



SECRETARIAT

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6 March 2014

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 St Julians, Malta on 27 and 28 February 2014

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in St Julians, Malta, on 27 and 28 February 2014, with Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) in the Chair:

- on 27 February 2014:

- Held a **hearing on “Current issues and on the Secretary General's report on Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law in Europe”**, with the participation of Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE, and Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD): heard an oral report on the fact-finding mission to Kyiv (17-21 February 2014), agreed to request a debate under urgent procedure on “Recent developments in Ukraine : threats to the functioning of democratic institutions” during the April 2014 part-session and requested its rapporteurs to visit the country as soon as possible and as often as necessary;

- **Albania** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Grigore Petrenco, Republic of Moldova, UEL, and Mr Jonathan Evans, United Kingdom, EDG): considered a preliminary draft report on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania and decided to transmit it to the Albanian authorities for comments by 15 May 2014 at the latest, with a view to presenting the report at the June 2014 part-session;

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (rapporteur:): reappointed Mr Robert Walter (United Kingdom, EDG) rapporteur, heard a declaration of non-conflict of interest and decided to postpone the consideration of an information note on the fact-finding visit to Skopje (2-3 December 2013) to its next meeting;

- on 28 February 2014:

- **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Joseph Debono Grech, Malta, SOC, and Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Baku and Nakhchivan (20-24 January 2014);

- **Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD, and): appointed Mr Terry Leyden (Ireland, ALDE) co-rapporteur to replace Ms Nursuna Memecan (Turkey, ALDE) and heard a declaration of non-conflict of interest;

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (rapporteur: Mr Frano Matušić, Croatia, EPP/CD): heard an oral report by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Sofia (12-13 February 2014);

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Monaco** (*rapporteur:*): appointed Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) rapporteur to replace Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) and heard a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey** (*rapporteur: Ms Josette Durrieu, France, SOC*): held an exchange of views on recent developments in Turkey and decided to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on the Law on the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors, should the Constitutional Court of Turkey not be seized;
- **Ukraine** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE, and Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): adopted a declaration in the name of the Committee;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised visits to Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine;

– **Other business:**

- . appointed Ms Bakoyannis to attend the conference “What Europe stands for: growth, jobs and rights: will the European Union rise to the occasion” to be held in Rome on 13 and 14 March 2014;
- . appointed its Chair to attend the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Seminar on “Security and Democratisation in the Western Balkans: Consolidating Stability, Pushing Reforms”, to be held in Sarajevo from 18 to 20 March 2014;
- . requested its Chair to reply to the letter sent by Ms Palihovici, rapporteur for the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, on the review of the Assembly reform that took place two years ago;

– **Next meetings:**

decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee:

Strasbourg, 7-11 April 2014 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 16 May 2014

Strasbourg, 23-27 June 2014 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 3 September 2014 (*to be confirmed*)

Strasbourg, 29 September – 3 October 2014 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 5 November 2014 (*to be confirmed*)

Paris, 11 December 2014 (*to be confirmed*)

Ad hoc sub-committee on the functioning of the parliamentary monitoring procedure:

Paris, 15 May 2014, in the afternoon

The Ad hoc sub-committee of the Monitoring Committee on the functioning of the parliamentary monitoring procedure, meeting on 27 February 2014 at 4.30 pm, with Mr Pedro Agramunt (Spain, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Development of the monitoring procedure**: held an exchange of views on the work of the ad hoc sub-committee and the timetable and asked the Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to the members of the ad hoc sub-committee and to be returned for the April 2014 part-session;
- **Next meeting: Strasbourg**, 7-11 April 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