



SECRETARIAT

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19 March 2026

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 17 March 2026

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 17 March 2026, in camera, with Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), in the Chair, as regards:

- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Sir Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, ECPA, and Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC*): held a hearing on the current human rights situation in Azerbaijan, with the participation of Mr Emin Abbasov, Human Rights Lawyer, Co-founder / Chair of Independent Lawyers Network, Ms Tamar Chanturia, Advisor, International Human Rights Law at Progress & Change Action Partnerships, Coordinator of the Campaign to End Repression in Azerbaijan, and Ms Gulnara Mehdiyeva, Human Rights Defender;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Nicos Tornaritis, Cyprus, EPP/CD, and Ms Liliana Tanguy, France, ALDE*): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs and held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC, and Mr Petri Honkonen, Finland, ALDE*): appointed by acclamation Mr Petri Honkonen (Finland, ALDE) as co-rapporteur on “the honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the co-rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline; postponed the exchange of views on recent developments in the country to a future meeting;
- **The functioning of democratic institutions in the Slovak Republic** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE, and Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): appointed by acclamation Mr Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur on “the functioning of democratic institutions in the Slovak Republic”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the co-rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Christophe Brico, Monaco, EPP/CD, and Mr Didier Marie, France, SOC*): appointed by acclamation Mr Didier Marie (France SOC) as co-rapporteur on “the honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland”, subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the co-rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Pablo Hispán, Spain, EPP/CD, and...*): postponed the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, ECPA) to the next meeting; heard a statement by the co-rapporteur, Mr Pablo Hispán, and held an exchange of views on recent developments, including the repeat presidential elections in Republika Srpska on 8 February 2026;

- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC, and Ms Sabina Čudić, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Tbilisi (10-12 November 2025) and agreed to declassify it; agreed to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on amendments to the Law on Grants, the Law on the Political Union of Citizens and the Criminal Code, as well as related legislation, as adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 4 March 2026;
- **86th Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe (5 March 2026)**: heard an oral report by Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL), representative of the Monitoring Committee at the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe;
- **Call for candidates**: made a call for candidates to nominate a representative and a substitute to represent the Monitoring Committee at the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) for 2026;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026: call for nominations**: took note of the information concerning submission of candidates for the 2026 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2026: call for nominations**: took note of the information concerning the submission of candidates for the 2026 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment;
- **Network of parliamentarians to promote the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights: call for nominations**: appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as its representative to the Network of parliamentarians to promote the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (subject to the ratification of the terms of reference of the Network by the Assembly);
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for Poland and the Slovak Republic to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their responsibility, subject to the availability of funds;
- **Next meetings**: agreed to the new dates for its meeting in Sarajevo (18-19 May 2026), and confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, 20-24 April 2026 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Sarajevo, 18-19 May 2026
 - 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, Damien Cesselin

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Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
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Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
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