



SECRETARIAT

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18 September 2023

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 13 September 2023

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 13 September 2023 in camera, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by France** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD and Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE*): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution as amended;
- **Human rights and humanitarian concerns as a result of the situation in the Lachin corridor**: held an exchange of views with Mr Toivo Klaar, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC and Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): after hearing her declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): after hearing his declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur;
- **The role of the Council of Europe in preventing conflicts, restoring credibility of international institutions and promoting global peace** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE*): considered an opinion and adopted two amendments to the draft resolution prepared by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (rapporteur: Ms Lesia Vasylenko, Ukraine, ALDE);
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to send it to the authorities of Azerbaijan for comments, to be submitted by 27 October 2023 at the latest.
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by the Netherlands** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Stephanie Krisper, Austria, ALDE and Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*): following the announcement of early parliamentary elections in the Netherlands to be held in November 2023, decided to ask the Bureau for an exceptional extension of six months of the validity of the reference, which is due to expire on 19 September 2023;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE and Mr Birgir Thórarinnsson, Iceland, EPP/CD*): agreed to request from the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an opinion on the amendments to the Law on national minorities (communities) of Ukraine;

- **Selection of the periodic monitoring reports in 2023:** considered the countries for periodic review;¹
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EC/DA and Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski, North Macedonia, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) on the follow-up to post-election Conference on “2022 General Elections – Challenges and Lessons learned” (16 June 2023);
- **World Forum for Democracy on “Democracy= peace?” (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2023):** nominated Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) to sit on the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised the co-rapporteurs for Azerbaijan and the Netherlands to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their respective responsibilities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Other business:**
 - authorised Mr Axel Schäfer (Germany, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Serbia on 2-4 October 2023 without the second rapporteur who had to cancel her participation due to important professional commitments;
 - agreed to hold joint hearings with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on *The humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh*; and with the Committee on Equality and non-Discrimination on *National minorities in Ukraine* during the 2023 Fourth Part Session.
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
 - Rome, 4-5 December 2023;
 - Strasbourg, 22-26 January 2024 [during the Assembly part-session];
 - Strasbourg, 22-26 April 2024 [during the Assembly part-session];
 - Strasbourg, 24-28 June 2024 [during the Assembly part-session];
 - Strasbourg, 30 September-4 October 2024 [during the Assembly part-session].

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Agnieszka Szklanna, Matthieu Monin

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Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights

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¹ The votes which took place to select the countries were out of order for procedural reasons, including the absence of the required quorum specified in the internal working methods.