



SECRETARIAT

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20 January 2020

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 16 January 2020

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 16 January 2020 in camera, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA), in the Chair:

- on Thursday, 16 January 2020 at 9.30 am., as regards:
 - **Malta**: heard a statement by Mr Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD), Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on *Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and the rule of law in Malta and beyond: ensuring that the whole truth emerges* (video link) and held an exchange of views; agreed to hold a follow-up hearing in the context of its forthcoming periodic review report on the honouring of membership obligations by Malta, with the participation of, inter alia, Mr Matthew Caruana Galizia during an upcoming Committee meeting and invited the Chairperson to write a letter to the Maltese authorities informing them of the hearing as well as of the support in the Committee for Mr Omtzigt's work and upcoming visit to Malta in the framework of the report of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: *Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and the rule of law in Malta and beyond: ensuring that the whole truth emerges*;
 - **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlățean, Romania, SOC, and Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE): held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country, with the participation of Mr Giorgi Burjanadze, Deputy Public Defender of Georgia, Mr Irakli Kobakhidze, Member of Parliament of Georgia, Georgian Dream, Ms Tamar Chugoshvili (Georgia, SOC), Chairperson of the PACE Delegation of Georgia, Independent, and Mr Giorgi Kandelaki (Georgia, EPP/CD), European Georgia; invited the Chairperson to write a letter to the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament to express the concerns of the Committee about the non-authorisation of a member of the Georgian delegation to participate in this hearing, to which she had been invited by the Committee;
 - **Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pociej, Poland, EPP/CD): postponed the exchange of views on recent developments in the country until the next meeting;
 - **Serbia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country, in particular the preparation of the 2020 parliamentary elections, with the participation of Mr Vladimir Orlić, Chairperson of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee of the Serbian National Assembly, Deputy Head of the Serbian Progressive Party Parliamentary Group, Ms Tanja Fajon (Slovenia, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats), Chairperson of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee of the European Parliament and Member of the Parliamentary Delegation of facilitators in the "inter-Party Dialogue" in the National Assembly of Serbia and Ms Vukosava Crnjanski, Director of the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA);
 - **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2019)** (rapporteur: Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC/DA): took note of the withdrawal of the draft addendum by the Chairperson and agreed to return to the subject matter of the draft addendum during one of its next meetings;

- **Procedure on the preparation of periodic review reports:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee and agreed to return to this issue during one of its next meetings; agreed to put an item on Romania on the agenda for its next meeting and agreed to resume the preparation of the periodic review reports on the honouring of membership obligations by Hungary, Malta and Romania;
- **Future complementary joint procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly: possible role to play by the Monitoring Committee:** heard a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee;
- **Albania** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL and Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Tirana (28-30 October 2019), held an exchange of views and decided to declassify the information note; following the end of the five-year term of Mr Hunko as co-rapporteur on 29 January 2020, agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur at the next meeting; agreed to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft media law in Albania;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits:** authorised the respective co-rapporteurs to conduct fact-finding visits to Albania and North Macedonia, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Other business:**
 - Armenia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Andrej Šircelj, Slovenia, EPP/CD and Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC): took note of a written declaration of non-conflict of interest by Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) as co-rapporteur for Armenia;
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD): took note of a written declaration of non-conflict of interest by Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur for Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD): took note of a written declaration of non-conflict of interest by Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten (Netherlands, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur for North Macedonia;
 - Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and...): following the resignation of Mr Telmo Correia (Portugal, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur, agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace him at its next meeting;
 - Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, SOC and...): following the resignation of Mr Nigel Evans (United Kingdom, EC/DA) as co-rapporteur, agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace him at its next meeting;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** agreed from now on to only appoint rapporteurs if they are present in the meeting during their appointment or if they have provided the committee in advance with a written declaration of non-conflict of interest;

– **Next meetings:**

Strasbourg, 27-31 January 2020 (during the Assembly part-session)
Ankara, 26-27 March 2020
Strasbourg, 20-24 April 2020 (during the Assembly part-session)
Paris, 27 May 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (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, 13 November 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (tbc)
Paris, 10 December 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (tbc)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

Copy to:

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