



SECRETARIAT

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11 March 2019

## 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 meeting held in Paris on 6 March 2019

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 6 March 2019 in camera, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair:

• on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 9.00 am., as regards:

– **Exchange of views with Mr Gianluca Esposito, Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO):** held an exchange of views;

– **Election of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson of the Committee:** elected by acclamation Mr Peter Beyer (Germany, EPP/CD):

– **The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD): appointed Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC co-rapporteur to replace Mr Yves Cruchten (Luxembourg, SOC), and heard a declaration of non-conflict of interest from her; appointed Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD to replace Ms Theodora Bakoyannis (Greece, EPP/CD) and, in his absence, took note of his written declaration of non-conflict of interest; agreed to organise, during its May meeting, an exchange of views on the reform of the Justice system in Poland and the developments under the European Union Rule of Law Mechanism in this regard;

– **Periodic review reports on the Honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee, Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC); held an exchange of views and decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for reports on the honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by France, Hungary, Malta and Romania;

• on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 2.30 pm., as regards:

– **Establishment of a European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights** (Rapporteur for opinion: Andrej Širčelj, Slovenia, EPP/DC): heard a statement by the rapporteur and held an exchange of views with Ms Judith Sargentini, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament (video-conference) and Mr Emmanuel Crabit, Director, Directorate C – Fundamental rights and rule of law, Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission;

– **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD, and Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC): held an exchange of views on the parliamentary elections held on 24 February 2019;

- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised fact-finding visits of co-rapporteurs for Albania to visit Tirana and for the co-rapporteurs for the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria to visit Brussels, and agreed that, in case of urgent need, the Chair could authorise a visit of the co-rapporteurs for Poland to Brussels, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Other business:** agreed to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on Emergency Ordinance (EGO 7(2019) on amendments to “the laws of justice” in Romania;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings on the following dates:
  - 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 2019 (Council of Europe Office, tbc)
  - Paris, 11 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office, tbc).

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Alexis Salanson

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