



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Mon (2026) CB 01**  
2 February 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 Strasbourg on 26, 27 and 29 January 2026**

**The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**, meeting in Strasbourg on 26, 27 and 29 January 2026, in camera, with Lord Don Touhig (United Kingdom, SOC), oldest member present, and then Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 26 January 2026 at 14:00**, as regards:
  - **Election of the Chairperson of the Committee:** elected Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, by acclamation;
  - **Election of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee:** elected the following Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation:
    - Ms Sabina Čudić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE), First Vice-Chairperson,
    - Mr Gerardo Giovagnoli (San Marino, SOC), Second Vice-Chairperson,
    - Mr Paweł Jabłoński (Poland, ECPA), Third Vice-Chairperson;
  - **Agenda:** agreed to organise a hearing at its next meeting on the allegations made in relation to the use of banned chemical agents to disperse demonstrations in Georgia;
  - **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2025)** (*rapporteur: Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
- **on Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 08:30**, as regards:
  - **The functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, ECPA, and Mr Pablo Hispán, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs, and held an exchange of views; took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
  - **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC, and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to the EU institutions in Brussels on 15-16 January 2026 and agreed to declassify it;
  - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE, and Ms Saara-Sofia Sirén, Finland, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Kyiv (8-10 October 2025) and held an exchange of views;

- **on Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 08:30**, as regards:
  - **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC, and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): took position on 3 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
  - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Sir Christopher Chope, United Kingdom, ECPA, and Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC*): took note of the resignation of Ms Azadeh Rojhan (Sweden, SOC) as co-rapporteur on "The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland", and appointed her by acclamation as co-rapporteur on "The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan", subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the co-rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
  - **Post-monitoring dialogue with Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD, and Mr Paweł Jabłoński, Poland, ECPA*): appointed by acclamation Mr Paweł Jabłoński (Poland, ECPA) as co-rapporteur on the "Post-monitoring dialogue with Albania", subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the co-rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
  - **The functioning of democratic institutions in the Slovak Republic** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE, and....*): postponed the appointment of a second co-rapporteur to the next meeting;
  - **Council for Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission**: decided to propose to the Bureau the following nominations to the Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission) for 2026: Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as member and Ms Liliana Tanguy (France, ALDE) as substitute;
  - **Call for candidates**: made a call for candidates for the following reports:
    - The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands**  
*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlățean, Romania, SOC, and....*  
to replace Ms Stephanie Krisper (Austria, ALDE)
    - The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland**  
*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Christophe Brico, Monaco, EPP/CD, and....*  
to replace Ms Azadeh Rojhan (Sweden, SOC)
    - The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Pablo Hispán, Spain, EPP/CD, and....*  
to replace Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, ECPA)
  - **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 candidates**: took note of the information concerning the submission of candidates for the 2026 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment;
  - **Gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly**: postponed the item to a next meeting;
  - **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their responsibility, subject to the availability of funds;
  - **Other business**: took note of the invitation letter by the parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the initiative of the first Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Sabina Čudić (Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE), to hold a meeting of the Monitoring Committee in Sarajevo on 28 and 29 May 2026, and agreed to accept this invitation, subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly;

- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Paris, 17 March 2026
  - Strasbourg, 20-24 April 2026 [during the Assembly part-session]
  - Sarajevo, 28-29 May 2026  
[subject to 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, Damien Cesselin

Copy:

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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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