



SECRETARIAT

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9 September 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 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 and 4 September 2015

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Sarajevo, on 3 and 4 September 2015,

– heard a welcome address by Mr Mladen Bosić, First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Vice-President of PACE;

with Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, EPP/CD) and then Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Hearing on “The Dayton Constitution: 20 years later”**: held a hearing with the participation of Ambassador Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission, Ms Ermira Mehmeti Devaja, Member of Parliament of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Members of Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and NGO representatives;

– **Request for the opening of a monitoring procedure in respect of France** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD): considered a draft opinion, adopted a draft decision for transmission to the Bureau of the Assembly and agreed to declassify it;

– **The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (October 2014–August 2015)** (rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC):

- Draft periodic review reports on countries not under the monitoring procedure *stricto sensu* or engaged in a post-monitoring dialogue, with regard to Andorra, Belgium, Croatia and Cyprus: considered the comments by the authorities of the countries concerned on the preliminary draft reports and considered the draft periodic review reports for inclusion in the report on “The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (October 2014 – August 2015)”;
- Draft report on “The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (October 2014 – August 2015)”: considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution, as amended, with a view to its presentation at the 2015 autumn part-session;

– **Armenia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Fischer, Germany, EPP/CD and Mr Alan Meale, United Kingdom, SOC): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Yerevan (8-11 June 2015) and agreed to declassify it;

- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, France EPP/CD and Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE): considered an information note by Ms Mailis Reps, former co-rapporteur, and Mr Jean-Claude Mignon on their fact-finding visit to Kyiv, Dnipropetrovs'k and Kharkiv (18 to 22 May 2015) and agreed to declassify it; held an exchange of view on recent developments; agreed to seize the Venice Commission for an opinion on the law on “the condemnation of the communist and Nazi totalitarian regimes”;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frano Matusić, Croatia, EPP/CD and Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC): considered an information note by Mr Matusić on his fact-finding visit to Sofia (2-5 June 2015) and agreed to declassify it;
- **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Tadeusz Iwiński, Poland, SOC and Mr Agustín Conde, Spain, EPP/CD): held an exchange of view on the recent developments in Azerbaijan and decided to issue a statement;
- **Other business:**
 - appointed Mr Xuclà to represent the Monitoring Committee at the conference on “Past and present-day lustration: similarities, differences, applicable standards”, which will take place on 7 September 2015 at Černín Palace, Prague, Czech Republic;
 - thanked the Albanian delegation for the invitation to meet in Albania in 2016 and agreed to organise its September meeting there (subject to authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly)
 - decided to organise, at a future meeting, an exchange of views with members of the Macedonian delegation from the majority and the opposition and also to invite a representative from the European Union;
 - decided to organise an exchange of views with the Spanish delegation on recent amendments to the country's security laws during the committee's next meeting;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised visits to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Brussels (in the framework of the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria) and Ukraine;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Strasbourg, 28 September – 2 October 2015 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 3 November 2015

Paris, 9 December 2015 (*to be confirmed*)

Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe:

Vienna, 21 September 2015.

Caroline Ravaud, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Delphine Freymann

cc. *Secretary General of the Assembly*
Director General, Director 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