



SECRETARIAT

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6 October 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 5 October 2020**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 5 October 2020 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 5 October 2020 at 9.30am.**, as regards:
  - **Democracies facing the Covid-19 pandemic** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Yuliya Lovochkina, Ukraine, SOC*): considered and approved unanimously a draft opinion and adopted two amendments to the draft resolution prepared by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy;
  - **PACE Toolkit on Guidelines for discussions on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic**: heard a statement by Mr Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly and held an exchange of views;
  - **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by Ms Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights on transitional justice and held an exchange of views;
  - **Military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan** (*co-rapporteurs for Armenia: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Ms Boriana Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD and co-rapporteurs for Azerbaijan: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Sir Roger Gale, United Kingdom, EC/DA*): heard statements by the delegations concerned and held an exchange of views; agreed to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on “Armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, failure of peaceful conflict resolution and a risk to regional stability” during the next Standing Committee meeting on 12 October 2020; entrusted the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee to make a statement reflecting the discussions in the committee;
- **on Monday, 5 October 2020 at 2.00pm.**, as regards:
  - **Armenia** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Ms Boriana Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the constitutional reform in Armenia with the participation of Mr Eirik Holmøyvik, Member of the Venice Commission for Norway, Professor of Law at the University of Bergen and Mr Yeghishe Kirakosyan, Chairperson of the Specialised Commission on Constitutional Reforms and Representative of the Republic of Armenia before the European Court of Human Rights;
  - **Russian Federation** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country;
  - **Montenegro** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE*): appointed Mr Damien Cottier (Switzerland, ALDE) as co-rapporteur to replace Mr Anne Mulder (Netherlands, ALDE) and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;

- **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC): appointed Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC) as co-rapporteur to replace Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France, SOC) and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE and ...): postponed until the next meeting the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Ms Dzhema Grozdanova (Bulgaria, EPP/CD);
- **Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD): postponed until the next meeting the exchange of views on recent developments in the country and on the preparation of the next report on post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria;
- **Periodic review reports**: held an exchange of views on the selection process of countries for periodic review reports and on the preparation of periodic review reports and decided to consider a draft decision on this issue at its next meeting;
- **Other business**: agreed to hold at a future meeting a hearing on “the situation of lawyers in Turkey and other recent developments”, and a hearing on “the democratic challenges in Serbia after the June 2020 elections” pending the appointment of a new delegation of Serbia to PACE;
- **Next meetings**:
  - Videoconference, 13 November 2020
  - Paris, 10 December 2020 (Council of Europe Office) (tbc)

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