



SECRETARIAT

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27 September 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 Tirana, Albania on 22 and 23 September 2016

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Tirana on 22 and 23 September 2016, with Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) and Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Preliminary draft reports on countries not under the monitoring procedure stricto sensu or engaged in a post-monitoring dialogue** (*Rapporteur ex officio: Mr Cezar Florin Preda, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered and endorsed the draft periodic review report on Austria, as revised on the basis of the comments of the Austrian delegation, for inclusion in the report on “The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (September 2015 – December 2016)”; agreed to declassify the preliminary draft periodic review report on Finland to Members of the Parliament of Finland for the purpose of the debate in the Finnish parliament on the preliminary draft report;
- **Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and Mr Cezar Florin Preda, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered an information note on the fact-finding visit to Baku (15-17 June 2016); held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify it; agreed to invite the Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan and the President of the Venice Commission for an exchange of views during its next meeting;
- **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 on recent developments and the state of implementation of the Przino Agreement, with the participation of Mr Zoran Zaev, President of the SDSM Party (opposition) and Mr Aleksandar Nikoloski, representing Mr Gruevski, President of the VRMO-DPMNE Party (majority);
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Turkey** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Ingebjørg Godskesen, Norway, EC, and Ms Nataša Vučković, Serbia, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the recent developments in Turkey on the basis of a note of information prepared by the co-rapporteurs; decided to declassify the note of information and to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on the overall compatibility of the implementation of the state of emergency in Turkey, in particular all subsequent decree-laws, with the Council of Europe standards.
- **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 and Tiraspol (27-29 June 2016); held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note while restricting its publication to the members of the Committee and the members of the ad hoc Committee for the observation of the presidential elections of 30 October 2016, until these elections have taken place;

- **Creating a Europe without dividing lines:** held an exchange of views and decided to take the contents of the motion for a resolution into account in the annual report on the progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised visits to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg**, 10-14 October 2016 (during the Assembly part-session)
 - Paris**, 9 November 2016
 - Paris**, 14 December 2016 (*to be confirmed*);
- **Joint hearing with the Albanian Parliament on Interreligious Dialogue and Tolerance:** held a hearing with the participation of: Mr Ilir Meta, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament; Ms Valentina Leskaj, Deputy Speaker; Mr Blendi Klosi, Minister for Social Welfare and Youth; Prof Alberto Quattrucci, Executive Director of Peoples and Religions, Community of Sant'Egidio, Italy; as well as Members of the Albanian Parliament, academics and representatives of religious communities present in Albania.

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