



SECRETARIAT

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23 June 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 Strasbourg on 20, 21 and 22 June 2023

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 20, 21 and 22 June 2023 in camera, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) in the Chair:

- **on Tuesday, 20 June 2023 at 10.30 am**, as regards:
 - **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Poland** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Azadeh Rojhan, Sweden, SOC and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): agreed to request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an urgent opinion on the Law on the State Commission to investigate Russian influence on the internal security of the Republic of Poland between 2007 and 2022 as well as on the amendments to this law proposed by President Duda as adopted by the Sejm on 16 June 2023;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC and Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD*): after hearing her declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Ms Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Latvia, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur;
- **on Tuesday, 20 June 2023 at 11.00 am**, as regards:
 - **Joint hearing with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on SLAPPs as a threat to media pluralism and measures implemented to counteract them (public meeting)**: held a joint hearing with the participation of Mr Pier Luigi Parcu, Director, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, Ms Giulia Lucchese, Media and Internet Governance Division, Information Society Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe, and Mr Stefan Schennach, rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on “Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society”;
- **on Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 10.30 am**, as regards:
 - **Joint hearing with the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the financing of political parties (public meeting)**: held a joint hearing with the participation of Ms Julia Cagé, Associate Professor of Economics, Sciences Po Paris (online), Mr Nicos Alivizatos (Greece), member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and Ms Sophie Meudal-Leenders, Senior Legal Adviser, Secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Council of Europe;
- **on Thursday, 22 June 2023 at 8.30 am**, as regards:
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE and Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC*): agreed to request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) an opinion on amendments to the organic Law on Common courts as adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 13 June 2023;

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE and Mr Nicos Tornaritis, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on recent developments following the parliamentary elections (11 June 2023) with Mr Reinhold Lopatka (Austria, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau;
- **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 Ms Lise Christoffersen on the fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan (4-6 June 2023);
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC and Ms María Valentina Martínez Ferro, Spain, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the delegation of Bulgaria;
- **4th Council of Europe Heads of State and Government Summit (Reykjavik – 16-17 May 2023)**: postponed the item until a next meeting;
- **World Forum for Democracy on “Democracy= peace?” (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2023)**: postponed the item until the next meeting;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC and ...*): postponed until the next meeting the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD);
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova and Türkiye to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their respective responsibilities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - o Paris, 13 September 2023 (Council of Europe office);
 - o Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
 - o Rome, 4-5 December 2023 (tbc)
 - o Strasbourg, 22-26 January 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - o Strasbourg, 22-26 April 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - o Strasbourg, 24-28 June 2024 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - o Strasbourg, 30 September-4 October 2024 [during the Assembly part-session].

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Agnieszka Szklanna, Matthieu Monin

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