



SECRETARIAT

AS/Mon (2016) CB 07

14 October 2016

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 meetings held in Strasbourg on 10, 11 and 13 October 2016

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg, on 10, 11 and 13 October 2016, with Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

• on Monday 10 October 2016:

– **Venice Commission**: held an exchange of views with Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission, on recent opinions of the Venice Commission on countries that are of interest to the Monitoring Committee and on general trends;

– **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC, and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD): considered an information note on the fact-finding visit by the co-rapporteurs to Sofia (8-9 June 2016), held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note while restricting its publication to the members of the Monitoring Committee and the members of the ad hoc Committee for the observation of the presidential elections of 6 November 2016, until these elections have taken place; decided to ask the Venice Commission for opinions on the two series of amendments to the Law on Judicial Power and on the amendments to the Electoral Code adopted since the last opinion by the Venice Commission in 2014;

• on Tuesday 11 October 2016:

– **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD, and Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Alexander Cherkasov (Memorial Human Rights Centre), Ms Rachel Denber (Human Rights Watch) and Mr John Dalhuisen (Amnesty International) on recent developments in the country; considered an information note on the functioning of democratic institutions in the Russian Federation, and agreed to declassify it and to issue a related statement, to be adopted on Thursday 13 October, based on a proposal by the co-rapporteurs;

• on Thursday 13 October 2016:

– **Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Ingebjørg Godskesen, Norway, EC and...): held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country, considered an updated information note submitted by the co-rapporteur and decided to declassify it; agreed to invite the Commissioner for Human Rights to an exchange of views at a future meeting; agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Ms Nataša Vučković (Serbia, SOC), who has left the Assembly, at its next meeting;

- **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe:** heard a report by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) on the sub-committee's meeting of 11 October 2016 and agreed to consider the evaluation report prepared by the ad hoc sub-committee at its next meeting;
- **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC, and Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the parliamentary elections of 8 October 2016;
- **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2016):** took note of the draft programme and made a last call for interested members to become members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to attend the Forum on behalf of the committee;
- **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD, and Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland, SOC): adopted a statement on the functioning of democratic institutions in the Russian Federation proposed by the co-rapporteurs;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 9 November 2016
 - Paris, 14 December 2016
 - Strasbourg, 23-27 January 2017 (during the Assembly part-session)
 - Paris, 8 March 2017 (to be confirmed)

The **ad hoc Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe**, meeting in Strasbourg on 11 October 2016, with Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Follow-up to the hearing on the Transnistrian conflict:** considered an information note by Ms Valentina Leskaj (Albania, SOC) and Mr Ögmundur Jónasson (Iceland, UEL), co-rapporteurs on the Republic of Moldova, and held an exchange of views;
- **Evaluation of the work of the sub-committee:** held an exchange of views on the basis of a draft report by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Chair of the sub-committee, endorsed the report containing a draft decision to be submitted to the plenary committee at its meeting in Paris on 9 November 2016.

Caroline Ravaud, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Delphine Freymann

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, 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