



**AS/Mon (2022) CB 07**

16 September 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 in Paris on 14 September 2022

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris on 14 September 2022 in camera, with Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Request for a current affairs debate:** Following a proposal by Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE), decided to request the Bureau of the Assembly to hold a current affairs debate on the military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan during the next October part-session of the Assembly;
- **Election of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee:** following the resignation of Mr Iulian Bulai (Romania, ALDE), elected Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross (Estonia, ALDE) 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson by acclamation;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended; was informed by Mr Ahmet Yıldız (Türkiye, NR), Chairperson of the Turkish delegation, of his intention to submit a dissenting opinion; agreed to request the Venice Commission for an opinion on the draft amendments to the Turkish Penal Code regarding the provision on “misleading information”;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC and Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Romania** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC and Ms Krista Baumane, Latvia, ALDE*): heard a report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Bucharest (4-5 July 2022); considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended; agreed to request the Venice Commission for an opinion on the three draft Justice laws: on the status of Magistrates; on the Organisation of the Judiciary; and on the Superior Council of Magistrates;
- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by The Netherlands** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Spain, SOC and...*): held a hearing on the functioning of democratic institutions in The Netherlands: the Childcare Allowance case, with the participation of Mr Chris Van Dam, former President of the Childcare Allowance Parliamentary Inquiry Committee (POK) of the Dutch House of Representatives, Ms Claire Bazy Malaurie, President of the Venice Commission and Mr Ruard Ganzevoort, Head of the parliamentary investigation Committee on the effectiveness of anti-discrimination legislation of the Dutch Senate;

- **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by San Marino** (co-rapporteurs: Mr Viorel-Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD and Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL): heard a report by the co-rapporteurs on their remote meeting (27 June 2022) with members of the secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and heard a statement on the preparation of the report;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia** (co-rapporteurs: Ms Sibel Arslan, Switzerland, SOC and ...): postponed the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Mr Zsolt Csenger-Zálan (Hungary, EPP/CD) until the next meeting;
- **The role of the Council of Europe in preventing human suffering resulting from international armed conflicts: different stages of conflict prevention and best practices to be employed** (rapporteur...): postponed the appointment of a rapporteur for opinion until the next meeting;
- **World Forum for Democracy on “Democracy: a new hope?” (Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2022)**: appointed Mr Asim Mollazada (Azerbaijan EC/DA), Ms Yelyzaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) and Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE) to sit on the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Forum;
- **Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on the selection procedure for the periodic monitoring reports in 2023**: agreed to postpone the exchange of views until the next meeting;
- **Procedure in and conduct of Committee meetings**: held an exchange of views on the Committee’s reply to the letter of the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs on the basis of the Memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly on “The Assembly’s procedures and working methods during sessions and meetings held in physical presence of members: “lessons learned from operating in hybrid format””;
- **Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau on the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe**: heard a communication by Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC/DA) and Ms Fiona O’Loughlin (Ireland, ALDE), rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on “A fourth Summit for a renewed, improved and reinforced Council of Europe”;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised the co-rapporteurs for Serbia to conduct a fact-finding visit, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Next meetings**:
  - 15 September 2022 morning, Paris, Sub-Committee on Conflicts concerning Member States of the Council of Europe
  - 10-14 October 2022 [during the Assembly part-session]
  - 16 November 2022, Paris (tbc)
  - 14 December 2022, Paris

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