



SECRETARIAT

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16 October 2017

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 9, 10 and 12 October 2017

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 9, 10 and 12 October 2017, with Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD), Mr Philippe Mahoux (Belgium, SOC) and Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

• on Monday 9 October 2017 at 2 p.m., as regards:

– **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and Mr Cezar Florin Preda, Romania, EPP/CD): considered an addendum to the report on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan and approved five amendments on behalf of the committee to the draft resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan;

– **Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Marianne Mikko, Estonia, SOC, and Mr Nigel Evans, United Kingdom, EC): held an exchange of views on the recent developments in the country and invited the co-rapporteurs to pay a fact-finding visit to the country at their earliest convenience;

• on Tuesday 10 October 2017 at 2 p.m., as regards:

– **Election of a Vice-Chairperson of the Committee**: elected by acclamation Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/CD) 3rd Vice-Chairperson;

– **Sub-committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**: heard an oral report by the Chair of the sub-committee on the meeting held in Athens on 25 September 2017, took note of the synopsis of the sub-committee meeting and adopted the following decisions as regards:

- **“Russian racial discrimination of Crimean Tatars in Crimea”**: to organise at a next meeting of the Committee a hearing on this subject with the participation of, inter alia, NGOs working on the human rights situation in Crimea and representatives of the Crimean Tatars;
- **Nagorno-Karabakh**: to authorise the co-rapporteurs for Armenia and Azerbaijan to meet with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference;

– **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC, and Mr Cezar Florin Preda, Romania, EPP/CD): took position on 25 amendments tabled to the draft resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan, and adopted 3 sub-amendments on behalf of the committee;

• on Thursday 12 October 2017 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): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Skopje (30 May – 1 June 2017), held an exchange of views on the political situation in the country and agreed to declassify the information note;
- **Ukraine** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Fischer, Germany, EPP/CD, and Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE): appointed Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) co-rapporteur in place of Mr Jordi Xucla (Spain, ALDE) and took note of his written declaration of absence of any conflict of interest;
- **Republic of Moldova** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD, and ...): agreed to postpone the appointment of a co-rapporteur in replacement of Ms Valentina Leskaj to its next meeting;
- **The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC, and ...): agreed to postpone the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Mr Thierry Mariani to its next meeting;
- **Serbia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Samad Seyidov, Azerbaijan, EC, and Ms Maria Guzenina, Finland, SOC): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact finding visit to Serbia from 18 to 21 July 2017;
- **Other business**: took note of the delays in the appointment of rapporteurs and asked the Chair to formulate at its next meeting a set of proposals to limit the number of times the Committee can agree to postpone rapporteur appointments;
- **Next meetings**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee:

Paris, 15 November 2017

Paris, 13 December 2017 (to be confirmed)

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

Paris, 16 November 2017.

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