



SECRETARIAT

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11 April 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 8, 9 and 10 April 2019

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 8, 9 and 10 April 2019 in camera, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) and Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

• on Monday, 8 April 2019 at 2.00 pm., as regards:

– **Confidentiality of the meetings of the Monitoring Committee:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee;

– **Establishment of a European Union mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Andrej Šircelj, Slovenia, EPP/DC*): considered and approved unanimously a draft opinion, adopted one amendment to the draft Resolution prepared by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs;

– **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Brussels (27 March 2019) and held an exchange of views;

– **Other business:** decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly for an extension of the validity of the reference on “The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland” until 25 January 2020;

• on Tuesday, 9 April 2019 at 9.15 am., as regards:

– **Turkey** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Marianne Mikko, Estonia, SOC and Mr Nigel Evans, United Kingdom, EC*): held an exchange of views on the follow-up to Resolution 2260 (2019) 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?” and agreed to hold an exchange of views on the local elections of 31 March 2019, at its next meeting in London if time allows;

– **Other business:** in view of the Bureau examination of references, entrusted the Chair to ensure the Bureau takes due consideration of the decision reached by the Monitoring Committee at its March 2019 meeting to be seized for all four periodic review reports on France, Hungary, Malta and Romania;

• on Tuesday, 9 April 2019 at 2.30 pm., as regards:

– **Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC*): hold a joint hearing with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on political prisoners in Azerbaijan with the participation of Mr Otari Gvaladze, Head of Unit, Department for work with law enforcement agencies and military affairs, Administration of the President of Azerbaijan, Ms Leyla Yunusova, Director,

Institute for Peace and Democracy, Leiden, The Netherlands, Mr Ilgar Mammadov, former political prisoner (video link) and Mr Rasul Jafarov, Chairman of the Human Rights Club and former political prisoner;

• on **Wednesday, 10 April 2019 at 2.00 pm.**, with Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Exchange of views with Mr Régis Brillat, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Committee for the prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT):** held an exchange of views;

– **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and Mr Serhiy Sobolev, Ukraine, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views with Mr Ivan Orlić, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on recent developments in the country and agreed to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft law on public gathering in the Republika Srpska;

– **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Bulgaria, EPP/CD and Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE): postponed the exchange of views on the presidential election in Ukraine (31 March 2019) to its next meeting;

– **Armenia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Yuliya Lovochkina, Ukraine, SOC and Mr Andrej Šircelj, Slovenia, EPP/CD): postponed the oral report by the co-rapporteurs on the fact-finding visit to Yerevan (12-14 March 2019) to a next meeting;

– **Serbia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Maria Guzenina, Finland, SOC and Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC): appointed Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC, to replace Mr Robert Goodwill (United Kingdom, EC), subject to his declaration of non-conflict of interest; took note of a statement of Ms Aleksandra Tomić, Chairperson of the Serbian delegation, about the preparation of the report;

– **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised the following fact-finding visits, subject to the availability of financial resources:

- . Co-rapporteurs for North Macedonia to Skopje,
- . Co-rapporteurs for Poland to Brussels (European Union) and
- . Co-rapporteurs for Georgia to Tbilisi;

– **Other business:** authorised Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) to participate in the UniDem Seminar, co-organised by the Venice Committee with the Law Faculty of Lund, Sweden on 6-7 May 2019 entitled “The State of democracy thirty years after the fall of the iron curtain”, subject to the availability of financial resources;

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

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, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

Copy to:

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Secretary General of the Congress
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