

SECRETARIAT

AS/Mon (2024) CB 01 REV

29 January 2024

To the members of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Revised synopsis

of the meeting held in Strasbourg on 22, 23, 24 and 25 January 2024

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 22, 23, 24 and 25 January 2024, with Mr Axel Schäfer (Germany, SOC), oldest member present, Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson and Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), Second Vice-Chairperson in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 22 January 2024 at 19:00**, as regards:
 - **Election of the Chairperson of the Committee**: postponed the election until the next meeting;
 - **Election of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee**: elected the following Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation:
 - Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson,
 - Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), Second Vice-Chairperson,
 - Mr Arkadiusz Mularczyk (Poland, EC/DA), Third Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the Parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): after hearing his declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed First Vice-Chairperson, Mr Mogens Jensen (Denmark, SOC), as rapporteur;
- **on Tuesday, 23 January 2024 at 10:30**, as regards:
 - **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the Parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution; took note of the announcement by Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA) that he would table a dissenting opinion to the report;
 - **Sub-Committee on Conflicts concerning Council of Europe Member States**: heard a statement by Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), incumbent Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, and following an exchange of views, decided to continue the discussion on the possible constitution of a Sub-Committee at its next meeting;
- **on Tuesday, 23 January 2024 at 11:30**, as regards:
 - **National minorities in Ukraine: amendments to the Law on national minorities (communities)**: held a joint hearing with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, with the participation of Ms Olga Stefanichyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ukraine (online), Ms Veronika Bílková, member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) in respect of Czechia, Vice-President of the Venice Commission, and one of the rapporteurs on the opinion to the Law on national minorities (communities) and Mr Ashot Avanesyan, Chair of the Council of national communities of Ukraine (online);

- **on Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at 10:30**, as regards:
 - **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the Parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan** (*Rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*): took position on one amendment tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Mr Thibaut François, France EC/DA*): heard a statement by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau for the observation of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia (17 December 2023) and held an exchange of views;
 - **Call for candidates**: made a call for candidates for the following reports:
 - ✓ The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and....) to replace Mr John Howell (United Kingdom, EC/DA)
 - ✓ The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Greece (periodic monitoring report)
 - ✓ The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Spain (periodic monitoring report)
 - ✓ The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Sweden (periodic monitoring report)
 - **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**: took note of the details concerning submission of candidates for the 2024 Prize;
 - **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 Bosnia and Herzegovina to conduct a fact-finding visit to Brussels, and the co-rapporteurs for Ukraine and Poland to conduct a fact-finding visit to the countries under their respective responsibilities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
 - **Gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly**: took note of the information on the gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly;
- **on Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at 11:30**, as regards:
 - **Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace** (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE*): held a joint hearing with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, with the participation of Ms Alena Makouskaya, member of the Council of Europe Contact Group on Co-operation with Representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society, Co-ordinator of civic cultural campaign "Let us be Belarusians" (Budzma Belarusami), Ms Yuliia Fediv, Culture and Media Manager, member of the NGO "Coalition for Culture", UNESCO and EU Commission consultant on cultural policymaking reform in Ukraine and Mr Robert Pickard, expert in cultural heritage law, United Kingdom (online);
- **on Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 08:30**, as regards:
 - **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2023)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC*): took position on two amendments tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Ms Borianna Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on the fact-finding visit to Armenia (6-8 November 2023) and agreed to declassify it;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Ms Jill Mortimer, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): after hearing her declaration of absence of conflict of interest, appointed Ms Jill Mortimer (United Kingdom, EC/DA) as co-rapporteur;

- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Mr Thibaut François, France EC/DA*): after hearing his declaration of absence of conflict of interest (at the meeting of 24 January 2024 at 11:30), appointed Mr Thibaut François (France, EC/DA) as co-rapporteur;
- **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 2024: Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as member and Ms Blerina Gjylameti (Albanie, SOC) as substitute;
- **Other business**: made a call for candidates for the following report:
 - ✓ The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD and....) to replace Mr Asim Mollazada (Azerbaijan, EC/DA)
- **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 6 March 2024
 - 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
Director and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe