of issues, particularly those regarding PNR agreements, amendment of the "data retention" directive, and security scanners in airports were organised. The AEDH also participated in the workshops at the European Parliament and in the Saturday afternoon demonstration in front of the European institutions, where Maryse Artiguelong made a speech recalling the need to repeal the "data retention" directive, insisting on the main points of the reform of the "1995 directive" and highlighting the importance of Council of Europe Convention 108 as a framework for all future European Union legislation. This speech is available in French and English on the AEDH website. During the three days of protest, numerous contacts took place with AKVorrat, NoPNR and certain parliamentarians.

Lastly, the AEDH is participating as a partner in a **European project** led by the French Human Rights League, which was submitted in early March 2012. This project is being conducted under one of the components of the "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship" programme of the European Commission's DG Justice. It aims to analyse the competencies and powers of personal data protection bodies in selected European Union countries, and to inform European citizens of the possibility of contacting these authorities, which are present in every EU country but which are very little-known. In the

framework of the project, information and debate seminars will be organised in the project's partner countries. The AEDH will know in late spring or summer 2012 whether the project has been accepted.

II. The AEDH's action for the protection of personal data with the Council of Europe

A. *The AEDH, an observer member of the Consultative Committee of Convention 108*

The AEDH, considering Convention 108 as a framework for data protection, sent its candidacy to the Council of Europe in October 2010 to become an observer member of the Consultative Committee of Convention 108 (T-PD Committee). It was therefore heard to present its candidacy on 23 March 2011, which led to a written Statement of interest. It also responded to the Council of Europe consultation on modernising Convention 108 in March 2011.

The AEDH was satisfied to learn, in early December 2011, that the plenary assembly of the T-PD Committee had decided to grant it the requested status.

The AEDH therefore attended the first **T-PD Committee Bureau meeting** in 2012, from 6-8 February in Strasbourg. Maryse Artiguelong represented the AEDH. The meeting's agenda was largely focused on deepening the modernisation of Convention 108. Although the amendments proposed by the observer members are not officially taken into account, Maryse Artiguelong raised the AEDH's observations concerning the proposals that were advanced, particularly regarding the fact that there was no reference to the concept of "privacy by design" or "privacy by default", and the need for clarification of certain provisions.

The modernisation process will be examined again during the next meetings of the T-PD Committee, from 16-18 April 2012 in Paris, and during the plenary of 19-22 June 2012 in Strasbourg, in which the AEDH will participate, before the modernisation proposal is submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

Through its involvement within the T-PD Committee, the AEDH hopes to participate in the framing of a text which could serve as an international data protection framework, or even an international agreement. With this in mind, the AEDH is campaigning for the reform of the "1995 directive" which is currently underway to refer to Convention 108, with the aim of linking the European text to an international legal instrument, a link of the greatest importance in negotiations in the framework of international agreements signed by the European Union, particularly with the United States.

B. *The international "Computers, Privacy and Data Protection" (CPDP) conference*

This conference, to which the AEDH was invited by the Council of Europe, one of its sponsors, took place from 25-27 January 2012, bringing together close to 700 participants and covering a significant number of matters (PNR, profiling, smart grids, intelligent borders, CCTV, social networks etc.). Maryse Artiguelong, who represented the AEDH, attended some of the workshops and conference seminars.

These three days of conference were also marked by the announcement of the publication of the European Commission's proposals for the reform of the "1995 directive". The last day was dedicated to the modernisation of Convention 108. A number of positive points were highlighted, but there were reserves on matters regarding cross-border data flows and notifications of security flaws, in additions to questions regarding the list of sensitive data.

PRIORITY IV: MINORITIES AND DISCRIMINATION

I. Fighting discrimination

One of the AEDH's priorities has been to carry out political and legal monitoring of the fight against discrimination in the European Union. The AEDH has regularly attended parliamentary committee meetings, for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as well as meetings of the Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Intergroup. On 30 November 2011, Pierre Barge spoke during a meeting of this intergroup on the treatment in the European Union of the Roma, who are victims of discrimination and violence, and on the need for the European Commission to intervene as the guardian of the Treaties and thus of the values of the Union.

The AEDH attended a conference organised by FEANTSA at the European Parliament on 8 February 2012 regarding EU Citizenship, Homelessness and EU Free Movement. On 9 February 2012, the AEDH participated in a round table organised in Brussels by the Belgian *Ligue des droits de l'Homme* (Human Rights League) entitled "Travellers have the right to have their rights respected". The AEDH also attended the 12th conference of the *Université populaire d'ATD Quart Monde* on 5 March 2012, with the theme of "Citizens united for a Europe that combats misery".

Knut Albrecht, General Secretary of the AEDH, participated in the **EMHRN's Gender group**, a work group that met twice between June 2011 and April 2012. This group, which brings together civilian representatives from the European Union and Mediterranean countries, focuses on gender issues in Euro-Mediterranean countries. In complement to these issues, the AEDH also participated in the EMHRN's conference on 21 November 2011 on "EU policies and gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region".

Pierre Barge also attended the conference organised by PICUM entitled "Undocumented Migrant Women in Europe: Bridging local realities to the EU policy level" on 12-13 December 2011.

One of the AEDH's priorities for 2011-2012 was the monitoring of the legislative process relating to the **anti-discrimination directive**. However, the debate in the Council was very opaque. The AEDH was not able to access more information than the European institutions were willing to divulge on the progress of the dossier. The AEDH was nevertheless able to find out which countries were blocking the progress of negotiations within the Council and will try to act at their level.

II. Roma

A. AEDH projects

- **The Grundtvig project**

The Grundtvig project was introduced in early February 2012 by the French human rights league, which will head it. The AEDH will act as a partner, as will BEMIS, the AP-DHA and the *Comité Helsinki Tchèque* (CHT). These associations are all members of the AEDH.

The project aims to help provide much-needed training in key civic skills for Roma, needs that have been identified throughout Europe in order for this population to better understand and defend their fundamental rights and to exercise these rights thanks to the civic skills they acquire. In order to achieve this goal, the project will identify the needs of trainers (professionals and volunteers) working with these populations and will help them transmit these key skills more effectively using specific tools, including a teaching kit containing tools that trainers lack in terms of fundamental rights and social

and civic skills. This teaching toolkit will be tested with the trainers and target audience, then modified if needed, before being validated and produced. In addition to the 200 toolkits that will be printed, a website where the toolkit will be available in four languages (French, English, Czech and Spanish) will be specially designed to promote a wider distribution of the kit.

The European Commission is set to respond on this project in June 2012.

- **The Black Paper on violence against Roma within the EU**

Since the 2011 General Assembly, the AEDH has also been working actively on its draft report on violence against Roma in the European Union. Several working meetings with Aleksejs Dimitrovs, Philippe Goossens (individual member of the AEDH and a volunteer on this issue) and Pierre Barge helped define this project and determine the approach that will be used.

The AEDH's work on this issue will be divided into four steps. First, in order to make its position known to its members, to European institutions and to partners from civil society, the AEDH published a press released entitled "Violence against Roma in the European Union must stop" on 24 November 2011, during a debate on this topic in the European Parliament's plenary session. Second, research has begun by an AEDH intern, supervised by Philippe Goossens and Aleksejs Dimitrovs, in order to identify the situation of Roma populations in each individual Member State. This research will also be used to establish a first comprehensive report. This report will be published and distributed in April 2012 and will give a first overview of the situation and include recommendations for Member States and European institutions. Third, a more substantial project will be developed to build on this work, collect field information and prepare the drafting of a Black Paper detailing violence against Roma. This project will be sent to various foundations in the spring of 2012 in order to seek financial support. The fourth step – writing the Black Paper – will depend on the success this European project has convincing these foundations.

In the framework of this work, in 2011-2012 AEDH members and volunteers participated in various conferences on Roma and met with different associations working in this field in Europe.

B. Conferences and meetings

While maintaining focus on writing the abovementioned report, the AEDH has remained active with European institutions and has participated in all the meetings, conferences and seminars on the inclusion of Roma, with the particular aim of collecting information for its report and establishing contacts that will be useful for writing it. It participated in the conference organised by Open Society Foundations on 8 November 2011 at the European Parliament on "EU strategy on Roma inclusion at national level" at which many Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission were present.

It also took part in a round table organised by the Belgian human rights league in Brussels on 7 March 2012 regarding "The European Union and Roma".

Philippe Goossens, in charge of supervising work on the violence against Roma in collaboration with Aleksejs Dimitrovs, went to Berlin on 11 December to attend an international conference entitled "Welcome Home? The situation of Romani in the European Union". The conference highlighted issues that the AEDH fully supports, such as the importance of education, the end of discrimination against Roma in the labour market, freedom of movement and ending national expulsion practices. Philippe Goossens was also able to establish a contact with Cornelia Ernst, a German Member of the European Parliament from the GUE/NGL group.

On 27 February 2012, the AEDH was present for the launch of the report by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights entitled "Human Rights of Roma and Travellers in Europe".

During its travels, the AEDH met with different organisations working directly with Roma.

PRIORITY V: IMPRISONMENT IN EUROPE

I. Deprivation of Liberty work group

Following the 2011 General Assembly, the seminar of which focused on questions concerning imprisonment in Europe, the Deprivation of Liberty work group was created. Initially called the Imprisonment work group, its name was changed in order to include all types of imprisonment. The AEDH is in charge of calling meetings for and running this group which comprises different public figures from member associations: Claude Brulant (individual AEDH member), Claude Weber (President of ALOS-LDH) and Damien Scalia (LSDH), who make up the group in charge of leading the work group; Angela Ciudad Carillo from the APDHA; Petr Uhl from the CHT; Femke Quagebeur from the LVM; Jaume Saura from the IDHC; Serge Kollwelter from ALOS-LDH; and Nicolas Frize, Stéphanie Calvo, Isabelle Denise and Catherine Teule from LDH France. The group is of course open to all AEDH members wishing to join it.

On 14 June 2011, the European Commission published a **Green Paper on detention**. This Green Paper, for which a public consultation was held by the European Commission, was the starting point for the Deprivation of Liberty work group's discussion. On 21 June 2011, the AEDH published its reaction to the Green Paper in the form of a press release entitled "A green paper – considerably reticent – on prisons". In order to prepare its response to the consultation of the Green Paper, the AEDH attended the meeting organised by the European Commission on 7 July 2011, the aim of which was to hear the initial reactions from civil society on the Green Paper. The AEDH took advantage of the event to distribute its press release.


Wishing to include its member associations in writing a response to the consultation, the AEDH organised the first Deprivation of Liberty work group on 7 October 2011 in Paris. During this meeting, an outline for the response was drafted. The members of the work group then divided up the task of writing the response and the group in charge of leading the work group met in Brussels on 21 November 2011 to finalise it, before it was sent to the Commission on 29 November 2011. The AEDH's response to the consultation, available in French and English on its website, highlights the following points: the challenge of harmonising the European legal area and fundamental rights; the problem of preventive/temporary detention; alternatives to imprisonment; the imprisonment of minors; conditions in which foreigners are imprisoned; monitoring conditions of confinement.

Following this, the AEDH obtained an **interview with the cabinet of Viviane Reding**, the European Commissioner for Justice, Citizenship and Fundamental Rights, meeting with cabinet members Telmo Balthazar and Michael Schotter. This interview was held at the European Commission on 30 November 2011 and allowed for a cordial, frank discussion on the content of the AEDH's response to the consultation, the AEDH's views on detention in the EU and the policies the Commission expects to implement in the penal field. For the AEDH, this meeting was a first, very positive contact with the cabinet of a European Commissioner.

The work group continued its work at the end of 2011 and the beginning of 2012, collecting information on imprisonment from member organisations, organising a conference at the European Parliament on imprisonment and drafting a political position paper for the AEDH on the deprivation of liberty. During a work group meeting on 17 February 2012, future possibilities such as a questionnaire for the member leagues and a policy paper were discussed. The work group will meet again on the eve of the General Assembly – 26 April – in order to continue these discussions.

II. Conferences

The AEDH regularly attends conferences and seminars on imprisonment in Europe to foster its reflection on this issue. This year the AEDH notably participated in a debate on pre-trial detention organised by Fair Trials International on 10 November 2011, as well as the UNHCR's conference on alternatives to detention in the asylum context on



16 November 2011.

These conferences and debates help the AEDH acquire important information on the types of imprisonment allowed in Europe and to include this information in its work group discussion.



PART II:

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

I. Actions at the European institutions

A. Actions within the European Parliament

The European Parliament is one of the main fields of work for AEDH. It is where we are most visible. This visibility was increased in 2010, with the activities organised by the informal group of European members of Parliament, "friends of the AEDH", and with greater presence of AEDH in the Parliament: there were numerous interventions by the AEDH President or other Board members during conferences organised by the Parliament. This development should carry on in 2012, given that AEDH is continuing and formalising its activities with the group "friends of AEDH", which will further reinforce the presence and influence of AEDH within the European Parliament.

- **Regular committees**

AEDH visits the European Parliament for every parliamentary committee in which a human rights topic is brought forth. It therefore systematically attends the meetings of the "Civil Liberties, Justice and Home affairs" (LIBE) Committee, where all discussions regarding immigration and asylum, Schengen border management, data protection, EU internal security of the EU and particularly the fight against terrorism and high profile crime, take place. Between June 2011 and April 2012, AEDH participated in 22 LIBE parliamentary Committee reunions.

AEDH also regularly attends meetings of the "Employment and Social Affairs" (EMPL) Committee, for all questions linked to economic and social rights, labour law and free movement of workers. Occasionally, AEDH follows the activities of the "Legal Affairs" (JURI), "Women's Rights" (FEMM), "Development" (DEVE), "Human Rights" (DROI) and "Culture and Education" (CULT) Committees. Each meeting is the object of a detailed report, which recounts the debates, and which gathers the official reference documents useful for the understanding of the interventions in the Committee. These reports are sent to Board members, and serve as a solid information base for the association's action themes.

Besides these reports, "legislative forms" are written, which summarize the state of the legislative state of each case. These forms are filled in after each Committee reunion by whoever attended the debates. As a result, it is easier to find out the state of play for each dossier that AEDH follows.

- **Public hearings**

Public hearings are organised regularly within the parliamentary committees. Open to all, they allow European citizens to take on current events and to understand how legal texts are discussed within the European institutions.

Visitors or NGO representatives like those of AEDH can only take part in the debates if they are invited to do so by the administration of the Committee responsible for the hearing. However, they are encouraged to submit their work and research linked to the topics in question to members of Parliament.

During the year, AEDH has attended five public hearings organised by the "Civil liberties, Justice and Home affairs" Commission:

- * "Cyber attacks against information systems" (October 2011)
- * "Democratic accountability of the internal security strategy and the role of Euro-pol, Eurojust and Frontex" (October 2011)
- * "A common European asylum policy by 2012? Asylum and reinstallation" (October 2011)
- * "The implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights two years after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty" (November 2011)
- * "The situation in Hungary" (February 2012)

It also attended a hearing organised by the « Petitions » Committee:

- * "Complaints on fundamental rights" (October 2011)

It is important to note that within the framework of the LIBE hearing on the Hungarian situation, AEDH had given a number of its contacts of representatives of the Hungarian civil society. This way, Balasz Denes, executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU) that AEDH had met in June 2011 during its Budapest trip, intervened during the audition. He was able to bring an unbiased point of view on the Hungarian situation, which was missing in several other participants.

- **Conferences organised by political groups**

Throughout the year, political groups organise numerous thematic conferences within the European Parliament. When a conference relates to one of the association's themes of action, AEDH attends the discussion.

It is worth noting AEDH's presence for the following conferences:

- "Conference on European initiative" (June 2011), organised by the Greens group
- "EU migration policy in the light of the Schengen agreement" (September 2011), by the Bulgarian and Romanian delegations of the EPP group
- "Migration : rights of irregular migrants" (October 2011), by the S&D group
- "Working hours and EU migration policy : new attacks on the rights of workers" (October 2011), by the GUE/NGL group and the European Social Forum

Each of these conferences enables AEDH to improve its expertise on the examined topics, and allows AEDH representatives to network not only with the members of Parliament, but also with representatives of civil society. Furthermore, in these conferences AEDH can diffuse its opinions and positions, press releases or analyses, which it was able to do during the GUE/NGL audition where the press release on "legal immigration" was released and was welcomed, notably by trade unions. The minutes from each one of these conferences is archived at AEDH.

- **Intergroups in the European Parliament**

AEDH, following the priorities which came forth in the May 2011 General Assembly, was much less active this year within the intergroup Public Services, which it attended only twice.

However, AEDH was more active in the Privacy Platform intergroup, for which it attended all meetings, about the protection of personal data.

Pierre Barge intervened during a reunion of the intergroup "Extreme Poverty and Human Rights" on November 30th, 2011. In his speech, he spoke of the situation of the Roma within the EU, victims of violence and blatant discrimination, and put into evidence the necessary intervention of the European Commission, guardian of the Treaties and therefore of the Union's values.

- **Members of European Parliament "friends of AEDH"**

This year, AEDH concretely developed and formalised its activities within the informal group "friends of AEDH". Firstly, as seen in the first part of this report, AEDH organised, along with MEP Marie-Christine Vergiat, a conference, on October 12, 2011, at the European Parliament about "The consequences and repercussions of the Arab revolutions on the politics of the European Union", in which several parliamentarians from the group participated. This conference was a clear success.

Also within this framework and again with the help of Marie-Christine Vergiat, AEDH organised a lunchtime meeting with several MEP's on the Hungarian question and the European institutions' appropriation and action on the subject, specifically that of the Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The meeting, held on February 15th 2012 during the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, brought together four MEP's, Pierre Barge and Knut Albrecht of AEDH, as well as Balasz Denes, Executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, who AEDH had met during its trip to Hungary. The purpose of the meeting was to give the attendants a detailed political analysis of the situation in Hungary, revolving around human rights. The creation of another seminar surrounding the group's activities was suggested.

- **Other conferences**

AEDH was invited to a debate organised by MEP's Jan-Philip Albrecht and Franziska Keller, both members of the Green group, at the European Parliament on november 24th, 2011. The topic was "Two years after the Stockholm Programme, on the way to e-fortress Europe?". The seminar, attended by Pierre Barge and MaryseArtiguelong, was very open to participation. The issue of a fortress Europe was tackled in two ways: from a migration point of view, an increasingly closed-off Europe, in which States reaffirm their will to control migration within their national borders, and control entering migration flows, denying international protection to those who need it. The data protection dimension was also brought forth, since migration is controlled in numbers but also by filing migrants.

AEDH also took part in the round-table named "Responding to boat arrivals and mixed migration flows in the Mediterranean: What role for the EU?", which consisted of a discussion between MEP's and NGO's about what role the European Union should have, following the Arab revolutions, in the taking in of migrants and asylum seekers.

The invitations to debates within the European Parliament, directly with parliamentarians, show that AEDH's positions are more and more taken into consideration by MEP's.

B. Relations with the European Commission

Although, as of today, they aren't as thorough as with the Parliament, AEDH interventions and relations with the Commission are significant. Indeed, AEDH participates in every Active European Citizenship Group meeting, which are organised by DG Communication. This year, AEDH took part in two of these meetings, one in june 2011 and the other in december 2011. Also, AEDH attends the Commission reunions, seminars and conferences to which it is regularly invited. The Commission shows the recognition it has for AEDH through these invitations. As explained in the first part of this report, in the paragraph relating AEDH activities regarding personal data protection in the European institutions, AEDH took part in the DG Home Affairs work group on "future options for data retention within the EU", which took place on june 8th, 2010. It also attended the "Warming up for the citizens' initiative" conference, put in place by one of the Commission's Vice-presidents, MrMarosSefcovic, on january 26th, 2012.

Moreover, AEDH is active when the Commission reaches out to the civil society within the framework of public consultations.

AEDH responded to three of these public consultations proposed by the European Commission. The first one, in june 2011, related to migration and "Global approach on the migration", and resulted in the adoption, on november 18, 2011, by the Commission, of the "Global approach of migration and mobility" Communication. AEDH then responded, through its work group on "deprivation of liberty", to the consultation regarding the Commission's green paper of june 2011 on detention. This answer, submitted in november 2011, allowed a delegation from the "deprivation of liberty" working group to meet two members from the Commissioner for Justice and Fundamental Rights office, Mrs Viviane Reding, on november 30th. Finally, AEDH responded, in the end of february 2012, to the Commission consultation regarding the revision of the Directive regulating family reunification.

These responses are detailed in the first part of this report, in the parts concerning the immigration priority, as well as under the confinement priority.

C. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and civil society Liaison Group

AEDH has been a member of the EESC's Liaison group since 2007, where it represents the Human Rights sector. The Liaison Group is a place of propositions and dialogue initiated by the EESC, attended by members of EESC, of NGO's, and of the main sectors of civil society.

Presidency is shared by the EESC President and by a representative of civil society organisations, presently Jean-Marc Roirant.

During the year 2011-2012, AEDH attended 8 of the Liaison Group's meetings.

The Liaison Group has determined one of its priorities for 2011 to be "Sustainable development and wellbeing of the citizen", in anticipation of the Rio+20 summit. In this context, AEDH attended, in march 2011, a conference organised by the Liaison group on sustainable development. This theme not being one of its priorities, AEDH did not participate in the writing of the sustainable development group's analysis paper. In 2012, the Liaison group's theme of work is dialogue and participation with civil society at the European level, and AEDH intends to bring its experience and expertise to the activities organised around this theme (particularly for the Civil Society Day which will take place on may 8th, 2012).

Along these lines, a NGO alliance was created within the Liaison Group for the 2013 year of citizens; its purpose is to bring civil society's point of view and reflexions on citizenship and on the organisation of the European year to the European Commission. AEDH is, of course, a member of this alliance and intends to weigh in heavily, so that 2013 can honour and level with this task of citizenship.

AEDH also regularly attends conferences organised by the EESC Symposium. In 2011-2012, AEDH took part in the EESC Symposium-NGO's Euromed on september 9th, 2011. It was also present on january 26th, 2012, at a EESC public hearing on citizen initiative, as well as on february 23rd, 2012 at the "Third civil society day".

D. The Fundamental Rights Agency

AEDH is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform FRA. This platform is an integral part of the Fundamental Rights Agency created by the february 15th, 2007 regulation. Today, it functions as an ensemble of representatives of national civil society organisations and national networks, and makes propositions relating to the Agency's programs and actions. The platform meets once a year in Vienna as a civil society Forum, including conferences and debates on the state of Human Rights in the EU and on the Agency's activities. This year, AEDH will participate in the annual conference of the 2012 platform, which will take place on april 19th and 20th, and will focus on two themes: cooperation between national human rights institutions, equality bodies and civil society, and multiple discriminations.

Pierre Barge is also a member of the Advisory Panel that regularly meets in Vienna. Its nine members support the work of the Director of FRA in organising and coordinating the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP), and advise the preparation of associated meetings and events. They are regularly consulted outside the meetings in Vienna by telephone or by electronic communication. Pierre Barge traveled to Vienna on september 19th and 20th to attend an Advisory Panel meeting. Moreover, he will be a candidate in the election for the renewal of Panel members, which will take place during the annual conference in april 2012.

In addition to working within the Platform and the Advisory Panel, AEDH participates in the thematic conferences organised by FRA. Thus, Pierre Barge and one of AEDH's permanent staff attended FRA's annual conference which focussed on "Dignity and rights of irregular migrants"; this was saluted by AEDH, as the first institutional effort to discuss this topic. This conference took place and november 21 and 22, 2011 in Warsaw. The content of the debates and what they brought to AEDH is detailed in the first part of this report, in the immigration priority.

Furthermore, AEDH widely spreads FRA reports, studies and positions. Every publication by the Agency is transmitted by a flashnews to all members of AEDH.

E. European Union Council-EU presidency

Concerning its relation with the Council of the EU and the European Council, AEDH's work consists mainly in following its activities as it is difficult for AEDH to be informed

beforehand of when the Council is making decisions.

However, AEDH did participate in an event set up by the Hungarian EU Presidency in the beginning of June, 2011: the European Civil Meeting, which brought together nearly 400 people from the European civil society. This conference pored over the different types of civil participation for citizens and organisations. AEDH was able to bond with the Hungarian civil society, particularly in parallel of the conference.

In addition, for the first time, AEDH was directly contacted by the permanent representation of Sweden to the EU, following a January 2012 press release on the topic of PNR's. As explained in the first part of the report, in the personal data protection priority, this was AEDH's first ever opportunity to have influence on a person directly involved in the negotiations within the Council on Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) working group.

II. European NGO networks

AEDH is more and more represented in the Brussels networks. It is involved in different NGOs networks and has set up partnerships with NGOs which share its fields of work. During the year, the association attends meetings organised by NGOs and networks based in Brussels. The proximity with associations and other lobbies which work at the EU level keeps AEDH informed. It enables it to gather documentation which includes converging and diverging points of view on different topics. These meetings encourage debates and reflections around the activities of AEDH. They also enable the planning of joint actions.

AEDH sometimes deplores its lack of time and means to put a lot more of itself into its relationships with partners. However, in the present state of affairs, these meetings enable AEDH to be more and more know, to build ties, and to maintain relationships, possibly leading to joint actions.

This year, AEDH indeed took part to several joint actions which will be detailed hereunder.

A. Meetings in networks in which AEDH is a member

- **Euro-mediterranean human rights network**

The EMNHR General Assembly, which occurs every three years, will take place from May 31st to the 3rd of June 2012 in Copenhagen. The EMNHR will then vote for AEDH to become an active member, as it is now only an observing member. Even so, AEDH was implicated in several EMNHR actions and activities.

Firstly, AEDH actively participates in two EMNHR working groups: the "asylum and immigration" group, in which AEDH Vice-president takes part, at the rate of two or three meetings a year; and the "genre" group, in which Knut Albrecht, AEDH General Secretary, participates. AEDH has also attended the EMNHR conference on "EU policy on gender equality in the Euro-mediterranean region", on November 21st, 2011.

This year, AEDH also took part in a mission to support DorosPolykarpou, Executive Director of KISA, a Cypriot organisation for the protection of Human rights, who Knut Albrecht had met in September 2011. Indeed, DorosPolykarpou, was accused by the government of Cyprus of instigating riots and participating to an illegal gathering following the Rainbow Festival of November 5th, 2011. In July 2011, EMNHR, PICUM, ENAR and Migreurop had already gone to meet the Cypriot Minister of Justice. In December 2011, a second delegation was sent to Cyprus to attend MrPolykarpou's first trial hearing. AEDH was not able to travel to Cyprus, but nevertheless supported the action by signing two letters sent beforehand to the Cypriot government. Following the visit, a press release was published and signed by AEDH. In this context, an international conference on the criminalisation of the defenders of migrants' rights will be organised later in the year. AEDH will support and take part in any action which defends the rights of DorosPolykarpou.

- **Euromed Non-governmental platform**

AEDH joined this Platform in 2009. It brings together local and regional networks that defend human rights all around the Mediterranean basin. Within the framework of its activities relating to the analysis of the consequences of the Arab revolutions on EU policies, AEDH participated, as explained beforehand in this report, in the conference organised by the Platform in Rabat on december 9th, 10th and 11th 2011, on "youth and democratic transition in the mediterranean region".

- **European Civic Forum**

Created in 2005, the European Civic Forum became an association in 2006.

AEDH was a member of the Executive Board in the past. It is now a member of the Board of Directors. Indeed, Pierre Barge took part in the Board meeting on december 12th, 2011. This year, the European Civic Days which were planned for Fall 2011 did not take place and were replaced by the European Civil Meeting in Budapest, in june 2011, attended by AEDH.

Moreover, AEDH took part in ECF activities in the context of its campaign for the establishment of a european status for associations, foundations and european mutual insurance companies. This campaign, which has already resulted in the adoption of a written declaration by the Parliament in february 2011, continues with the help of associations within the EASEA alliance. In this context, AEDH attended a cocktail at the European Parliament on july 12th, 2011 for the launch of a Manifesto supporting the creation of a european status of european associations.

B. Networks AEDH works with

- **Human Rights and Democracy Network, HRDN**

This informal network gathers NGOs working for the defence and promotion of human rights and democracy. This network gathers a high number of NGOs present in Brussels. Its works are led by a troika elected during the general assembly. The members of the network primarily work on the relations between the EU and third countries, which is why the discussions within the network are often about the question of human rights outside of the EU. However, in 2009, AEDH joined the working group on the Fundamental Rights Agency. Pierre Barge was able to intervene in may 2011 during the HRDN monthly meeting, in order to present the work carried out in the FRA Advisory Panel, and to search for a possible action in 2012, year in which the Agency's activities are evaluated.

- **NGO Platform on asylum and immigration policy of the EU**

AEDH is part of the NGOs Platform on EU Asylum and Migration Policy. This platform is an informal group of NGOs present in Brussels. It meets approximately every three months. It is currently coordinated by UNHCR, which initiated the Platform in 1994. A high number of NGOs working in the field of asylum and migration are represented in the Platform (AI, ECRE, ENAR, PICUM, Caritas Europe, JRS, Solidar, MdM, HRW, MPG, and others).

The Platform is shared into two subgroups: the asylum subgroup, coordinated by ECRE (European Council for Refugees and Exiles) and the migration subgroup, currently coordinated by MPG (Migration Policy Group). This year, in addition to platform and subgroups meetings, AEDH has taken part in specific initiatives, notably within a group formed to study the response to the family reunification consultation as described in the first part of this report in the immigration priority, as well as in a group working on the 2014-2020 framework for home affairs.

- **European Network Against Racism, ENAR**

For many years now, AEDH has been a member of ENAR through its participation in the European coordination of ENAR. ENAR gathers European networks involved in the fight against racism in the European Union. Establishing coalitions and partnerships at the European and national level is one of the network's components. It is currently led by SaidaOunissi from FEMYSO. This year, AEDH has participated in the ENAR coordination meeting on november 3rd, 2011, during which each organisation explained how it intended to invest itself in ENAR. Future perspectives for the network were also addressed.

- **CELSIG, European Liaison Committee on Services of General Interest**

AEDH is a member of CELSIG and participates in most of the network meetings. CELSIG is an action and reflection plan which gathers NGOs, research centres and trade unions. AEDH keeps up with its work in the framework of its surveillance and monitoring activities.

- **European Social Forum**

AEDH is also present at the European Social Forum. It participates in the discussions which continue by email through the mailing lists of the Forum. Since the cancellation of the Istanbul Forum of 2010, the European Social Forum has not met.

- **FEANTSA**

The European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) is campaigning against housing exclusion in Europe. AEDH pays particular attention to their work since they are the only network which focuses on homelessness at the European level. Since one of the working themes of AEDH is the protection of social rights, AEDH tries to build closer ties with FEANTSA. AEDH thus participates regularly in its activities and it particularly took part in the conference titled "EU citizenship, homelessness and free movement" which took place on february 8th, 2012 at the European Parliament. AEDH worked alongside FEANTSA in its work relating to the Directive on seasonal employment-FEANTSA focussing on migration- and in the context of the migration subgroup of the NGO platform.

- **ATD Quart-Monde**

ATD Quart-Monde, a worldwide working NGO, struggles for human rights, with the objective of ensuring the poorest people the exercise of their rights, and to move towards eradication of extreme poverty. AEDH has once again taken part in the association's people's University, "Citizens united for a europe active against persistent poverty", on march 5th, 2012.

- **European Trade Union Conference ETUC-CES**

The importance of the ETUC network, which represents 83 unions in 36 European countries, can not be ignored on the European scene. Indeed, ETUC is involved in many areas and organises a large number of events. Therefore, AEDH thinks it is important to establish a strong relationship with ETUC, particularly in the field of economic and social rights. To this end, AEDH actively participates in the Joint Social Conference meetings. Notably, it took part in the JSC Spring Conference, on march 29th and 30th 2012 in Brussels.

- **PICUM**

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a non-governmental organisation based in Brussels. This NGO aims at promoting the respect of human rights for all undocumented migrants in Europe. AEDH maintains excellent relations with their representatives in Brussels and is regularly invited to attend the conferences they organise. Relations between AEDH and PICUM have been strengthened this year. AEDH has kept collaborating with PICUM and other NGO's on a work about the "seasonal workers" directive. It also participated in the conference on the state of "Undocumented Migrant Women in Europe: Bridging local realities to the EU policy level", on December 12th and 13th 2011.

Pierre Barge and one of AEDH's permanent staff also met with Michele Levoy, PICUM director, on January 12th 2012 in order to discuss the possibility of joint projects. Many themes surfaced during the 3 hour long meeting: the situation of the Roma people in the EU, the organization of a conference on collective action to enforcing social rights of migrant workers, the situation of undocumented minors, future FRA projects and calls for EPIM EPIM (European Program on Integration and Migration) projects.

- **Migreurop**

Migreurop is a European and African network of activists and researchers working on a priority theme: international migration. It vigorously denounces European migrant imprisonment policies. AEDH was one of many organizations to sign the Migreurop publication of July 8th, 2011 titled "The Mediterranean: NATO finally comes to the aid of shipwrecked migrants, but the European Union refuses to admit them". Migreurop also promotes the campaign to support DorosPolykarpou, Director of KISA, also supported by AEDH.

- **CEDAG**

AEDH was invited to attend and intervene in a CEDAG round table on September 13th, 2011, about the state of fundamental rights in the EU. In his speech, Pierre Barge underlined the importance of a European citizenship based on residence rather than nationality, as well as the importance of creating mechanisms to ensure the effective application of the Charter of fundamental rights.

Furthermore, AEDH agreed to a partnership on a project submitted to the Commission DG Home affairs by CEDAG, called "Together for integrated communities". This project, part of the European Fund for the Integration of non-Community nationals, has three main goals: a better public perception of migration and diversity, a better management of diversity in the suburbs, and increased participation of immigrants in all aspects of public life.

The European Commission should decide whether the project has been validated by May or June 2012.

C. Other thematic conferences

In addition to the conferences referred to in the first part of this report, linked to AEDH priority themes, and those cited in reference to AEDH activities linked with European institutions of NGO networks, AEDH regularly attends other conferences which bring up themes it watches and monitors.

- **"Women for Europe and the citizens' initiative"**

This conference, organized by the Robert Schuman Foundation, took place on September 21st at the European Parliament. It analyzed the role and status of women within citizens' initiative.

- **"International Right to Know Day"**

This seminar took place on September 28th, 2011 at the Parliament, and was organized by the European Mediator. Its goal was to develop good practice and a system which would ensure transparency and an effective right to access information. Propositions of European policy reform were brought forth.

- **"Towards a 'common European space' for Human rights?"**

The Council of Europe Office in Brussels invited AEDH to attend a breakfast briefing, on January 10th, 2012, during which the possibility of the EU and the Council of Europe working together to establish a European area of fundamental rights was discussed. This meeting brought together members of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

- **"Income, Commons and Democracy: European Forum"**

This conference, put together by European Alternatives and its Italian member ARCI, took place in Rome in February 2012. Nearly 40 organizations, networks and social movements participated in the three days of seminars. AEDH was represented by Josephine D'Angelo, one of its individual members. In this forum, the discussion revolved around the possibility of creating a common European minimal income, particularly in the light of the opportunities offered by the European initiative instrument.

The implementation of this campaign will be further discussed during seminars which will take place in the UK, Bulgaria, Romania and France in the following months.

III. Relations with AEDH members

One of the principles that guide AEDH action is to increase exchanges with its members and to strengthen and lead its network. On the occasion of its visits in European countries, AEDH contacts its national member in order to visit, meet and discuss with its staff and organize joint actions.

These meetings with AEDH members' boards are an opportunity to have very fruitful exchanges, to have a better knowledge of our members' actions on the field, to explain the AEDH activities in Brussels, and to better understand what we expect from each other.

The other main objective of AEDH is to build a European network of associations working in the field of human rights that represents the diversity of the European Union. Through a more developed and larger network, the AEDH tries to reach out more citizens, through its members. In that perspective, AEDH continues to establish contacts with new associations in order to establish itself in European countries where it is not already represented.

The enthusiasm of its individual members also led AEDH to meet with some of them to discuss how they could become involved in the association's activities.

A. AEDH members

- **Trips and meetings**

- **** Human Rights League (France) (LDH)***

AEDH met several times with LDH elected and permanent representatives in Paris, notably in the beginning of 2012 to work on several European projects under development, but also during AEDH meetings organized in French LDH buildings (for instance, the "deprivation of liberty" group meeting in October 2011).

AEDH has worked closely with Board member Catherine Teule, as she manages the asylum topic and therefore supervises permanent staff and interns' work relating to this

topic. She especially took part in the elaboration of the note on the "reception" directive.

****Human Rights League- Open and United Luxembourg (ALOS-LDH)***

In Brussels, AEDH met several times with Serge Kollwelter and Claude Weber, president of LDH-ALOS, to work on several AEDH projects. Indeed, as a AEDH Board member, Serge Kollwelter had volunteered to work on migration topics. He therefore travelled to Brussels several times in order to work with the permanent staff on two main themes: the European Commission note on the "legal immigration" package, and the response to the Commission consultation on family entry and settlement.

In addition, the 2011 AEDH general assembly was held in ALOS-LDH buildings.

****Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte (ILMR)***

AEDH met, on numerous occasions, with Knut Albrecht, representative of the Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte, in Brussels, within the framework of conferences but also to work in the headquarters. Notably, the main office and Knut Albrecht were in contact during the "Friends of AEDH" events.

In addition, AEDH translated a slogan for its German member in 23 different languages, for an event on January 27th, 2012, commemorating the shutting down of the Auschwitz camp, in front of the Berlin Museum of History.

****Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía (APDHA)***

AEDH met twice with Angela Ciudad of IDHC: in October 2011 in Paris and in February 2012 in Brussels. These meetings were held as part of the "deprivation of liberty" working group, but IDHC activities, news and projects were also discussed.

****Black and Ethnic Minorities in Scotland (BEMIS)***

AEDH travelled to Scotland in November 2011 in order to meet its member, BEMIS. Tanveer Parnez, Director of national development and AEDH Board member, welcomed AEDH representatives in BEMIS buildings and introduced them to Rami Ousta, BEMIS Director, and to the rest of the team (about ten employees). Tanveer Parnez then talked about BEMIS current affairs and about the way the organization works. Pierre Barge and one of AEDH's permanent staff were able to discuss the Scottish legal and political system in detail with Hugh O'Donnell, responsible for topics of equality and former Scottish parliamentarian. They also met Fiach Ó Broin-Molloy, project leader working on a specific project relating to handicap and identity.

The Grundtvig project, for which BEMIS will once again be a partner in 2012, was also discussed.

****Otwarta Rzeczpospolita***

During its trip to Poland in November 2011, AEDH met three Board members of its Polish league. They presented their recent activities (anti-discrimination campaign in schools, "Society against hate" campaign, and current human rights affairs in their country - the legal recognition of a neo-Nazi group and the rise of the far-right, rise of discrimination notably towards the Roma people). AEDH presented its current activities and future projects, and discussed in which ways Otwarta could get involved.

****Ligataliana de i diritti dell'Uomo (LIDU)***

In December 2011, Pierre Barge travelled to Rome in order to attend and award the LIDU prize to the Lampedusa citizens, for their solidarity with the migrants arriving from south-mediterranean countries following the Arab revolutions.

There, the AEDH President met Alfredo Arpaia, LIDU President, and several LIDU Board members. He also met with Josephine d'Angelo, individual AEDH member, who sometimes represents LIDU in conferences in Italy when no other Board member is able to.

****Malta Association of Human Rights (MAHR)***

Catherine Teule and Pierre Barge met several times (December 2011 and January 2012) with David Busutill, MAHR President. During these meetings, the human rights situation in Hungary was discussed, as well as other current affairs: ambient racism, law

recognizing the individual starting at its conception, privatization of public transport and toll discrimination between nationals and others, expulsion of Serbian and Croatian nationals.

David Busutill also shared the contact details of Neil Falzon, ADITUS President. (the ADITUS organization had contacted AEDH, see below), and committed himself to share contact details of Sicilian, Slovakian, and Romanian personalities with which AEDH could communicate.

***Comite Helsinki Tcheque (CHT)**

AEDH met with Peter Uhl, its CHT contact, during the "deprivation of liberty" working group meeting in Paris in October 2011, but also on March 3 to 6, 2012, when Pierre Barge travelled to the Czech Republic in order to prepare the AEDH 2012 General Assembly which will take place in Brno. During this trip, Pierre Barge and Anna Sabatova, CHT President, went to Brno in order to solve some issues regarding the organization of the GA.

- **Invitations to conferences**

AEDH responds with enthusiasm to any invitation from its members. This is how Pierre Barge was invited by LIDU to award a prize to the Lampedusa citizens for their solidarity with migrants arriving from southern Mediterranean countries following the Arab revolutions (see beforehand).

B. Contacts with new members

Each trip to a EU country, be it to meet its members, for seminars, conference or other, is an opportunity for AEDH to get in contact with organizations or people who may become active or individual members of AEDH, and/or to take part in the establishment of a permanent human rights defense structure at the national or regional level.

- **Hungary**

AEDH met four associations during its trip to Hungary in June 2011. Three of these (European Roma Rights Centre, Legal Defense Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities, (NEKI), and the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)) were centered on the Roma situation. It was agreed that exchanges would take place with these organizations regarding the project to report violence inflicted on the Roma people, and regarding the disturbing reform of the Hungarian Constitution. AEDH has kept very good contact particularly with the Executive Director of HCLU, Balasz Denes, who came to present the Hungarian situation following the constitutional reform, during a meal on February 15th with European members of parliament, within the framework of the "friends of AEDH" group. The possibility of HCLU becoming part of the AEDH network will be examined.

The fourth organization met by AEDH in Budapest is the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HCC), co-presided by Andras Kadar, with who Pierre Barge and one of AEDH's permanent staff spoke. The HCC is a rather generalist organization, therefore the discussion revolved around different topics (imprisonment, reform of the Hungarian Constitution, Roma situation), and also on their modes of action. The HCC was interested in joining the AEDH network, and the director will bring this question up during their general assembly.

- **Cyprus**

Knut Albrecht travelled to Cyprus in September 2011. There, he met with DorosPolykarpou, Executive director of KISA, which is facing legal issues today, as explained previously in this report. They talked about a possible collaboration on the asylum and immigration themes. DorosPolykarpou also invited AEDH to become associated in the organization of a congress on immigration, which should have taken place in Cyprus in

December. Because of Doros Polykarpou's legal issues, this congress was cancelled. Knut Albrecht also met with Eliza Savvidou, national mediator, and George P. Crassas, head of administration. Knut Albrecht presented the different fields in which AEDH is active, and the mediator did the same. She has informed us that a new organization is being set up and that she will keep us informed of any developments.

- **United Kingdom**

AEDH, during its trip to Scotland, met with, other than its member BEMIS, the Scottish Human Rights Commission, based in Edinburgh, with which it was agreed to stay in contact in order to exchange information on the UK adoption of a Bill of Rights, which would replace the Human Rights Act of 1998, through which the European Convention of Human Rights is applicable.

AEDH also took this opportunity to travel to Northern Ireland, where it met with three organizations: the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), which works very little on European issues but with which AEDH will keep in contact particularly regarding imprisonment; the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, as well as the Law Centre of Belfast which provides social and legal help, notably relating to asylum and immigration. The people in the Law Centre seemed very interested by European issues of immigration and asylum, and wished to stay in contact with AEDH in order to assess the impact of European policies on national ones.

- **Poland**

Other than its member, AEDH met three organizations during its November 2011 trip to Warsaw.

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland (HRHR), with which contact was already established due to the preexisting relations between Pierre Barge and Dominika Bychawska, is also a member of the FRA consultation committee. It has shown interest in working on several specific projects with AEDH, and attending the April 2012 General assembly, before discussing a possible application to AEDH. The HFHR will be a partner, just like AEDH, in the "personal data" project proposed by the French LDH.

Also, AEDH met with the Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, with which information will be exchanged if AEDH takes part in the campaign to access detention centers in Europe. The third organization met by AEDH during this trip is the Roma People Association in Poland. This organization will send information to AEDH relating to its project to report violence inflicted to the Roma people. A possible collaboration of the Grundtvig report was also discussed.

- **Bulgaria**

AEDH travelled to Bulgaria in 2010 in order to get in contact with one of its individual members and other people wishing to set up a human rights defense organization in Bulgaria. This project was carried out, and the new organization -AEDH Bulgaria (ADHR)- officially applied to become an AEDH member. After a AEDH Board consultation, ADHR became an observing member in the beginning of November 2011. Its application to become an active member will be submitted to the General Assembly vote on April 28th, 2012.

Pierre Barge also met Georgi Michev in Brussels in the beginning of October 2011. Georgi Michev is a Board member of the ELHRB organisation in Bulgaria. One of this organization's founders is Adrian Pantev, founder of Generation 112, and a partner of AEDH. These two men had a detailed discussion which continued through emails after the meeting. ELHRB invited Pierre Barge to take part in a conference in November 2011 in Bulgaria, which, for various reasons, did not take place.

- **Malta**

AEDH was contacted during fall 2011 by ADITUS, an NGO from Malta created in March 2011. The purpose of this NGO is to watch and act on the accession to fundamental rights by individuals and groups of individuals. Catherine Teule was able to meet them, as she had travelled to Malta in December 2011 for the Consultative Forum of EASO (European bureau for asylum support). The asylum and immigration topics were at the centre of the discussion. Catherine Teule explained to ADITUS what the procedure was in order to officially apply to become a member of AEDH.

C. Partner Members

- **EDRI**

EDRI is a European network working on digital rights and privacy protection. EDRI and AEDH have often worked together in the past and EDRI became a partner member of AEDH in September 2009. AEDH took part in "Freedom not Fear", three days of events, in September 2011, organized, inter alia, by EDRI. The activities which were carried out are further developed in the first part of this report, in the "protection of personal data" priority.

- **Generation 112**

Generation 112 was created in 2009. It is a reflection platform on 12 topics. The association aims at generations which experienced the fall of the Berlin wall. The objective is to encourage mutual understanding between Eastern and Western citizens, notably through the build-up of projects in Bulgaria and Romania. It is about seeing how problems are dealt with on the Eastern side and on the Western side in order to give a voice to all.

AEDH has developed very good relations with Erwan Quinio and Adrian Pantev, co-founders of Generation 112.

- **Solidar**

Solidar is a European network of NGOs working to promote social justice in Europe and in the world. It is composed of 52 member organizations, including 20 in the EU. Solidar cooperates with civil society organizations and trade unions.

AEDH has been a member of Solidar since June 2011. On October 5th, 2011, it went to the round-table organized by Solidar on the topic of equality between national and migrant workers, which took place at the European Parliament. AEDH was also invited, on March 6th 2012, to the Silver Rose Awards. Furthermore, AEDH and Solidar collaborated on the "seasonal employment" case.

D. Individual members

The AEDH network also includes individual members, who are more than a hundred, present in 14 European countries (including Switzerland). These individual members support AEDH thanks to their membership, but also in some cases thanks to their voluntary involvement in the association. They contribute to writing feature articles, and to circulating information from the national level to the European level on specific issues regarding human rights.

AEDH also contributes to spreading initiatives undertaken by its members in their country, such the publication of books on human rights. For example, Gwendolyn Albert, an American individual member who lived for a long time in Czech Republic, translates from Czech to English many articles from Romea (a Czech news website) on the situation of Roma people and extreme-right movements in Czech Republic. These transla-

tions are sent to AEDH which then constitutes collections of articles on these themes. AEDH informs its members of European policy evolutions regarding human rights, citizenship and tolerance, in conformity with the top-down strategy shown in its work program. This strategy is, of course, completed by a bottom-up approach which is essential to the functioning of the network: AEDH members call on the Board and informs it and the staff of the current state of fundamental rights in their countries, and suggest joint actions. In addition, AEDH wants to trigger debates and reflection within the network, and to this end, regularly travels to meet with its members in order to meet their militants, to be informed of the national situation, and to debate on topics relating to fundamental rights.

With this work, AEDH is able to extend its network throughout the European Union. A new individual membership in 2010 allowed AEDH to extend its network of member associations to Romania.

IV. AEDH communication

Today, it is time for AEDH to rationalize its communication directed to its members, but also to European citizens. We have to separate the website from other communication tools developed by AEDH for its global impact and its various purposes. The communication specifically directed to the members is based on several tools and uses internal communication channels. On the contrary, external communication, which is a token of AEDH visibility, uses a different approach. Finally, the organization of events during the past year allowed AEDH to gain more recognition at the European level.

A. The website

The website is indivisible from AEDH other activities because it represents a window for AEDH to the outside: organizations, citizens and institutions. It is particularly directed to all actors who want to find information and a position on human rights in the European Union. The update of the website is essential and the emphasis is put on current news. The general objective is to turn the AEDH website into a reference place concerning human rights for members and internet users.

As it has always been, press releases are systematically published online. Thematic documents produced during the year are also added. For each thematic document, the internet user can also find the main legal texts which correspond to the theme, the AEDH position on the topic when it exists and general documentation regarding the topic. We pay special attention to the news section. The latest additions on AEDH website and the latest newsletter are now visible on the home page. The newsletter is sent to members on Friday and published online the following Monday. The latest works of members are also published under the section "News from our member leagues".

Statistics show a sharp increase in the use of the website during 2011, with 400 daily visits. The efforts lead to a greater visibility of AEDH.

B. Communication directed to AEDH members

- **Newsletter**

The Newsletter offers a weekly presentation of European current news regarding human rights. It is disseminated on a regular basis in its English and French versions.

Subscription to the newsletter has been opened to non-members of AEDH, and is now spread more widely (particularly to NGO contacts, working at the European and national levels). The new version of the newsletter, which contains more sections, seems to have been well received, as we now subscription requests coming from people other than our individual members. Since the last General Assembly, AEDH sent 45 newsletters to its members. The diffusion includes 500 people minimum knowing that this figure

has to be re-evaluated upwards taking into account the multiplier effect of the posting online.

- **Flashnews**

AEDH regularly sends Flashnews to its members. This tool aims at informing in real-time the recipients about the vote of a European text or about the announcement of a new Commission project. The method is advantageous: it is more concise than the newsletter and is a way to update members of our network daily. It is a way to send limited and specific information, usually without any comment. As far as we can, information is published on the AEDH website, in the News section.

AEDH has sent more than 40 Flashnews during the past year. AEDH choose to turn its attention especially to FRA and EDPS news. Indeed, every time EDPS and FRA publish a work, AEDH automatically sends a flashnews.

- **Member news**

"Member news" is another of AEDH's tools to communicate with its members. In order to reinforce its network, and facilitate exchange, AEDH disseminates the information it receives from its members to its entire network. It includes forwarding the newsletters coming from some members, and announcements of campaigns launched by others and publications of reports or positions. It gives the opportunity to note common concerns and sometimes to exchange good practices in order to create a European movement for the defence of human rights that transcends national borders. Since June 2010, about forty news pieces were published this way.

C. *AEDH visibility*

- **Press releases**

AEDH regularly takes positions at the European level to inform European citizens and call on policy makers when there is a breach of Human rights or even only a risk of violating fundamental rights. AEDH has often issued joint press releases with some of its member leagues, to draw attention to situations on violation of human rights taking place in the 27 EU countries and being related to European issues, such as the situation of asylum seekers or harmonization of social rights. AEDH leans its action upon reactivity of its members of the Board, representatives of its member leagues, as well as its employees. When AEDH takes position on a national event, it always consults its concerned member to get its point of view and gather accurate information and updates on the situation. Through its press releases, AEDH encourages citizens to seize the great debates at the European level and to get involved in European democratic life.

The press releases are disseminated within the AEDH network, to its members, to MEPs, to the relevant Directorates-General of the European Commission, to the relevant formation of the Council, to the national and European press, to European networks and NGOs as well as to a set of important persons. Each week, press releases are attached to the Newsletter. Press releases are widely spread to European citizens thanks to their posting on the website in their French and English versions and often in Italian, German or Spanish.

During the past year, AEDH disseminated the following press releases:

AEDH press releases in 2011-2012

June 21st, 2011	A green paper -considerably reticent- on prisons
June 30th, 2011	Hungarian Presidency of the EU: now it's assessment time, but let's remain vigilant
July 28th, 2011	The Mediterranean: NATO finally comes to the aid of shipwrecked migrants, but the European Union refuses to admit them
September 20th, 2011	Frontex: AEDH calls for more guarantees for human rights
October 17th, 2011	Economic immigration in the EU: towards a multi-speed Europe, based on unequal treatment?
November 3rd, 2011	Dignity, equality and solidarity should be the basis of European migration policies
November 24th, 2011	Violence against Roma in the European Union must stop
December 13th, 2011	Second trial observation mission in Cyprus: as Doros Polykarpou's prosecution continues, international attention and support intensify
December 19th, 2011	In paying homage to Vaclav Havel, AEDH salutes all of the women and men struggling for human freedom at the risk of sacrificing their own
January 11th, 2012	It is urgent to protect democracy and rights in Hungary
January 25th, 2012	New EU-US Agreement: with no improvement of guarantees, the agreement must be rejected by the European Parliament!
February 13th, 2012	Greece: a suicide of "increasing austerity"
March 8th, 2012	Gender equality: is progress finally under way for the European Union?

- **Translations**

For many years now, AEDH has relied on volunteers to translate its texts and positions. The two working languages of AEDH are English and French, any communication has to be in both languages. Concerning the joint press releases made with a member, the text is systematically translated into the language of the Member State concerned. The member league is generally in charge of this version. AEDH wants to point out the work done by its network of professional translators and interpreters who are involved on a voluntary basis in the activities of the association. These two networks are managed by a translator and an interpreter; both of them attached to AEDH action. They take responsibility for leading these networks. AEDH staff transmits any translation request to them. This symbolic citizen involvement illustrates the spirit in which AEDH wants to work: citizens who give their time to defend fundamental rights according to their competences!

AEDH can rely on the support of its former and current interns, who are and remain available for translations and proofreading in their mother tongue. All this work is a real challenge because it requires a lot of time and energy. It serves the AEDH cause and is justified by the obligation to be as multicultural and multi-linguistic as possible.

AEDH wants to warmly thank all the voluntary translators for their excellent work and their precious help.

- **2011 greeting card**

Every year, AEDH wishes its members and colleagues a happy new year.

Each year, AEDH makes contact with artists willing to join its wishes. This year, AEDH chose to publish a painting made by one of its individual members, amateur painter Claude Brulant, who graciously offered one of his pieces, "La Liberté", to AEDH. We would like to thank Claude Brulant once more.

- **Interviews**

Following the general assembly of May 27th and 28th, 2011, many articles were featured in Luxembourg newspapers, recounting Friday's seminar and Friday night's public conference. In total, nine articles were published between May 24th and 30th, 2011 relating the AEDH and ALOS-LDH Luxembourg meetings.

AEDH was also referred to in an article titled "Schengen, States' political toy" published on May 12th, 2011 in the Euractiv newspaper (a European business newspaper), following an interview of Pierre Barge about respect of fundamental rights by the EU in its border control. A link to the survey sent to Frontex by AEDH was also included in the article.

In June 2011, following the publication of a report denouncing the violent practices of the police towards migrants in Calais, the Defender of rights in France met a delegation composed of several NGO representatives. Catherine Teule was one of them; she was cited in the end of a *Nouvel Observateur* article (June 22nd, 2011 issue) titled "Police violence: the shocking 'No Border' report".

Pierre Barge was interviewed on January 12th, 2012, by the German newspaper *Die Deutsche Welle*, to talk about the state of fundamental rights in Hungary after the constitutional reform. A detailed article titled "Is Hungary still a democratic country?", also containing the interview, was published on January 17th; Pierre Barge's interview is available online.

Proof of the success of AEDH's press release of January 11th, 2012 on Hungary: it was published in its entirety in a Luxembourg newspaper in its January 14-15th 2012 issue.

Pierre Barge was also interviewed by *Euradionantes*, about the failings of EU policy in the management of migrants following the Arab revolutions. This interview was published online on February 1st, 2012.

D. Events

- **AEDH speech during the LDH Reims Congress in France**

During the annual French LDH Congress in June 2011, Pierre Barge was invited to present AEDH and its activities to a public of civil society actors. In his speech, Pierre Barge also exposed the challenges in the field of fundamental rights at a European level. Following this Congress, several people adhered to AEDH as individual members.

- **Debate meeting on "Consequences and repercussions of Arab revolutions on European Union policies"**

This debate meeting, organized by AEDH and MEP Marie-Christine Vergiat, on October 12, 2011 and the European Parliament, brought together nearly forty representatives of civil society and European institutions. This conference was a success (For further details, see the first part of this report and the second part under 'relations with the European Parliament').

- **Intervention in the CIMADE training on the EU and asylum and immigration policies**

Pierre Barge was invited to intervene during this training session which took place on October 27, 28, and 29th in Strasbourg. This session brought together civil society representatives as well as representatives of European institutions. Mrs Greisbeck, MEP part of the ALDE group, was present.

- **Lunchtime debate on the state of fundamental rights in Hungary**

Once again within the framework of its "friends of AEDH" group, AEDH organized, again with Marie-Christine Vergiat, a lunch with several MEPs around the topic of the Hungarian situation and of the European institutions' appropriation of and action on this topic, specifically that of the Fundamental Rights Agency. Lunch was held on February 15th, 2012, during the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. (For more details, see the paragraph on "relations with the European Parliament")

V. AEDH resources

A. Headquarters

The AEDH office is located on the second floor of 33, rue de la Caserne, 1000 in Brussels, and has been since July 2007. With the new room added in September 2010, AEDH was able to organize meetings with a larger amount of people.

B. Material

AEDH acquired a new computer in November 2011, which replaced an old one. In December 2011, Jean-Paul Wald, individual AEDH adherent, volunteered to revise the whole of AEDH's computer installations, and installed a new server. With the help of an AEDH employee, Jean-Paul Wald spent two days in Brussels in order to put this new system into place. AEDH would like to thank Jean-Paul once more for his precious help.

C. Financial means

- **Contributions from our members**

It is essential for AEDH to be able to rely on its members, especially concerning annual donations. This is not the main financial resource, but it is still necessary for the daily functioning of AEDH and to ensure a minimum of stockholders' equity.

More than ever, it is necessary to find new sources of funding, in the aim of gaining independence and developing joint projects.

AEDH also counts on contributions from its individual members. This contribution is just as important, and this is why AEDH wants to keep recruiting new members. AEDH wanted to launch its individual member recruiting campaign during the 2011 general assembly, but for financial reasons, was not able to do it as effectively as it wished. Nonetheless, several new individual members adhered in 2011-2012.

- **European grants**

For the fifth consecutive time, AEDH applied for an operating grant from the DG Communication of the European Commission, within the framework of the "Europe for citizens" program. Unfortunately, this year the response was negative; this is due to the fact that request have increased but the program's budget has not, therefore the competition between the projects was much higher than usual (in 2012, 103 requests were received and only 12 were accepted).

In order to remedy the situation and ensure its funding for 2012, AEDH applied for another operating grant from the DG Justice, "Fundamental rights and citizenship" program. The results are expected in April.

In order to ensure the funding of specific projects, AEDH became a partner of several European projects let by the French League of Human Rights in the beginning of 2012: project Grundtvig which aims at creating training packages on Human rights for the



Roma in the EU, "Europe for citizens" project for the elaboration of a European citizen Pact, and a DG Justice project of the protection of personal data.

AEDH must thank Viviane de Lafond, Director General of LDH France, who provided valuable assistance to AEDH in the design of these projects.

Responding to calls for proposals and drafting final reports of activities are heavy administrative duties which sometimes take precedence over in-depth dossiers. It is therefore essential that AEDH gains independence by increasing its own resources.

- **Foundations**

To diversify its funding sources, AEDH wishes to contact foundations. An ongoing work is currently being undertaken as to identify foundations that can support AEDH for its projects or on its functioning.

Many foundations fund projects in the areas of human rights, social justice, protection of minorities and vulnerable persons, or the promotion of democracy and peace. Searching for existing foundations which correspond with the objectives of AEDH requires a long term commitment. It can only bear fruit in several months, but it is one way to ensure the success of AEDH projects and sustainability of its financing.

AEDH will propose its "black book of violence inflicted to the Roma people" project to various foundations once the book is finished.

VI. AEDH components

AEDH gathers leagues and associations for the defense of human rights in countries of the European Union.

Since the last general assembly in May 2011, AEDH now has 26 members present in 19 countries including one partner member which aspires to become an active member representing another EU member States. It also has three European networks as partner members. Finally, it is supported by some individual members.

A. Active members

Active members of AEDH	
Germany	Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte
Austria	Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte
Belgium (French speaking)	Ligue des droits de l'Homme
Belgium (Flemish)	Liga voor Mensenrechten
Spain (Andalusia)	Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía
Spain (Catalonia)	Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya
Estonia	Legal Information Centre for Human Rights
Finland	Ihmisoikeusliitto - Finnish League for Human Rights
France	Ligue française pour la défense des droits de l'Homme et du citoyen
Greece	Ligue Hellénique pour les Droits de l'Homme
Italy	Lega Italiana dei Diritti dell'Uomo
Italy	Unione Forense per la Tutela dei Diritti dell'Uomo
Latvia	Latvian Human Rights Committee
Lithuania	Lithuanian Human Rights Association
Lithuania	Lithuanian Human Rights League
Luxembourg	Action Luxembourg Ouvert et Solidaire – Ligue des Droits de l'Homme
Malta	Malta Association of Human Rights
Netherlands	Liga voor de Rechten van de Mens
Poland	Otwarta Rzeczpospolita – Open Republic
Portugal	Associação da Defesa e Promoção dos Direitos dos Cidadãos – Civitas
Czech Republic	Comité tchèque Helsinki
United Kingdom (Scotland)	Black And Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland – BEMIS
Switzerland	Ligue Suisse des Droits de l'Homme

B. Partner members

Partner members of the AEDH

EDRi	European network
Generation 112	European network
Solidar	European network

C. Observing members

Observing members of the AEDH

Bulgarie	Association pour la Défense des droits de l'Homme – Bulgarie (ADHR-BG)
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D. Individual members

AEDH has individual members whose number is growing. They are a living part of AEDH. The management and development of individual memberships are now in the hands of the permanent staff of AEDH. We have to be more ambitious concerning our ability to gain new individual members at AEDH since they provide us with their political and material support

E. Executive board

- **The Board**

AEDH is run by an executive Board, elected by the general assembly for a two-year term. A modification of the composition of the Board is planned for the general assembly of May 2012. A call for applications was sent in the end of January 2012. Since the last General Assembly in May 2011, the executive Board has been the following:

AEDH members of the Board

President	Pierre Barge
Vice-president	Catherine Teule
Vice-president	Jose Rebelo
Vice-president	Philippos Mitleton
General Secretary	Knut Albrecht
General Secretary	Serge Kollwelter
General Secretary	Rafael Lara
Treasurer	Aleksejs Dimitrovs
Member	Alfredo Arpaia
Member	Matricia Bagnato Belfiore
Member	Marija Staciokiene
Individual member representative	Noelle Casanova-Rubechi
Individual member representative	Gianmarco Cesari
Honorary President	Dan Van Raemdonck

- **Interns**

From June 2011, AEDH welcomed the following interns:

Silvia D'Amato (March 2011-September 2011)
Ninon Denormandie (March 2011-September 2011)
Louisiane Kouassi (September 2011-february 2012)
Sabrinna Sanogo (September 2011-March 2012)
Gioia Giacomoni (September 2011-March 2012)
Erell Chardon (February 2012-...)
Delphie Llull (February 2012-...)
Naomi Marienneau (March 2012-...)

- **Volunteers**

Throughout the year, the work of AEDH relies on the activity of volunteers, former interns, and individual members, activists from the national leagues or just supporters of AEDH.

Interns integrated at the headquarters bring daily precious support to the Board members. It is also thanks to the volunteers that administrative tasks such as accounting, ICT, internet, and budget monitoring are carried out.

This year, AEDH has been very sought about for volunteer activities. Indeed, many requests were sent to volunteer at headquarters. However, for a large part of them, these are applications from students who in fact would like to get an internship. Nevertheless, AEDH, as a result of this wave of applications, has been able to constitute a small team of volunteers working on various topics: protection of personal data, imprisonment, violence inflicted to the Roma, help for the newsletter, translations...

Particularly the network of translators, led by Danielle Conge, provides invaluable help to AEDH. This is representative of AEDH's political engagement and its aim to render human rights accessible to all; through their volunteering, translators help build towards that goal.

We would especially like to thank Viviane de Lafond, Maryse Artiguelong, Danielle Conge, Mercedes Conde, Philippe Goossens, Claude Brulant, Cléo Liégeois and Hannah Doyle for their involvement with us and their invaluable help.

The largest part of AEDH activity relies on volunteer and activist action. This is what gives meaning to our organization, being an organization of citizens and of active citizenship: because our member leagues and associations are themselves organizations of active citizens, because our individual members beyond their financial contribution bring us their knowledge and expertise, and because it is primarily volunteers who permit us to continue our daily work and activities at AEDH.

AEDH warmly thanks all of them.