



Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe
(Monitoring Committee)
Commission pour le respect des obligations et engagements des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe
(Commission de suivi)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HONOURING OF OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (MONITORING COMMITTEE)

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

Synopsis No. 2009/002

30 January 2009

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 26, 27, 28 and 29 January 2009, with first Mr Bender (Poland, EDG), the most senior member present, and then Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Composition of the Committee's Bureau:*
 - elected Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) Chairperson by acclamation
 - elected Mr Frunda (Romania, EPP/CD) First Vice-Chairperson by acclamation
 - elected Mr Kosachev (Russia, EDG) Second Vice-Chairperson by acclamation
 - elected Mr Slutsky (Russia, SOC) Third Vice-Chairperson by acclamation
- *Armenia* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Colombier, France, EPP/CD, and Mr Prescott, United Kingdom, SOC): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Armenia (15 January 2009), approved an addendum to the draft report containing proposals for amendments to the draft resolution and took position on tabled amendments to the draft resolution;
- *The implementation of Resolution 1633 (2008) on the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD, and Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE): examined a preliminary draft report, unanimously adopted a draft resolution and took position on tabled amendments to the draft resolution;
- *Monaco* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD, and Mr Slutsky, Russia, SOC): approved a preliminary draft report on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Monaco and decided to transmit it to the Monegasque delegation for comments, within a maximum of 3 months;
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria* (rapporteur: Mr Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE): examined an information note by the Chair on his fact-finding visit to Sofia from 5 to 7 November 2008 and asked the Bulgarian delegation to provide comments on the information note for consideration at its next meeting;
- *Albania* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EDG and Mr Laakso, Finland, UEL): approved a preliminary draft report on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania and decided to transmit it to the Albanian delegation for comments, within a maximum of 3 months; authorised a visit of the co-rapporteurs to the country with a view to gathering information on the recently adopted lustration law, as well as examining “how the Albanian parliament is informed of any changes to the composition of its delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly and if any adaptations of current practice, particularly when the parliament is not in session, would be useful”, in line with Assembly Resolution 1650 (2009);

- *Azerbaijan* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD and Mrs Jivkova, Bulgaria, SOC): held an exchange of views on recent developments and decided to ask the Venice Commission to prepare an opinion, for consideration at the Monitoring Committee's next meeting, on the amendments to the Constitution of Azerbaijan adopted by parliament on 25 December 2008 and to be submitted to a nation-wide referendum on 18 March 2009;
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey* (rapporteur: Mr Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE): decided to consider an information note on the visit to Turkey in November 2008 at its next meeting;
- *Authorisation of fact-finding visits*: authorised fact-finding visits to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia;
- *Next meeting*: took note of the oral confirmation of the invitation from the Spanish delegation to meet in Valencia, Spain, on 30-31 March 2009 (subject to authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly).

Despina Chatzivassiliou, Bas Klein, Marine Trévisan, Artemy Karpenko

cc: *Secretary General of the Assembly*
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe