

SECRETARIAT

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19 May 2025

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 Riga on 15 and 16 May 2025

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Riga (Latvia) on 15 and 16 May 2025, in camera, with Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD) and then Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), Second Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **on Thursday, 15 May 2025 at 10:45**, as regards:
 - **Exchange of views with the Latvian authorities**: heard a welcoming address by Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD), Deputy Speaker of the Saeima and opening words by Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly; heard statements by Ms Irēna Kucina, President of the Constitutional Court of Latvia, and Ms Lauma Paegļkalna, Vice-Minister of Justice of Latvia, and held an exchange of views;
 - **Public Seminar on “Resilience and preparedness of civil society in the face of crises”**: heard opening words by Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly; heard statements by Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the European Committee for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Ms Inese Vaivare, Director of the National Platform for Development Cooperation, Latvia, Ms Olena Suslova, Founder and Senior Analyst of the Women’s Information Consultative Center, Ukraine, and Mr Iulian Groza, Executive Director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Republic of Moldova, and held an exchange of views;
- **on Thursday, 15 May 2025 at 15:00**, as regards:
 - **Election of the third Vice-Chairperson of the Committee**: agreed to postpone the election to its next meeting;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia** (*co-rapporteurs*: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC, and Ms Sabina Čudić, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE): held an exchange of views on “The human rights situation and challenges to civil society and media in Georgia”, with the participation of Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the European Committee for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), and Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
 - **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary** (*co-rapporteurs*: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE, and Mr Georges Papandreou, Greece, SOC): held an exchange of views on “Challenges to civil society and independent media in Hungary”, with the participation of Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the European Committee for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), and Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;

- **on Friday, 16 May 2025 at 10:00**, as regards:
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, ECPA*): heard an update by the co-rapporteur, Lord David Blencathra, on recent developments in the country, and held an exchange of views;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC, and Ms Victoria Tiblom, Sweden, ECPA*): heard an update by the co-rapporteurs on recent developments in the country and held an exchange of views;
 - **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 by the co-rapporteur, Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, on the situation in the country, and held an exchange of views;
- **on Friday, 16 May 2025 at 14:00**, as regards:
 - **Strengthening mechanisms for early warning and action in conflict prevention** (*rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD, and rapporteur for opinion of the Monitoring Committee: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE*): heard a statement by the rapporteur for report and the rapporteur for opinion, and held an exchange of views;
 - **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Sweden** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Yelizaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD, and Ms Anne Stambach-Terrenoir, France, UEL*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur, Ms Yelizaveta Yasko, on the fact-finding visit to Stockholm (22-24 April 2025) and held an exchange of views;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, ECPA, and Mr Pablo Hispán, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard an update by the co-rapporteur, Mr Pablo Hispán, on recent developments in the country and held an exchange of views;
 - **Post-monitoring dialogue with Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD, and...*): postponed the appointment of a co-rapporteur to its next meeting; held an exchange of views on the parliamentary elections of 11 May 2025;
 - **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for the post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia to conduct a fact-finding visit to the European Institutions in Brussels; authorised the co-rapporteurs for the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria and the co-rapporteurs for Albania and Armenia to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their respective responsibilities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
 - **Other business**: agreed to place a proposal for a request of opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft Constitutional Amendments as well as the recently adopted law on Civil Society in the Slovak Republic on the agenda of its next meeting.
 - **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - 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

Bas Klein, Agnieszka Szklanna, Matthieu Monin

Copy:

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