



SECRETARIAT

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22 April 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 meetings held in Strasbourg on 19 and 21 April 2016

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg, on 19 and 21 April 2016, with Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD), Mr Jean-Charles Allavena (Monaco, EPP/CD) and Ms Hermine Naghdalyan (Armenia, EC) in the Chair:

• **on Tuesday 19 April 2016:**

– held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

and, as regards:

– **Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and*): appointed Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) co-rapporteur in place Mr Agustin Conde (Spain, EPP/CD), was informed of his resignation as co-rapporteur for Albania and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest; heard an oral report by Mr Schennach on his fact-finding visit to Baku (5-9 April 2016) and held an exchange of views;

– **Ad hoc sub-committee on conflicts in Council of Europe member States**: heard an oral report by Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Chairperson of the ad hoc sub-committee, on the last meeting (Paris, 10 March 2016);

• **on Thursday 21 April 2016 as regards:**

– **Republic of Moldova** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Valentina Leskaj, Albania, SOC, and Mr Ögmundur Jónasson, Iceland, UEL*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Chisinau (22-23 February 2016); held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the note;

– **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*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Skopje, Tetovo and Gostivar (15-18 February 2016), and agreed to declassify it while restricting its publication to the members of the Committee and the members of the ad hoc Committee for the observation of the early parliamentary elections of 5 June 2016 until these elections have taken place; decided to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on the amended electoral code of November 2015 (on the understanding that this opinion would not be made public until after the early parliamentary elections on 5 June 2016);

– **Meeting and hearing in Tirana (22-23 September 2016)**: took note of the preliminary draft programme for the meeting;

- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised a visit to Azerbaijan;
- **Other business:** agreed to appoint a co-rapporteur on Albania in place of Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) at its next meeting;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Paris, 23 May 2016

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

Tirana, 22-23 September 2016

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

Paris, 9 November 2016 *(to be confirmed)*

Paris, 14 December 2016 *(to be confirmed)*

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The ad hoc Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 19 and 21 April 2016, with Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) in the Chair:

- elected Mr Jordi Xuclà (Spain, ALDE) Vice-Chair of the ad hoc sub-committee by acclamation;
- held an exchange of views on the preparation of the ad hoc sub-committee's evaluation report with the participation of representatives of the countries concerned;
- agreed to hold its next meeting during the June part-session;

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