



SECRETARIAT

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2 February 2022

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 1st February 2022

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting by videoconference on 1st February 2022 in camera, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Titus Corlăţean, Romania, SOC and Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE): considered a preliminary draft report and agreed to send it to the authorities of Georgia for comments to be submitted by 16 March 2022 latest; decided to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the December 2021 amendments to the Organic Law on Common Courts of Georgia;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Csenger-Zalán, Hungary, EPP/CD and Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC): considered an information note by the co-rapporteurs on recent developments and decided to declassify it; appointed Ms Sibel Arslan (Switzerland, SOC) as rapporteur on the post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia and heard from her a declaration of non-conflict of interests;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and Mr Richard Bacon, United Kingdom, EC/DA): held an exchange of views and decided to request an opinion of the Venice Commission on the Media Law in Azerbaijan;
- **The post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Aleksander Pocij, Poland, EPP/CD and Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC): appointed Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) as rapporteur on the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria, subject to receiving from her a declaration of non-conflict of interests;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Turkey** (co-rapporteurs: Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): appointed Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) as rapporteur on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Turkey and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interests;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EC/DA and.....): postponed until the next meeting the appointment of a new rapporteur;
- **Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission)**: decided to propose to the Bureau the following nominations to the Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission) for 2022: Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/CD) as member and Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as substitute;
- **Sub-Committee on conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**: heard an oral report by Mr Claude Kern (France, ALDE), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting of 26 January 2022;

- **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): considered a revised information note by the co-rapporteurs on the fact-finding visit (12-15 October 2021) and decided to declassify it;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**: took note of the details concerning submission of candidates for the 2022 Prize;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for Armenia to conduct a fact-finding visit to the country subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Other business**:
 - ✓ made a call for candidates for the honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia to replace Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) who resigned following his election as Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee;
 - ✓ agreed to hold a hearing at its next meeting with a view to being informed on developments regarding monitoring procedures within the Organisation;
 - ✓ heard a statement from Mr Emanuelis Zingeris (Lithuania, EPP/DC) about the health situation of Mr Saakashvili and invited the rapporteurs for the monitoring of Georgia to continue to follow the developments in this regard;
- **Next meetings**:
 - 29 March 2022 [Paris, hybrid]
 - 30 March 2022 morning [Paris, hybrid], meeting of the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States
 - Strasbourg, 25-29 April 2022 [during the Assembly part-session]
 - 24 – 25 May 2022 [Ankara, face-to-face and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau]
 - 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, Matthieu Monin

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