



SECRETARIAT

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28 January 2019

## 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 22, 23, and 24 January 2019

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg, on 22, 23 and 24 January 2019, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) and Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

• on Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 8.30 am., as regards:

– **Composition of the committee's Bureau** (with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) as oldest member present in the Chair): elected by acclamation

- Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) Chairperson
- Ms Marianne Mikko (Estonia, SOC) First Vice-Chair
- Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/DC) Second Vice-Chair

and postponed the election of its Third Vice-Chair to its next meeting;

– **Sub-committee on conflicts between Council of Europe member States**: decided to re-constitute the sub-committee (the list of the members is attached in Appendix);

– **Report under urgent procedure on “The worsening situation of opposition politicians in Turkey: what to do to protect their fundamental rights in a Council of Europe member State?”** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Marianne Mikko, Estonia, SOC and Mr Nigel Evans, United Kingdom, EC): confirmed the appointment of the two co-rapporteurs for the honouring of obligations and commitments of Turkey as co-rapporteurs for the report under urgent debate; agreed to rename the report “The worsening situation of opposition politicians in Turkey: what can be done to protect their fundamental rights in a Council of Europe member State?”; considered and took note of a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution; was informed of the intention of Mr Kilic (Turkey, EC) to present a dissenting opinion, in accordance with Article 50.4. of the Rules of Procedure;

– **Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Marianne Mikko, Estonia, SOC and Mr Nigel Evans, United Kingdom, EC): held an exchange of views with Mr Frederik Richter, Reporter at Correctiv, Head of the international cooperation investigation on alleged secret prisons (“black sites”) in Turkey;

• on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 2 pm., as regards:

– **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD): considered a preliminary draft report on the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria and agreed to send it to the Bulgarian authorities for comments to be submitted within three months;

- **Serbia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Marina Guzenina, Finland, SOC and Mr Robert Goodwill, United Kingdom, EC): in the absence of the rapporteurs, agreed to send a preliminary draft report on “The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia” to the Serbian authorities for comments to be submitted within three months;
- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Bulgaria, EPP/DC and Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Kyiv (19-21 November 2018); held an exchange of views, and agreed to declassify it;
- **Council for Democratic Election (Venice Commission)**: appointed Mr Tiny Kox (Netherlands, UEL) as the Committee’s representative and Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/DC) as substitute for the year 2019;
- **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC, and Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE): appointed Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE, to replace Ms Kerstin Lundgren, Sweden, ALDE and, in his absence, took note of his written declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **on Thursday 24 January 2019 at 8.30am.**, (with Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/EC) in the Chair, as regards:
  - **The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (January-December 2018) and the periodic review of the honouring of obligations by Iceland and Italy:** (rapporteur ex officio: Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC): took position on 23 amendments to the draft resolution;
- **on Thursday 24 January 2019 at 2 pm.**, as regards:
  - **Report under urgent procedure on “The worsening situation of opposition politicians in Turkey: what can be done to protect their fundamental rights in a Council of Europe member State?”** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Marianne Mikko, Estonia, SOC and Mr Nigel Evans, United Kingdom, EC): took position on 2 amendments to the draft resolution;
  - **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC): held an exchange of views on recent developments with regard to political prisoners in Azerbaijan; agreed to hold a joint hearing with the Legal Affairs Committee on this issue;
  - **Internal working methods of the monitoring procedure:** considered and adopted a draft decision prepared by the Chairman on the internal working methods of the Monitoring Committee;
  - **Establishment of an European mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights** (Rapporteur for opinion: Andrež Šircelj, Slovenia, EPP/DC): heard an oral presentation by the rapporteur following his participation in the hearing organised by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on 15 January 2019; agreed to explore the possibility of organising an exchange of views with the participation of representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission at its next meeting;
  - **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** none;
  - **Other business:**
    - **The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland** (Co-rapporteurs: ...): decided to appoint at its next meeting new co-rapporteurs to replace Mr Cruchten who has left the Assembly, and Ms Bakoyannis who has resigned from her position;
    - **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the details concerning submission of candidates for the 2019 Prize;
    - **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** agreed to hold an exchange of views on recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina at its next meeting;

- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings on the following dates:

Paris, 6 March 2019 (Council of Europe Office)  
Strasbourg, 8-12 April 2019 (during the Assembly part-session)  
London, 16-17 May 2019  
Strasbourg, 24-28 June 2019 (during the Assembly part-session)  
Paris, 10 September 2019 (Council of Europe Office, tbc)  
Strasbourg, 30 September - 4 October 2019 (during the Assembly part-session)  
Paris, 13 November 2018 (Council of Europe Office, tbc)  
Paris, 11 December 2018 (Council of Europe Office, tbc).

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**The Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**, meeting in Strasbourg on 24 January 2019, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) oldest member present, and then Mr Egidijus Vareikis (EPP/CD) in the Chair as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:** elected by acclamation Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD) Chairperson and Ms Tamar Chugoshvili (Georgia, SOC) Vice-Chairperson;
- **Preparation of the next meetings:** took note of the ongoing activities and proposals for its future work;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

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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

**APPENDIX / ANNEXE**

**Composition of the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States  
*Composition de la Sous-commission sur les conflits entre les États membres  
du Conseil de l'Europe***

**List of members / *Liste des membres***

**- Co-rapporteurs on Armenia / *Corapporteurs sur l'Arménie:***

LOVOCHKINA Yuliya (SOC, Ukraine)  
ŠIRCELJ Andrej (EPP/CD, Slovenia / *Slovénie*)

**- Co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan / *Corapporteurs sur l'Azerbaïdjan:***

SCHENNACH Stefan (SOC, Austria / *Autriche*)  
GALE Roger (EC, United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*)

**- Co-rapporteurs on Georgia / *Corapporteurs sur la Géorgie:***

CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC, Romania / *Roumanie*)  
KERN Claude (ALDE / France)

**- Co-rapporteurs on the Republic of Moldova / *Corapporteurs sur la République de Moldova:***

VAREIKIS Egidijus (EPP/CD, Lithuania / *Lituanie*), ***Chair of the Sub-Committee / Président de la sous-commission***  
BLONDIN Maryvonne (SOC, France)

**- Co-rapporteurs on the Russian Federation / *Corapporteurs sur la Fédération de Russie:***

CORREIA Telmo (EPP/CD, Portugal)  
SMITH Angela (SOC, United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*)

**- Co-rapporteurs on Turkey / *Corapporteurs sur la Turquie***

MIKKO Marianne (SOC, Estonia / *Estonie*)  
EVANS Nigel (EC, United Kingdom / *Royaume-Uni*)

**- Co-rapporteurs on Ukraine / *Corapporteurs sur l'Ukraine***

GROZDANOVA Dzhema (EPP/CD, Bulgaria / *Bulgarie*)  
HEER Alfred (ALDE, Switzerland / *Suisse*)

**Member of the Monitoring Committee of each of the member States that are party to the conflicts under the terms of reference of the sub-committee: / *un membre de la commission de suivi au titre de chacun des États membres qui sont parties aux conflits en vertu du mandat de la sous-commission:***

***Armenia / Arménie:***

MARUKYAN Edmon, ALDE

***Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan:***

...

***Cyprus / Chypre:***

LOUCAIDES George, UEL

***Georgia / Géorgie:***

CHUGOSHVILI Tamar, SOC, ***Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee / Vice-présidente de la sous-commission***

**Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova:**

GHILETCHI Valeriu, EPP/CD

**Russian Federation / Fédération de Russie:**

...

**Turkey / Turquie:**

KILIÇ Akif Çağatay, EC

**Ukraine:**

SOBOLEV Serhiy, EPP/CD

**Ex officio:**

**Chair of the Monitoring Committee / Président de la commission de suivi:**

GALE Roger (EC, United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni)

**Chairs of political groups (not included above) / Président(e)s des groupes politiques (qui ne figurent pas déjà ci-dessus):**

Group of the European People's Party / Groupe du Parti populaire européen

POCIEJ Aleksander (Poland / Pologne)

Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group / Groupe des socialistes, démocrates et verts

SCHWABE Frank (Germany / Allemagne)

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe / Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe

DAEMS Hendrik (Belgium / Belgique)

European Conservatives Group / Groupe des conservateurs européens

LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian (United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni)

Group of the Unified European Left / Groupe pour la gauche unitaire européenne

KOX Tiny (Netherlands / Pays-Bas)

Free Democrats Group / Groupe des démocrates libres

...

**Chairs of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / Président(e)s de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie et de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme:**

OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria (EPP/CD, Netherlands / Pays-Bas), Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy / Présidente de la Commission des questions politiques et de la démocratie

ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna (SOC, Iceland / Islande) Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / Président de la Commission des questions juridiques et des droits de l'homme