



SECRETARIAT

AS/Mon (2025) CB 08

11 December 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 Paris on 9 December 2025

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 9 December 2025, in camera, with Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica (Latvia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), second Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC, and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2025)** (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **The functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, ECPA, and Mr Pablo Hispán, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur, Mr Pablo Hispán, of the fact-finding visit to Sarajevo (3-5 November 2025); considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina as amended;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC, and Ms Sabina Čudić, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Tbilisi (10-12 November 2025); agreed to request an opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on the recent amendments to the Organic Law of Georgia on "Political Associations of Citizens" and Article 381 of the Criminal Code of Georgia; asked the Committee's Chairperson to send a letter on behalf of the Committee to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights asking him to investigate the alleged use of prohibited chemical agents against protesters during the mass demonstrations that have taken place in Tbilisi since November 2024;
- **The functioning of democratic institutions in the Slovak Republic** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE, and...*): after hearing from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE) as co-rapporteur, and postponed the appointment of the second co-rapporteur to the next meeting;

- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye** (*co-rapporteurs: Lord David Blencathra, United Kingdom, ECPA, and Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC*): after hearing from him a declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Mr Yves Cruchten (Luxembourg, SOC) as co-rapporteur;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD, and...*): held a hearing on the situation regarding the media in Albania, with the participation of Ms Alina Tatarenko, Head of the Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression of the Council of Europe; Ms Blerjana Bino, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Center Science and Innovation for Development (Albania); and Ms Ena Bavčić, Senior Advocacy and Policy Advisor, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom;
- **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*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Madrid and Barcelona (12-14 November 2025); took note of a letter received from Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (Spain, SOC), and heard a statement by its Chairperson reiterating the confidentiality of all proceedings of the Monitoring Committee;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for Georgia and Spain to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their responsibility, subject to the availability of funds;
- **Call for candidates**: made a call for candidates for the report on the post-monitoring dialogue with Albania, to replace Ms Mónika Bartos (Hungary, ECPA), following her resignation as co-rapporteur;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2026: call for candidates**: took note of the information concerning the submission of candidates for the 2026 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment;
- **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, 26-30 January 2026 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 17 March 2026
 - Strasbourg, 20-24 April 2026 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), May 2026 [subject to receiving an invitation letter and the authorisation by the Bureau]
 - Strasbourg, 22-26 June 2026 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 7 September 2026
 - Strasbourg, 28 September-2 October 2026 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 8 December 2026

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

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe