



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Mon (2019) CB 08**

16 November 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 13 November 2019**

**The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)**, meeting in Paris on 13 November 2019 in camera, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair:

- **on Wednesday, 13 November 2019 at 9.30 am.**, as regards:
  - **Turkey** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Nigel Evans, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, SOC*): held a hearing on the reform of the justice system and the future Action plan for human rights and their expected impact on freedom of expression and assembly in the framework of the follow-up to [Resolution 2260 \(2019\)](#), with the participation of Mr Hacı Ali Açıkgül, Head of Department of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice of Turkey and Ms Irem Arf Rayfield, Researcher, Europe Regional Office, Amnesty International; heard the position of the three main political party groups in the Turkish parliament concerning the proposed reforms with the participation of Mr Akif Çağatay Kiliç (Turkey, NR), Chairperson of the Turkish delegation to the PACE and representative of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), Mr Haluk Koç (Turkey, SOC), representative of the Republican People's Party (CHP) and Mr Hişyar Özsoy (Turkey, UEL), representative of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP); following an oral invitation by Mr Kiliç, agreed to hold a meeting of the Committee in Turkey in March 2020 (subject to receiving a formal invitation from the Parliament of Turkey and the authorisation by the Bureau);
  - **Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Tirana (28-30 October 2019) and held an exchange of views with Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission;
  - **Russian Federation** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Telmo Correia, Portugal, EPP/CD and Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC*): appointed Mr Axel Schäfer (Germany, SOC) as new co-rapporteur to replace Ms Angela Smith (United Kingdom, ALDE), who is no longer a member of the Committee and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest; held an exchange of views with Mr Fredrik Sundberg, Head of Department for the Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
- **on Wednesday, 13 November 2019 at 2.30 pm.**, as regards:
  - **Armenia** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Šircelj, Slovenia, EPP/CD and...*): postponed until its next meeting the appointment of a new co-rapporteur to replace Ms Yuliya Lovochkina (Ukraine, SOC), who is no longer a member of the Assembly; held a hearing on "Challenges and responses to the independence of the judiciary in Armenia," with the participation of Dr Arman Tatoyan, Human Rights Defender of Armenia and Mr Martin Kuijer, Member of the Venice Commission;
  - **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2019)** (*rapporteur ex officio: Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): heard a communication by the rapporteur and held an exchange of views;

– **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD): appointed Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) as new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Serhiy Sobolev (Ukraine, EPP/CD), who is no longer a member of the Assembly, subject to his declaration of non-conflict of interest;

– **North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and ...): postponed until its next meeting the appointment of a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD), who resigned;

– **Other business:**

**Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Anne Mulder, Netherlands, ALDE and ...): agreed to appoint at its next meeting a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe (Romania, EPP/CD), who resigned from his position as co-rapporteur following his appointment as Minister of Youth and Sport in the Romanian Government;

**Spain:** agreed to hold a hearing on recent developments in Spain with the relevant political parties, as well as the Catalan authorities, at a next meeting;

**New complementary procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to the lack of compliance by a Member State with its statutory obligations:** agreed to hold an exchange of views on this issue at its next meeting;

**Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC): agreed to hold an exchange of views with Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC), rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on *Reported cases of political prisoners in Azerbaijan*, at its next meeting;

– **Next meetings:**

Paris, 11 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office) \*

Strasbourg, 27-31 January 2020 (during the Assembly part-session)

Ankara, \*\*\*March 2020 (tbc and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau)

Strasbourg, 20-24 April 2020 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, \*\*\* May 2020 (tbc)

Strasbourg, 22-26 June 2020 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 8 September 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (tbc)

Strasbourg, 12-16 October 2020 (during the Assembly part-session)

Paris, 16 November 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (tbc)

Paris, 10 December 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (tbc)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

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Copy to:

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Secretary General of the Congress

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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

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**\* Please note that, after further consultations, the date of the next meeting has been maintained as originally foreseen.**