



SECRETARIAT

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17 November 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 13 November 2020**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 13 November 2020 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:

- **on Friday, 13 November 2020 at 9.30am.**, as regards:
  - **Periodic review reports:** held an exchange of views on the selection process of countries for periodic review reports; adopted and declassified a decision prepared by the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee on revised internal working methods for the selection by the Monitoring Committee of countries for periodic review on the honouring of membership obligations;
  - **Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC and Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE): heard an oral report on recent parliamentary elections (31 October 2020); held an exchange of views with Mr Nicolae Eşanu, Member of the Venice Commission for the Republic of Moldova, on the amendments to the Georgian law on the Common Courts with regard to the appointment of Supreme Court judges; agreed to ask for a Venice Commission opinion on the recent amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications and the Law on Broadcasting;
  - **Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard an oral report on the meeting between the co-rapporteurs and the Chairperson of the delegation of the Russian Federation (11 November 2020) and held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country;
  - **Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC and Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD): held an exchange of views on recent developments in the country and on the preparation of the next report on post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria;
  - **Modalities on the preparation of reports during the Covid-19 pandemic:** held an exchange of views and endorsed the proposal of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee to prepare a note on this topic for consideration during the next Committee meeting;
- **on Friday, 13 November 2020 at 2.00pm.**, as regards:
  - **Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, SOC and Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA): heard an oral report on the meeting between the co-rapporteurs and the Chairperson of the delegation of Turkey (19 October 2020); held a hearing on the follow-up to [Resolution 2347 \(2020\)](#) on “New crackdown on political opposition and civil dissent in Turkey: urgent need to safeguard Council of Europe standards”, on the situation of dismissed and replaced mayors, with the participation of Ms Yoomi Rendström, co-rapporteur on local and regional democracy in Turkey of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Mr Peter Bußjäger, Member of the Venice Commission for Liechtenstein, on the replacement of elected candidates and mayors in Turkey and Mr Üzeyir Aziz Özeren, Deputy Director General of Provincial Administrations, Ministry of Interior of Turkey;

- **Albania** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Joe O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD and Mr Petter Eide, Norway, UEL): held an exchange of views on the draft amendments to the law on Audiovisual Media Service with the participation of Ms Klotilda Bushka (Albania, SOC), PACE member of the delegation of Albania and rapporteur of the Albanian Parliament on the draft amendments, Ms Herdís Kjerulf Thorgeirsdóttir, Member of the Venice Commission for Iceland and Mr Patrick Penninckx, Head of the Information Society Department of the Council of Europe; in absence of a quorum agreed to place on the agenda for the next meeting a request to the Venice Commission for an opinion on the revised amendments before they are adopted in the final reading;
- **Military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs for Armenia: Mr Kimmo Kijunen, 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 an oral report on the meeting between the co-rapporteurs for Armenia and Mr Thomas de Waal, Senior Fellow with Carnegie Europe (9 November 2020) and held an exchange of views on recent developments with regard to the military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- **Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE and Mr Birgir Thórarinsson, Iceland EPP/CD): appointed Mr Birgir Thórarinsson, Iceland, EPP/CD as co-rapporteur for Ukraine to replace Ms Dzhema Grozdanova (Bulgaria, EPP/CD) and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Other business:** agreed to hold an exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the next meeting;
- **Next meetings:**
  - Videoconference, 11 December 2020

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

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