



.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. 2009/004

6 April 2009

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, meeting in Valencia on 30 and 31 March 2009, with Mr Holovaty (Ukraine, ALDE) in the Chair:

as regards:

- *Serbia* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Goerens, Luxembourg, ALDE, and Mr Gross, Switzerland, SOC): heard a statement by Mr Gross on his fact-finding visit to Belgrade on 9-10 February 2009; considered and approved an addendum to the report on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia to be debated by the Assembly at its April part-session and approved a number of amendments to the draft resolution to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- *Follow-up given by Georgia and Russia to Resolution 1647 (2009)* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD, and Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the draft information report, examined oral and written comments by both delegations and asked the co-rapporteurs to update their report, where relevant, in the light of the comments, for approval at the first committee meeting during the April part-session;
- *Russian Federation* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Van den Brande, Belgium, EPP/CD, and Mr Pangalos, Greece, SOC): examined an information note by the co-rapporteurs on the state of the monitoring procedure with regard to Russia, held an exchange of views and declassified the information note;
- *Georgia* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Eörsi, Hungary, ALDE, and Mr Islami, Albania, SOC): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Tbilisi from 25 to 26 March 2009 and decided to return to this matter at its next meeting on the basis of an information note by the co-rapporteurs;
- *Armenia* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Colombier, France, EPP/CD, and Mr Prescott, United Kingdom, SOC): heard statements by the Armenian delegation and Mr Colombier on the follow-up to Resolution 1643 (2009) on “the implementation by Armenia of Assembly Resolutions 1609 (2008) and 1620 (2008)”, held an exchange of views and decided to return to this matter at its next meeting during the April part-session;
- *Azerbaijan* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD, and Ms Jivkova, Bulgaria, SOC): took note of the opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and decided to return to this matter at its next meeting during the April part-session;
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Çavuşoğlu, Turkey, EDG, and Mr Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the President on his official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 February 2009, heard a statement by Mr Çavuşoğlu on the 70th Rose-Roth Seminar, organised by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Sarajevo from 19 to 21 March 2009, and held an exchange of views;

- *Albania* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Wilshire, United Kingdom, EDG and Mr Laakso, Finland, UEL): examined an information note on the fact-finding visit by the co-rapporteurs to Tirana from 9 to 11 February 2009, held an exchange of views and declassified the information note;
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey* (rapporteur: Mr Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE): examined an information note on the fact-finding visit to Turkey by the Chairman from 24 to 26 November 2008, held an exchange of views and declassified the information note; was informed by the Turkish delegation on the local elections of 29 March 2009; decided to ask the Venice Commission to assess the compatibility with European standards of the lack of recognition of legal personality for the religious communities in Turkey and examine, in this context, the question of the right of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Istanbul to use the adjective “Ecumenical” ;
- *Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria* (rapporteur: Mr Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE): examined the comments provided by the Bulgarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly on the information note on the fact-finding visit to Sofia by the Chairman from 5 to 7 November 2008, held an exchange of views and declassified the information note and the comments by the delegation;
- *“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”* (rapporteur: Mr Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the presidential elections of 22 March 2009;
- *Montenegro* (co-rapporteurs: Mr Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD, and Mr Holovaty, Ukraine, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the parliamentary elections of 29 March 2009;
- *Moldova* (co-rapporteurs: Ms Durrieu, France, SOC, and Mr Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on the preparation of the parliamentary elections of 5 April 2009;
- *Progress report*: according to usual practice, appointed its Chairman, Mr Holovaty, rapporteur for its progress report to be presented to the Assembly at the June part-session in the framework of the debate on the State of Human Rights in Europe under the title “State of human rights in Europe and progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure” and decided to propose to the Bureau of the Assembly to invite Mr Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, and Ms Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, as guest speakers in relation to the debate on this report;
- *Authorisation of fact-finding visits*: authorised fact-finding visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Serbia;
- *Term of office of co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee*: decided to postpone the discussion on this item to one of its next meetings in the light of discussions on this issue in the political groups;
- *Next meeting*: decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg, during the April 2009 part-session of the Assembly (27-30 April 2009).

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