



SECRETARIAT

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15 December 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 11 December 2020**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 11 December 2020 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) and Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- **on Friday, 11 December 2020 at 9.30am.**, as regards:

*Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:*

- **Statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** held an exchange of views with Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

*Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) in the Chair:*

- **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2020)** (*rapporteur: Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen, Denmark, ALDE*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended, with a view to its presentation at the 2021 First part-session;

*Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:*

- **Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Joe O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD and Mr Petter Eide, Norway, UEL*): agreed to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the final draft of the revised amendments on the Albanian law on Audio-visual Media before its adoption by the Albanian parliament;

- **Periodic review reports:** heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs in charge of periodic review reports on Hungary, Malta and Romania on their meeting held by videoconference on 30 November 2020; agreed to ask the Bureau for an exceptional 6-month extension of the references of the three periodic review reports; agreed to hold a hearing on the situation in Hungary at one of its next meetings; held a preliminary exchange of views on the selection of the next periodic review reports;

- **on Friday, 11 December 2020 at 2.00pm.**, as regards:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Tiny Kox, Netherlands, UEL and Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (15 November 2020 and 20 December 2020) with Mr Stewart Dickson (United Kingdom, ILDG), Member of the delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on the remote observation of local elections;

- **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*): held an exchange of views with Mr Thomas de Waal, expert, senior fellow with Carnegie Europe specialising in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region; entrusted the Chairperson to write a letter to the delegations of Armenia and Azerbaijan on issues of concern raised by the Committee;

- **Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Egidijus Vareikis, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC): held an exchange of views on the recent presidential election (1 and 15 November 2020); made a call for candidates to replace Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD) who would be leaving the Assembly in January 2021;
- **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;
- **Other business**: agreed, in accordance with paragraph 12.4 of Resolution 1115 (1997) as amended, to extend for a maximum period of six months, the term of office of Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), as co-rapporteur on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan, which would expire on 9 June 2021;
- **Next meetings**:
  - Strasbourg, 25-29 January 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 3 February 2021
  - 9 March 2021
  - Strasbourg, 19-23 April 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 19 May 2021
  - Strasbourg, 21-25 June 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 13 September 2021
  - Strasbourg, 27 September-1 October 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 16 November 2021
  - 14 December 2021

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

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