



SECRETARIAT

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18 November 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 in Strasbourg in a hybrid manner on 16 November 2021

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Strasbourg in a hybrid manner on 16 November 2021 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:

- on Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 10.00 am., as regards:
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Ukraine** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Alfred Heer, Switzerland, ALDE and Mr Birgir Þórarinnsson, Iceland, EPP/CD): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Kyiv (5-7 July 2021), held an exchange of views and agreed to declassify the information note;
 - **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD and Mr Frank Schwabe, Germany, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Alfred Heer (Switzerland, ALDE), Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau for the presidential and early parliamentary elections in Bulgaria on recent developments following the first round of the presidential election and early parliamentary elections (14 November 2021);
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by the Republic of Moldova** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC and Ms Inese Lībiņa-Egnere, Latvia, EPP/CD): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol (12-15 October 2021) and held an exchange of views with Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission;
 - **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Kimmo Kiljunen, Finland, SOC and Ms Boriana Åberg, Sweden, EPP/CD): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs of their fact-finding visit to Yerevan (3-5 November 2021) and held an exchange of views;
 - **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Malta** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Bernard Fournier, France, EPP/CD and Mr George Loucaides, Cyprus, UEL): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur of the fact-finding visit to Valletta (25-27 October 2021) and held an exchange of views;
 - **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary** (co-rapporteurs: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC and Mr František Kopřiva, Czech Republic, ALDE): held an exchange of views on the preparation of the report, took note of the letter of the Hungarian authorities in which it informed the Committee that, due to the heavy workload during the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, they would only be able to submit their comments beyond the 6 weeks deadline foreseen in the Rules, and made a call for candidates to replace Mr František Kopřiva (Czech Republic, ALDE) following his resignation as rapporteur; decided to ask the Bureau for an exceptional extension of six months of the validity of the reference which is due to expire on 12 April 2022, until 12 October 2022;

- **on Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 2.00 pm.**, as regards:
 - ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia*** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): held an exchange of views with Mr Martin Kuijer, Substitute member (Netherlands) of the Venice Commission and agreed to request a comprehensive opinion of the Venice Commission on “the constitutional and legal framework governing the functioning of democratic institutions in Serbia”, taking into account its earlier opinion adopted on 15-16 October 2021 on the draft Constitutional Amendments on the Judiciary and draft Constitutional Law for the Implementation of the Constitutional Amendments;
 - ***Human rights protection in Europe***: heard a statement by Mr Nils Muižnieks, Director for Europe, Amnesty International on the recent reports of Amnesty International on Hungary and Turkey as well as on general trends with regard to Human Rights protection in Europe and continued the exchange of views started during the previous meeting;
 - ***The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Romania*** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Petri Honkonen, Finland, ALDE and Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC): held an exchange of views on the preparation of the report and decided to ask the Bureau for an exceptional extension of six months of the validity of the reference, which is due to expire on 12 April 2022, until 12 October 2022;
 - ***The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (January-December 2021)*** (rapporteur: Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen, Denmark, ALDE): heard a statement by the rapporteur and held an exchange of views;
 - ***The post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro*** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE and Mr Nicos Tornaritis, Cyprus, EPP/CD): appointed Mr Nicos Tornaritis (Cyprus, EPP/CD) as a rapporteur on the post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro, subject to receiving his declaration of non-conflict of interests;
 - ***The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania*** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Joseph O’Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD and...): postponed until the next meeting the appointment of a rapporteur on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania;
 - ***Authorisation of fact-finding visits***: authorised the respective co-rapporteurs to conduct a fact-finding visit to the Republic of Moldova, subject to the availability of financial resources;
 - ***Other business***:
 - ✓ accepted the invitation by Mr Yildiz, Chairperson of the delegation of Turkey, to hold a Committee meeting in Ankara in spring 2022, epidemiological conditions allowing, and decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly for its authorisation to hold a meeting in Ankara next year;
 - ✓ heard a statement by Mr Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/CD) on the resolution adopted by the Lithuanian parliament on the Russian elections as well as on the situation of migrants in Belarus;
 - ***Next meetings***:
 - 14 December 2021 [Paris, hybrid meeting]
 - 15 December 2021 morning [Paris, hybrid meeting of the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Member States of the Council of Europe – TBC]
 - Strasbourg, 24-28 January 2022 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - 29-30 March 2022 [place and format tbc]
 - Strasbourg, 25-29 April 2022 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - 24 May 2022 [place and format tbc]
 - Strasbourg, 20-24 June 2022 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - 15 September 2022 [place and format tbc]
 - 10-14 October 2022 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - 16 November 2022 [place and format tbc]
 - 14 December 2022 [place and format tbc]

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

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