



SECRETARIAT

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4 October 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 30 September, 1, 2 and 3 October 2019

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg on 30 September, 1, 2 and 3 October 2019 in camera, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) and Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair:

• on Monday, 30 September 2019 at 2.00 pm., with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Poland** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard an oral report from Ms Gustafsson on the fact-finding visit by the co-rapporteurs to Warsaw on 5-6 September 2019 and held an exchange of views;

– **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC, and Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE): heard an oral report from Mr Kern on the fact-finding visit by the co-rapporteurs to Tbilisi on 16-18 September 2019 and held an exchange of views;

– **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Bulgaria, EPP/CD and Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE): agreed to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on the recent amendments to the legal framework in Ukraine governing the Supreme Court and judicial self-governing bodies;

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

– **Armenia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Šircelj, Slovenia, EPP/CD and ...): agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Ms Yuliya Lovochkina (Ukraine, SOC), who is no longer a member of the Assembly, at its next meeting; agreed to organise a hearing on “Challenges and responses to the independence of the judiciary in Armenia,” at its next meeting;

– **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and ...): agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Serhiy Sobolev (Ukraine, EPP/CD), who is no longer a member of the Assembly, at its next meeting;

• on Tuesday, 1 October 2019 at 8.30 am., with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards, as regards:

– **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Telmo Correia, Portugal, EPP/CD and ...): agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Ms Angela Smith (United Kingdom, ALDE), who is no longer a member of the Committee, at its next meeting; held a hearing on civil society and democratic participation in the Russian Federation with the participation of Mr Vladimir Kara-Murza, Chairman of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom, Ms Emiliya Slabunova, President of the Yabloko Party, Mr Leonid Volkov, Campaign Manager of Mr Alexei Navalny and Ms Tatiana Glushkova, representative of Memorial;

• on **Wednesday, 2 October 2019 at 2.00 pm.**, with Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

– **North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD): took position on 5 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;

• on **Thursday, 3 October 2019 at 8.30 am.**, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Joint hearing with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on Eradicating torture in Europe:** held a joint hearing with the participation of Mr Mykola Gnatovskyy, President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), Mr Mark Kelly, 1st Vice-President of the CPT and Ms Eva Csörgö, Europe and Central Asia Programme Officer, Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) (video link);

• on **Thursday, 3 October 2019 at 2.00 pm.**, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards:

– **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC): took position on 7 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;

– **North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD): took note of Mr Pocij's resignation as co-rapporteur and agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace him at its next meeting;

– **Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD.): appointed Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur for the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;

– **Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD and Mr Anne Mulder, Netherlands, ALDE): postponed the oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Podgorica on 11-13 September 2019 until a future meeting and agreed to hold an exchange of views at the December meeting on the Montenegrin "Commission for monitoring actions of the competent authorities in the investigation of cases of threats and violence against journalists, murders of journalists and attacks on media property";

– **World Forum for Democracy on "Is Democracy in danger in the information age?" (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2019):** took note of the draft programme;

– **Other business:** was informed of a breach of confidentiality of the Committee proceedings by a representative of the Russian delegation who took part in the hearing of 1 October and entrusted the Chairperson to write an open letter to the Chairperson of the delegation of the Russian Federation regarding this issue;

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

Paris, 13 November 2019 (Council of Europe Office)

Paris, 11 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

Copy to:

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Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
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