



SECRETARIAT

**AS/Mon (2021) CB 02**

11 March 2021

**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 9 March 2021**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 9 March 2021 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:

- **on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 at 10.00am.**, as regards:
  - **Terms of office of Rapporteurs of the Committee:** Following the decisions of the Bureau of 30 April 2020 and of 1 February 2021 to extend the validity of all current references to committees by one year in total, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work, entrusted the Chairperson of the Committee to request the Bureau to apply the same principle with respect to its rapporteurs and extend their terms of office by one year, including those which may have expired since 30 April 2020 in case there has been no replacement;
  - **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE): considered a revised addendum to the report on the post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro and adopted 8 amendments to the draft resolution;
  - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Mr Richard Bacon, United Kingdom, EC/DA): appointed Mr Richard Bacon (United Kingdom, EC/DA) as co-rapporteur on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
  - **Reports of the European Commission on “The rule of law situation in the European Union”:** held an exchange of views with Mr Nicolaas Bel, Deputy Head of the “Justice policy and rule of law” Unit of the Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission, on the 2020 rule of law reports prepared by the European Commission and held an exchange of views in particular on the rule of law situation in Hungary, Malta and Romania in the framework of the preparation of periodic review reports on these countries;
  - **Sub-committee on conflicts between Council of Europe Member States:** held an exchange of views on the criteria to be considered with regard to the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee;
- **on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 at 2.00pm.**, as regards:
  - **Military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs for Armenia: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Ms Borianna Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD and co-rapporteurs for Azerbaijan: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Mr Richard Bacon, United Kingdom, EC/DA): held an exchange of views on the implementation of the trilateral statement in particular with regard to the issue of prisoners of war with Mr Peter Svedberg, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Task Force for the Swedish Chairpersonship of the OSCE;

- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Russian Federation** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC and Ms Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard a statement by the co-rapporteur on the preparation of the report and held an exchange of views;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, SOC and Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA): heard a statement by the co-rapporteurs and agreed to organise a hearing on the follow-up to [Resolution 2347 \(2021\)](#) on “New crackdown on political opposition and civil dissent in Turkey: urgent need to safeguard Council of Europe standards” during its next meeting;
- **Call for candidates**: made a call for candidates to replace Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfssdóttir (Iceland, UEL), for the report on the honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Malta;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: re-confirmed the authorisation given to the co-rapporteurs to conduct a fact-finding visit to Turkey; authorised the respective co-rapporteurs to conduct fact-finding visits to Hungary and Romania, as soon as the sanitary situation allows and subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Next meetings**:
  - Strasbourg, 15 April 2021, videoconference
  - Strasbourg, 19-22 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

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**The Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**, meeting by videoconference on 9 March 2021, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee**: elected by acclamation Mr Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden, SOC) Chairperson and postponed the election of a Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee to the next meeting;
- **Workplan of the Committee**: held an exchange of views on future activities and agreed on the interpretation of its working methods and asked the Chairperson to prepare concrete proposals to be discussed at its next meeting;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder, Alexis Salanson

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