



SECRETARIAT

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To the members of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)

Revised synopsis of the meetings held in Helsinki, Finland on 15 and 16 May 2017

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on 15 and 16 May 2017, with Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD), Chairperson, and Ms Hermine Naghdalyan (Armenia, EC), Second Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Jordi Xuclà, Spain, ALDE, and Mr Axel Fischer, Germany, EPP/CD): took note of the request by the Ukrainian delegation for the withdrawal of the mandate of Mr Xuclà as co-rapporteur for the monitoring of the honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine under Article 3 of the Code of Conduct for rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly, and, in the absence of Mr Xuclà, agreed to postpone this item to its next meeting;
- **Preliminary draft periodic review 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): approved preliminary draft reports on Estonia and Ireland and agreed to send them to the relevant national delegations for comments by the authorities to be submitted within three months;
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC, and Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL): appointed Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) co-rapporteur for Bosnia and Herzegovina in place of Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD) and took note of his written declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Albania** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL, and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their visit to Tirana from 27 February to 1 March 2017, held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note whilst limiting its distribution to members of the ad hoc committee to observe the parliamentary elections until after these elections;
- **The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC, and Mr Thierry Mariani, France, EPP/CD): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Warsaw (3-5 April 2017), held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note;
- **Spain**: took note of the opinion by the Venice Commission on the Law of 16 October 2015 amending Organic Law No. 2/1979 on the Constitutional Court and held an exchange of views;
- **Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**: heard an oral report by Mr Stefan Schennach, Chairperson of the sub-committee, on the meeting held in Helsinki on 15 May 2017;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised visits to Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Montenegro;

- **Other business:**
 - **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and Mr Cezar Florin Preda, Romania, EPP/CD): agreed to consider a preliminary draft report on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan at its meeting in September 2017, with a view to presenting the report at the October 2017 part-session;
 - **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC, and Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE): noted that the mandate of Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) would come to an end on 31 May 2017 and agreed to appoint a co-rapporteur to replace him at its next meeting;
 - **Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: ... and ...): asked the Chairperson to write a letter to the Head of the Turkish delegation to enquire why no Turkish member had participated in the committee meeting in Helsinki;
 - **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 8-10 November 2017)**: invited interested members to become members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to attend the Forum on behalf of the committee; proposed Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD) and Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as members of the ad hoc Committee;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary committee:

Strasbourg, 26-30 June 2017 (during the Assembly part-session)
Paris, 7 September 2017
Strasbourg, 9-13 October 2017 (during the Assembly part-session)
Paris, 15 November 2017 (*to be confirmed*)

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

Vienna, 9 June 2017.
Strasbourg, 9-13 October 2017 (during the Assembly part-session)
Paris, 16 November 2017 (*to be confirmed*)
- **Joint seminar with the Finnish Parliament** on “The international legal order in a changing world: challenges for the monitoring procedure of the Parliamentary Assembly”: held a seminar with the participation of:
 - President Tarja Halonen, former President of the Republic of Finland
 - Mr Sergio Bartole, Member of the Venice Commission, former Professor, University of Trieste, Italy
 - Mr Daniel Tarschys, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Professor, University of Stockholm.

The Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States (of the Monitoring Committee), meeting in Helsinki on 15 May 2017 with Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Pekka Haavisto, MP, Special Representative of the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs for Mediation, President of the Board of Governors of the European Institute of Peace;
- discussed its work programme for 2017; agreed to remove the proposed activities with regard to Nagorno-Karabakh and asked the co-rapporteurs for Armenia and for Azerbaijan to make a proposal for possible activities in relation to this conflict at its meeting during the October part-session; adopted its work programme as amended;
- discussed the programme and format of the meeting in Vienna;
- decided to hold its next meetings in Vienna on 9 June 2017, Strasbourg in October 2017 (during the Assembly part-session) and Paris on 16 November 2017 (*to be confirmed*).

Caroline Ravaud, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Delphine Freymann

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- 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