



SECRETARIAT

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29 May 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 by videoconference
on 27 May 2020**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 27 May 2020 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE), in the Chair, after having heard a message by Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, at the opening of the meeting, as regards:

- **Poland** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): appointed Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD, as co-rapporteurs on The honouring of obligations and commitments by Poland and heard from them a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Hungary** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC and Mr František Kopřiva, Czech Republic, ALDE*): appointed Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC and Mr František Kopřiva, Czech Republic, ALDE, as co-rapporteurs on a periodic review report on The honouring of membership obligations by Hungary and heard from them a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Malta**: postponed until the next meeting the appointment of co-rapporteurs on a periodic review report on The honouring of membership obligations by Malta;
- **Romania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Edmon Marukyan, Armenia, ALDE and Ms Jette Christensen, Norway, SOC*): appointed Mr Edmon Marukyan, Armenia, ALDE and Ms Jette Christensen, Norway, SOC, as co-rapporteurs on a periodic review report on The honouring of membership obligations by Romania and heard from them a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **North Macedonia** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and ...*): postponed until the next meeting the appointment of a co-rapporteur on The post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia; agreed, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Resolution 1115 (1997) as amended, to prolong for a maximum period of six months the term of office of Ms Christoffersen as co-rapporteur which is to expire on 25 June 2020;
- **Armenia** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Mr Bernard Fournier, France, EPP/CD*): appointed Mr Bernard Fournier, France, EPP/CD as co-rapporteur on The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest; took note of a letter sent by the Chairperson of the ALDE Group about recent incidents in the Armenian parliament;
- **Russian Federation** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs and held an exchange of views; agreed to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on constitutional amendments and the procedure for their adoption; entrusted its Chairperson to send a letter, on behalf of the Committee, to the Chairperson of the Russian Delegation encouraging the Russian authorities to invite the Parliamentary Assembly to observe the referendum ("All-Russian vote") on the constitutional amendments;
- **Turkey** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, SOC and Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs and held an exchange of views; agreed to ask the Venice Commission for an opinion on the draft law on the bar associations;

- **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC/DA): postponed until the next meeting the exchange of views on recent developments in the country;
- **The COVID-19 virus and the work of the Committee**: agreed to hold, at the next meeting, a hearing on Membership obligations and the conduct of democratic elections in the context of the pandemic of COVID-19 and postponed until the next meeting the exchange of views;
- **Other business**: agreed, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Resolution 1115 (1997) as amended, to prolong for a maximum period of six months the term of office of Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC), as co-rapporteur for the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria, which is to expire on 25 June 2020;
- **Next meetings**: agreed on the dates of the next meetings of the Committee:
 - Meeting by videoconference, 22 June 2020
 - September 2020 (tbc)
 - Strasbourg, 12-16 October 2020 (during the October part-session)
 - Paris, 13 November 2020 (Council of Europe Office)
 - Paris, 10 December 2020 (Council of Europe Office)

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

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