



DECLASSIFIED<sup>1</sup>

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

### Decision on revised internal working methods for the selection by the Monitoring Committee of countries for periodic review on the honouring of membership obligations

Prepared by the Chairperson of the Committee

1. According to its terms of reference the Monitoring Committee is tasked to ensure and assess the fulfilment of obligations assumed by all member States under the Council of Europe Statute; the European Convention on Human Rights and all other conventions concluded within the organisation to which they are party. To that extent, the Committee shall prepare regular periodic review reports on the honouring of membership obligations for all member States that are not under a full monitoring procedure or engaged in a post monitoring dialogue. In line with [Resolution 2261 \(2019\)](#), the Monitoring Committee shall select the countries for periodic review according to its internal working methods, on substantive grounds, while maintaining the objective of producing, over time, periodic reviews on all member States.
2. The number of countries for periodic review will be determined each year by the Committee based on its expected workload and available resources<sup>2</sup>. Each year it will aim to select between two and three countries for periodic review. The exact number will be determined by the Chairperson each year prior to the launching of the selection procedure.
3. The selection of countries for periodic review will take place on substantive grounds based on:
  - 3.1. the findings and conclusions of reports of other monitoring bodies of the Council of Europe;
  - 3.2. findings of the Assembly, in particular contained in resolutions and reports prepared by other committees of the Assembly;
  - 3.3. questions raised by members of the Committee, international and national civil society and the media regarding developments related to the functioning of democratic institutions as reported.
4. Based on these grounds, the Chairperson of the Committee will prepare a reasoned draft shortlist of, at least, 5 member States.
5. This draft shortlist will be sent to all members of the Committee at least three weeks before the meeting in which the countries for periodic review is to be selected.

<sup>1</sup> Decision adopted and declassified by the Monitoring Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2020.

<sup>2</sup> At the time of writing of this memorandum, the effects of the ongoing covid-19 pandemic on the possibilities of the Monitoring Committee to conduct its work should also be taken into account.

6. All members of the Monitoring Committee may send written proposals with detailed reasoning for additional countries to be included on the short list up to two weeks before the start of the meeting.
7. All members` contributions received up to two weeks before the meeting takes place will be included in a revised short list that will be sent to all members within the reglementary deadlines i.e. one week before the meeting takes place. In order to ensure the high quality of the selection process, no proposals to that list will be accepted after the deadline.
8. Following a general discussion, a vote<sup>3</sup> will be held on each of these countries. The countries receiving the most votes will be tentatively proposed for inclusion in the final list to be agreed upon by the Committee.<sup>4</sup>
9. The Committee will confirm the final list as a single package by a majority of votes cast. Rule 25.2 on the requisite of quorum for the adoption of motions for resolution by committees will be applied *mutatis mutandis*. In the event that the committee rejects this list, the process will recommence at the stage mentioned in § 4.
10. In line with Resolution 1115 (1997), the Committee shall appoint two co-rapporteurs for each country selected for periodic review. It shall strive to produce the periodic reviews for the countries within a maximum of two years.

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<sup>3</sup> See Rule 47.2 of the Rules of Procedure which stipulates, inter alia, that the Committee shall vote by show of hands except for decisions relating for persons.

<sup>4</sup> See 47.6 which stipulates that the chairperson does not participate in the vote except in the case of a tie.