



SECRETARIAT

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12 September 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 Paris on 10 September 2019

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 10 September 2019 in camera, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) and Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair:

• on Tuesday, 10 September 2019 at 9.50 am., as regards:

– **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Chisinau (22-23 July 2019) and held an exchange of views; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution on the functioning of democratic institutions in the Republic of Moldova with a view to submitting it for presentation during the October 2019 part-session;

– **North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD): appointed Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest; took note of the comments sent by the delegation on the preliminary draft report; considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution on the post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia with a view to submitting it for presentation during the October 2019 part-session;

– **Serbia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC and Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): appointed Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) as co-rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;

– **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC): considered an information note on the co-rapporteur's fact-finding visit to Baku (4-6 July 2019);

With Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

– **United Kingdom**: held an exchange of views with Sir Roger Gale, Chairman of the delegation of the United Kingdom to the Assembly on the prorogation of the British Parliament;

• on Tuesday, 10 September 2019 at 2.30 pm., with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Telmo Correia, Portugal, EPP/CD and Ms Angela Smith, United Kingdom, SOC): held an exchange of views (via video link) with Mr Jakob Wiene, co-rapporteur on Local and regional democracy in the Russian Federation of the Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities; agreed to hold a hearing on civil society and democratic participation in the Russian Federation during its next meeting;

- **World Forum for Democracy on “Is Democracy in danger in the information age?” (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2019):** took note of the concept note and proposed that Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) and Mr Edmon Marukyan (Armenia, ALDE) be appointed to the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Forum;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised the co-rapporteurs to conduct a fact-finding visit to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, subject to the availability of financial resources:
- **Other business:** took note of the resignation of Mr Zolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur for the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria and agreed to appoint a new rapporteur to replace him at its next meeting;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its upcoming meetings on the following dates:
 - Strasbourg, 30 September - 4 October 2019 (during the Assembly part-session)
 - Paris, 13 November 2019 (Council of Europe Office)
 - Paris, 11 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

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