



SECRETARIAT

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4 October 2013

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 meeting held in Strasbourg on 1, 2 and 3 October 2013

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg, with Mr Andres Herkel (Estonia, EPP/CD) in the Chair, and partly on 1 and 2 October with Ms Lise Christoffersen (Norway, SOC) in the Chair:

- on Tuesday 1 October 2013 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (June 2012 – September 2013)** (*rapporteur: Mr Andres Herkel, Estonia, EPP/CD*): took position on the amendments to the draft resolution and draft recommendation on the progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure;
 - **Montenegro** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Nursuna Memecan, Turkey, ALDE, and Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Podgorica (8-10 July 2013) and decided to declassify the note at its next meeting, pending the reception of comments by the Montenegrin delegation;
 - **Georgia** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC, and Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen, Denmark, ALDE*): heard an oral report on the pre-electoral mission (24-25 September 2013) for the forthcoming presidential election (27 October 2013), took note of the co-rapporteurs' intention to prepare a report for presentation at the April 2014 part-session instead of the January 2014 part session, given the electoral developments in Georgia, on the understanding that the Committee could return to this issue if warranted by urgent political developments in Georgia, and agreed to hold an exchange of views at its next meeting with Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Special Representative of the European Union for Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs in Georgia, with the participation of Ambassador Philip Dimitrov, European Union representative in Georgia;
- on Wednesday 2 October 2013 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Karin S. Woldseth, Norway, EDG, and Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD*): took position on amendments to the draft resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - **Republic of Moldova** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC, and Mr Piotr Wach, Poland, EPP/CD*): took position on amendments to the draft resolution on the honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova;

- **on Thursday 3 October 2013 at 8.30 a.m.**, as regards:
 - **Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD, and Mr Joseph Debono Grech, Malta, SOC*): was informed of the findings of the pre-electoral mission (11-12 September 2013) by Mr Robert Walter, Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Committee for the observation of the presidential election (9 October 2013);
 - **Development of the monitoring procedure**: heard a statement by the Chair and held an exchange of views on the follow up to the progress report debated in the Assembly on 1 October 2013; agreed to continue the discussion at the forthcoming meeting, and asked the Secretariat to prepare, under the responsibility of the Chair, a memorandum on possible ways to proceed with regard to the establishment of an *ad hoc* sub-committee/working group, which would reflect on the functioning of the monitoring procedure, taking into account possible written contributions from the members of the Committee;
 - **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised visits to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Montenegro and the Russian Federation;
 - **Next meetings**:
 - decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), 7 November 2013
 - **Paris** (Council of Europe Office), 13 December 2013
 - **Strasbourg**, 27-31 January 2014 (during the Assembly part-session)

Caroline Ravaud, Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
 Director General, Directors 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