

SECRETARIAT

AS/Mon (2024) CB 08
6 December 2024

To the members of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Tirana and Berat (Albania) on 2 and 3 December 2024

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Tirana and Berat (Albania) on 2 and 3 December 2024, partly in camera, with Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson, on 2 December 2024, and Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), 2nd Vice-Chairperson, on 3 December 2024, in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 2 December 2024 at 10:00 in Tirana**, as regards:
 - **Exchange of views with high-level Albanian authorities:** heard statements by H.E. Ms Elisa Spiropali, Speaker of the Parliament of Albania, and H.E. Mr Taulant Balla, Minister of State for Relations with Parliament of Albania, and held an exchange of views;
 - **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC, and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held a hearing on “The judicial reform process in Poland and the issues raised in this context”, with the participation of H.E. Mr Adam Bodnar, Minister of Justice of Poland, Mr Marcin Wiącek, Polish Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Martin Kuijer, Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Mr Maciej Nowicki, Chairperson of the Board, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, and Mr Jacek Sokołowski, Expert of the Jagiellonian Club Analysis Center for the administration of justice and member of the Jagiellonian Club; heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur, Ms Azadeh Rojhan, on her fact-finding visit to Warsaw (18-20 November 2024);
- **on Monday, 2 December 2024 at 15:15 in Tirana**, as regards:
 - **Public Seminar on “Comprehensive actions to fighting corruption: policies and instruments”:** held a public seminar, with the participation of H.E. Mr Ulsi Manja, Minister of Justice of Albania, H.E. Ms Adea Pirdeni, Minister of State for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption, Mr Olsian Çela, General Prosecutor of the Republic of Albania, Mr Altin Dumani, Director of the Special Structure against Corruption and Organised Crime (SPAK), and Ms Aida Hajnaj, Director of NBI (National Bureau of Investigation);
- **on Tuesday, 3 December 2024 at 10:00 in Berat**, as regards:
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC, and Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): heard an update on the post-electoral situation by the co-rapporteur, Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, and held an exchange of views;

- **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2024)** (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution as amended;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE, and Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC*): heard an update on the post-electoral situation by the co-rapporteurs, and held an exchange of views;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC, and...*): heard a declaration of absence of conflict of interest by Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EC/DA); following a vote, agreed to postpone the appointment of a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC/DA) to the next meeting, pending a clarification as regards the group allocation of this co-rapporteurship;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Greece (periodic monitoring report)** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL, and ...*): postponed the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Mr Didier Marie (France, SOC) to the next meeting;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Spain (periodic monitoring report)** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD, and Ms Valentina Grippo, Italy, ALDE*): after hearing her declaration of absence of conflict of interest on Monday, 2 December 2024, appointed Ms Valentina Grippo (Italy, ALDE) as co-rapporteur, to replace Mr Caspar van den Berg (Netherlands, ALDE);
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Boriana Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD, and ...*): postponed the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) to the next meeting;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EC/DA, and Mr Pablo Hispán, Spain, EPP/CD*): after hearing his declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Mr Pablo Hispán (Spain, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur, to replace Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski (North Macedonia, EPP/CD);
- **The honouring of obligations and obligations by Türkiye** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and ...*): postponed the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Ms Jill Mortimer (United Kingdom, EC/DA) to the next meeting;
- **Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly**: postponed the appointment of a rapporteur to the next meeting;
- **Call for candidates**: made a call for candidates for the following reports:
 - The honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine**
co-rapporteurs: Mr Birgir Þórarinnsson, Iceland, EPP/CD, and....

Call for candidates to replace Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE);
 - The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia**
co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC, and....

Call for candidates to replace Mr Thibaut François (France, EC/DA);
 - The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia**
co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE, and Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC

Call for candidates to replace Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE) whose term of office will end on 23 January 2025;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment**: took note of the details concerning the submission of candidates for the 2025 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment;

- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised the co-rapporteurs for Hungary to conduct a fact-finding visit to Brussels (European Union institutions), and the co-rapporteurs for Poland to conduct a fact-finding visit to the country, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Other business:** took note of the invitation letter by the Chairperson of the Committee to hold a meeting of the Monitoring Committee in Riga (Latvia) on 15 and 16 May 2025, and agreed to accept this invitation, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, 27-31 January 2025 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 4 March 2025
 - Strasbourg, 7-11 April 2025 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Riga, 15-16 May 2025 [subject to the authorisation by the Bureau]
 - Strasbourg, 23-27 June 2025 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 9 September 2025
 - Strasbourg, 29 September-3 October 2025 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 9 December 2025.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Agnieszka Szklanna, Matthieu Monin

Copy:

Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe