



SECRETARIAT

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24 June 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 22 June 2020**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 22 June 2020 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) and then Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD), in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 22 June 2020 at 10.00 am.**, as regards:
 - **Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Anne Mulder, Netherlands, ALDE and Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD): considered a draft report and adopted unanimously a draft resolution on the post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro;
 - **Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC/DA): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs and held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country; invited the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States to consider organising a hearing on the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh during a next meeting of the Sub-Committee;
 - **Malta**: appointed Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir, Iceland, UEL and following his resignation as co-rapporteur for Armenia, Mr Bernard Fournier, France, EPP/CD, as co-rapporteurs on a periodic review report on the honouring of membership obligations by Malta and heard from them a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
 - **Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, SOC and Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs on recent developments and held an exchange of views;
- **on Monday, 22 June 2020 at 03.00 pm.**, with Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD), 1st Vice-Chairperson in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Hearing on membership obligations and the conduct of democratic elections in the context of the pandemic of COVID-19**: heard a statement by Mr Oliver Kask, Chairperson of the Council of Democratic Elections of the Venice Commission, Judge of the Court of Appeal of Estonia; heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs and/or members of the Committee from North Macedonia, Poland and France and held an exchange of views; decided to hold an hearing on “long-term observation, in the context of the honouring of membership obligations, of electoral processes and new voting mechanisms in time of crisis” at one of its next meeting;
 - **Armenia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and): following the resignation of Mr Bernard Fournier, France, EPP/CD as co-rapporteur on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia, agreed to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace him at its next meeting;
 - **North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC and Mr Zsolt Csenger-Zalán, Hungary, EPP/CD): appointed Mr Zsolt Csenger-Zalán, Hungary, EPP/CD, as co-rapporteur on the post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;

- **COVID-19 and the work of the Committee:** held an exchange of views and agreed to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to be seized for opinion on the report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on *Democracies facing the COVID-19 pandemic* (rapporteur: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA);
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the details concerning submission of candidates for the 2020 Prize;
- **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard a statement by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) on the amendments to the Russian Constitution and the procedure for their adoption and held an exchange of views; agreed to return to this issue as soon as the Venice Commission opinion on the Constitutional amendments has been adopted;
- **Next meetings:**
 - agreed to leave it to the Chair to decide on the date of the next meeting in consideration of the dates of the next part session as well as the sanitary conditions after the summer recess
 - 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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