



SECRETARIAT

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30 January 2015

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 26, 27, 28 and 29 January 2015

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg, on 26, 27, 28 and 29 January 2015, with first Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC), the oldest member present, in the Chair, and then Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) and Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair:

- on Monday 26 January 2015 at 2 p.m., as regards:
 - **Composition of the Committee's Bureau:**
 - re-elected Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) Chairperson by acclamation;
 - re-elected Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, EPP/CD) 1st Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
 - re-elected Ms Yulia L’ovochkina (Ukraine, EC) 2nd Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
 - re-elected Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) 3rd Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
 - **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation:** appointed Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) rapporteur, heard from him a statement of non-conflict of interest and held a preliminary exchange of views;
 - **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteur: Mr Andreas Gross, Switzerland, SOC and Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD): heard an oral report by Mr Gross on his fact-finding visit to Moscow (16-18 December 2014);
 - **Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Russia’s Neighbourhood Policy with regard to other Council of Europe Member States:** heard an oral report by the Chair on the meeting in Paris on 20 January 2015, and agreed to disband the ad hoc sub-committee and invited the Chair to present a draft decision on the mandate and the composition of a sub-committee on “frozen conflicts” at its next meeting;
- on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 8.30 a.m., as regards:
 - **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation** (rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - **Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Sasi, Finland, EPP/CD and Mr Terry Leyden, Ireland, ALDE): took position on amendments to the draft resolution on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Montenegro;

- **on Wednesday 28 January 2015 at 2 p.m.**, as regards:
 - **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation** (*rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*): took position on amendments to the draft resolution on Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation;
 - **Post-monitoring dialogue with Monaco** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE*): considered a preliminary draft report on the post-monitoring dialogue with Monaco, held an exchange of views, and decided to transmit the revised preliminary draft report to the Monegasque authorities for comments by 4 March 2015;
- **on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 8.30 a.m.**, as regards:
 - **Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Jonathan Evans, United Kingdom, EC, and ...*): appointed Mr Andrej Hunko (Germany UEL) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Grigore Petrenco (Republic of Moldova, UEL) and, in his absence, requested him to make a statement on non-conflict of interest later;
 - **Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Pedro Agramunt, Spain, EPP/CD, and ...*): appointed Mr Tadeusz Iwiński (Poland, SOC) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Joseph Debono Grech (Malta, SOC) and heard from him a statement on non-conflict of interest;
 - **Ukraine** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Mailis Reps, Estonia, ALDE, and ...*): appointed Mr Jean-Claude Mignon (France, EPP/CD) co-rapporteur in place of Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin (Sweden, EPP/CD) and heard from him a statement on non-conflict of interest;
 - **Russian Federation** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Theodora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD, and ...*): appointed Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC) and heard from her a statement on non-conflict of interest;
 - **Council for Democratic Elections (of the Venice Commission)**: appointed, for the year 2015, Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) as representative, and Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as substitute to the Council for Democratic Elections;
 - **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised visits to Bulgaria, “the former Yugoslave Republic of Macedonia”, Ukraine, and Turkey;
 - **Other business**, took note of:
 - information transmitted by Mr Denemeç, Head of the Turkish delegation to the PACE, on recent developments in Turkey and agreed to come back to it at a next meeting;
 - the possibility of holding a meeting in Sarajevo in early September 2015 (subject to an official invitation and authorisation of the Assembly Bureau);
 - **Next meetings**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris**, 17 March 2015
 - Strasbourg**, 20-24 April 2015 (during the Assembly part-session)
 - Paris**, 28 May 2015 (*to be confirmed*)
 - Strasbourg**, 22-26 June 2015 (during the Assembly part-session)
 - Sarajevo**, early September 2015 (*to be confirmed and subject to authorisation of the Assembly Bureau*)
 - Strasbourg**, 28 September – 2 October 2015 (during the Assembly part-session)
 - Paris**, 3 November 2015 (*to be confirmed*)
 - Paris**, 9 December 2015 (*to be confirmed*).

Caroline Ravaud, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Delphine Freymann

- 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