



SECRETARIAT

AS/Mon(2018)CB07

20 September 2018

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 Tbilisi, Georgia on 17 and 18 September 2018

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 17 and 18 September 2018, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair:

• on Monday 17 September 2018, as regards:

– **Georgia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE and Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC*); held an exchange of views with Ms Maya Tskitishvili, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development and Infrastructure, on the reform process in Georgia and decided to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the legal rules for the High Council of Justice and the Prosecutorial Council;

– **Armenia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Yuliya Lovochkina, Ukraine, SOC and...*): held an exchange of views regarding recent developments in Armenia; asked the rapporteurs to make a fact-finding visit to Armenia at their earliest convenience and to report back to the committee on their findings at a forthcoming meeting; agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Giuseppe Galati (Italy, EPP/CD), who has left the Assembly, at its next meeting;

– **Establishment of a European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights**: considered a memorandum prepared by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure on the establishment of a European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights; agreed to make a request to the Bureau to be seized for opinion and asked the Chair to propose, at a forthcoming meeting, possible further action by the committee, including in cooperation with the other committees seized on this subject;

• on Tuesday 18 September 2018, as regards:

– **Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report from Mr Hunko on the co-rapporteurs' fact-finding visit to Tirana on 5-7 September 2018;

– **Russian Federation** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Telmo Correia, Portugal, EPP/CD and...*): on request of the Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group, decided to postpone the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier (Switzerland, SOC), who has been elected President of the Assembly, to 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*): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Skopje (18-20 June 2018) and decided to declassify it; agreed to organise, at a forthcoming meeting, the exchange of views on the "Name

Agreement¹ originally foreseen in Tbilisi, with the participation of representatives of the main ruling and opposition parties of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Greece;

– **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and Mr Serhiy Sobolev, Ukraine, EPP/CD): appointed Mr Serhiy Sobolev as co-rapporteur to replace Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) and heard a declaration of non-conflict of interest from him;

– **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2018)**: proposed that Ms Yuliya Lovochkina (Ukraine, SOC) and Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) be appointed to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum;

– **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised fact-finding visits of co-rapporteurs to Armenia and to Ukraine;

– **Other business:**

- **Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD and ...): agreed to appoint a co-rapporteur at its next meeting to replace Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) who has left the Assembly;
- **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC): further to the proposal of the co-rapporteur, agreed to hold an exchange of views on recent developments in the country at a forthcoming meeting;
- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Bulgaria, EPP/CD and ...): agreed to appoint a co-rapporteur at its next meeting to replace Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) who has left the Assembly;
- took note of the following information documents: state of procedures [AS/Mon/Inf(2018)12] and work programme [AS/Mon/Inf(2018)13];

– **Next meetings**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Plenary Committee:

Strasbourg, 8-12 October 2018 (during the 4th Assembly part-session);

Paris, 16 November 2018 (Council of Europe Office);

Paris, 12 December 2018 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*).

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

Strasbourg, 8-12 October 2018 (during the 4th Assembly part-session);

– **Joint seminar with the Georgian Parliament** on “Parliamentary Oversight and Role of Opposition” held a seminar on 17 September 2018 with the participation of:

- Mr Irakli Kobakhidze, Speaker of the Georgian Parliament;
- Ms Tamar Chugoshvili, First Deputy Speaker of the Georgian Parliament and Chairperson of the Georgian Delegation to PACE;
- Mr Giorgi Kandelaki, Representative of the parliamentary opposition;
- Ms Nino Lomjaria, Public Defender (ombudsperson) of Georgia;
- Mr Christian Urse, Head of the Council of Europe office in Georgia;
- Mr Catalin Gherman, Deputy Head of Co-operation, European Union delegation to Georgia
- Ms Irena Mijanovic, Project Officer – Democratic Parliaments, the Inter-parliamentary Union;
- Ms Natia Natsvlshvili, Assistant Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme

¹ “Final Agreement for the Settlement of the Differences as described in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993), the Termination of the Interim Accord of 1995 and the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Parties” signed by Greece and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” on 17 June 2018.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors 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