



SECRETARIAT

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1 February 2016

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 25, 26 and 28 January 2016

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg, on 25, 26, and 28 January 2016, with first Lady Eccles (United Kingdom, EC), the oldest member present and then Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- on Monday 25 January 2016 at 2 p.m., as regards:

- **Composition of the committee's Bureau:** elected by acclamation:

- Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) Chairperson
- Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC) 1st Vice-Chairperson
- Ms Hermine Naghdalyan (Armenia, EC) 2nd Vice-Chairperson
- Mr Jean-Charles Allavena (Monaco, EPP/CD) 3rd Vice-Chairperson

- **Poland:** held an exchange of views with the Chairperson and members of the Polish delegation on recent developments concerning the Constitutional Court and the political situation in Poland; decided to send the law on police surveillance for opinion to the Venice Commission; decided to put again this item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings once a Venice Commission opinion on Poland is adopted;

- on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 2 p.m., as regards:

- **Serbia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Samad Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EC, and): appointed Ms Maria Guzenina (Finland, SOC) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) and heard from her a declaration of non-conflict of interests;

- **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Valentina Leskaj, Albania, SOC, and): appointed Mr Ögmundur Jónasson (Iceland, UEL) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Piotr Wach (Poland, EPP/CD) and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interests; heard an oral report by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) on his fact-finding visit to Chisinau (20-22 December 2015) and held an exchange of views;

- on Thursday 28 January 2016 at 8.30 a.m., as regards:

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views with the Chairperson of the national delegation and a member of the opposition on recent developments;

• on Thursday 28 January 2016 at 2 p.m., as regards:

– **Albania** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Hunko, UEL, and): appointed Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Jonathan Evans (United Kingdom, EC) and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interests;

– **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC, and): appointed Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Frano Matušić (Croatia, EPP/CD) and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interests;

– **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Terry Leyden, Ireland, ALDE, and Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD): considered and information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Podgorica (17-19 November 2015), held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note;

– **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC, and Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Tbilisi (12-14 October 2015), held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note;

– **Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission)**: appointed, Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) as the committee's representative, and Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as his substitute to the Council for Democratic Elections for the year 2016;

– **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised visits to Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, and Montenegro;

– **Ad hoc sub-committee on conflicts in Council of Europe member States**: decided to reconstitute the ad hoc sub-committee;

– **Other business:**

• **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and): agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Agustin Conde (Spain, EPP/CD), who has left the Assembly, at its next meeting;

• **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**: took note of the deadline of 30 April 2016 for submission of candidates for the Prize;

• **Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Ingebjørg Godskesen, Norway, EC and Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC): took note of the fact that the co-rapporteurs would investigate the possibility to travel to southeast Turkey during their forthcoming visit to Turkey; agreed to hold an exchange of views with the Turkish delegation at its next meeting (Paris, 9-10 March) on the recent developments in this region and the resumption of the peace process, with the participation of a leader of the pro-Kurdish HDP party and a representative of Amnesty international;

– **Next meetings**: decided to:

• invite Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, for an exchange of views at its next meeting (Paris, 9-10 March);

• hold its next meetings as follows:

Paris, 9-10 March 2016

Strasbourg, 18-22 April 2016 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 23 May 2016 (to be confirmed)

Strasbourg, 20-24 June 2016 (during the Assembly part-session)

Tirana, early September 2016 (to be confirmed and subject to authorisation of the Assembly Bureau)

Strasbourg, 10-14 October 2016 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 9 November 2016 (to be confirmed)

Paris, 14 December 2016 (to be confirmed)

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

APPENDIX / ANNEXE

Composition of the ad hoc Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States / *Composition de la Sous-commission ad hoc sur les conflits entre les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe*

- **Co-rapporteurs on Armenia / Corapporteurs sur l'Arménie :**

MEALE Alan (SOC, United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*)
GALATI Giuseppe (EPP/CD, Italy / *Italie*)

- **Co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan / Corapporteurs sur l'Azerbaïdjan :**

SCHENNACH Stefan (SOC, Austria / *Autriche*)

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- **Co-rapporteurs on Georgia / Corapporteurs sur la Géorgie :**

CILEVIČS Boriss (SOC, Latvia / *Lettonie*)
LUNDGREN Kerstin (ALDE, Sweden / *Suède*)

- **Co-rapporteurs on the Republic of Moldova / Corapporteurs sur la République de Moldova :**

LESKAJ Valentina (SOC, Albania / *Albanie*)
JÓNASSON Ógmundur (UEL, Iceland / *Islande*)

- **Co-rapporteurs on the Russian Federation / Corapporteuses sur la Fédération de Russie :**

BAKOYANNIS Theodora (EPP/CD, Greece / *Grèce*)
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane (SOC, Switzerland / *Suisse*)

- **Co-rapporteurs on Turkey / Corapporteuses sur la Turquie**

GODSKESEN Ingebjørg (EC, Norway / *Norvège*)
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša (SOC, Serbia / *Serbie*)

- **Co-rapporteurs on Ukraine / Corapporteurs sur l'Ukraine**

XUCLÀ Jordi (ALDE, Spain / *Espagne*)
FISCHER Axel (EPP/CD, Germany / *Allemagne*)

Ex officio:

Chair of the plenary committee / *Président de la commission plénière*
PREDA Cezar Florin (EPP/CD, Romania / *Roumanie*)

Chairs political groups (not included above) / Présidents des groupes politiques (qui ne figurent pas déjà ci-dessus):

Socialist Group / Groupe socialiste
NICOLETTI Michele

European Conservatives Group / Groupe des conservateurs européens
LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian (United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*)

Group of the Unified European Left / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne
KOX Tiny (Netherlands / *Pays-Bas*)

Chairs of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / *Président(e)s de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie et de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme :*

JENSEN Mogens (SOC, Denmark / *Danemark*), Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / *Président de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie*

DESTEXHE Alain (ALDE, Belgium / *Belgique*), Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / *Président de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme*