



SECRETARIAT

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8 December 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 Rome on 4 and 5 December 2023

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Rome on 4 and 5 December 2023, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) and Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 4 December 2023 at 9.30 am**, as regards:
 - **The strategies and tools of the Council of Europe to ensure the respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy obligations in the resolution of conflicts:** held a public hearing with the participation of Mr Antonio Tajani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Stefania Craxi, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the Italian Senate, Ms Laura Boldrini, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Raffaele Sabato, Judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Italy, Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Mr Mario Giro, Member of the Community of Sant'Egidio in charge of international relations and Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Chairperson of the Italian Delegation;
- **on Monday, 4 December 2023 at 2.30 pm**, as regards:
 - **Welcome address by the President of the Chamber of Deputies:** heard a welcome address by Mr Lorenzo Fontana, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies;
 - **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2023)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution as amended; took note of the announcement by Mr Samad Seyidov that he would table a dissenting opinion to the report;
 - **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*): taking into account the outcome of the early parliamentary elections in the Netherlands, which were held on 22 November 2023, decided to ask the Bureau for an exceptional extension of one year of the validity of the reference, which is due to expire on 19 March 2024;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Hungary** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE and Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): agreed to request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an opinion on the legislative package on "the defence of national sovereignty" in Hungary;
- **on Monday, 4 December 2023 at 5.00 pm**,
 - Was received by **H.E. Sergio Mattarella**, President of the Italian Republic;

- **on Tuesday, 5 December 2023 at 9.30 am**, as regards:
 - **Selection of the periodic monitoring reports in 2023:** held an exchange of views on the selection of countries for periodic review reports on the honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe and following a vote, selected Greece, Spain and Sweden for report, subject to ratification by the Assembly in accordance with [paragraph 8](#) of the Terms of Reference of the Committee;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur, Ms Christoffersen, on her fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan (20-21 November 2023); considered a draft report; in the absence of the second co-rapporteur, invited the members of the Committee to table their amendments using the customary amendment procedure for reports during the plenary part-session of the Assembly and adopted a draft resolution unamended; took note of the announcement by Mr Samad Seyidov that he would table a dissenting opinion to the report;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and.....*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteur, Mr Schäfer, of his fact-finding visit to Serbia (2-4 October 2023); agreed to declassify the note immediately after the early parliamentary elections scheduled on 17 December 2023 have taken place and agreed that in the meanwhile the note would be transmitted as a restricted document to the members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to observe these early parliamentary elections; made a call for candidates to replace Ms Eva Decroix (Czech Republic, EC/DA);
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Ms Boriانا Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur, Ms Åberg, on the fact-finding visit to Armenia (6-8 November 2023);
 - **Sub-Committee on Conflicts concerning Member States of the Council of Europe:** heard a statement by Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, on the future of the Sub-Committee; held an exchange of views and agreed to return to this issue at its next meeting;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Asim Mollazada, Azerbaijan, EC/DA and Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to send it to the authorities of Albania for comments, to be submitted by 9 February 2024 at the latest;
 - **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Thórhildur Sunna Evarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC and Ms Deborah Bergamini, Italy, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to send it to the authorities of Bulgaria for comments, to be submitted by 9 February 2024 at the latest;
 - **Call for nominations for the 2024 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment:** took note of the details concerning the submission of candidates for the 2024 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment;
 - **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised the co-rapporteurs for Albania, Hungary and Georgia to conduct a fact-finding visit to the country under their respective responsibilities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
 - **Other business:** was informed by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, that the President of the Parliamentary Assembly asked the Venice Commission to prepare a study on the rule of law requirements that an amnesty should fulfil;
 - **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, 22-26 January 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 6 March 2024 [tbc]
 - Strasbourg, 15-19 April 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 22 May 2024 [tbc]
 - Strasbourg, 24-28 June 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 10 September 2024 [tbc]
 - Strasbourg, 30 September-4 October 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - Paris, 12 December 2024 [tbc]

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Agnieszka Szklanna, Matthieu Monin

Copy:

Secretary General of the Assembly

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Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations

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