

SECRETARIAT

AS/Mon (2022) CB 09 16 December 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 December 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 December 2022 in camera, with Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) and Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Adoption of the revised draft agenda:** held an exchange of views and following a vote, postponed the item on the selection of new countries for periodic review until after the adoption by the Assembly of the revised rules of procedure governing the length of the term of reference for periodic review reports;
- 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 and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - Mr Joseph O'Reilly (Ireland, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:
- The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2022) (Rapporteur: Mr Piero Fassino, Italy, SOC): considered and approved a report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - Mr Piero Fassino (Italy, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:
- The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by San Marino (Corapporteurs: Mr Viorel-Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD and Mr Andrej Hunko, Germany, UEL): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to San-Marino (24-26 October 2022) and considered a preliminary draft report; agreed to send it to the authorities of San Marino for comments to be submitted by 15 February 2023 at the latest;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria** (*Co-rapporteurs: Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, Iceland, SOC and Ms María Valentina Martinez Ferro, Spain, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on recent developments following the parliamentary elections (2 October 2022); invited the co-rapporteurs to carry out a fact-finding visit to Bulgaria at their earliest convenience, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- The honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Zsolt Németh, Hungary, EC/DA and Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva, Bulgaria, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on recent developments following the parliamentary elections (2 October 2022) with Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), Chairperson of the *Ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau;
- The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by France (Co-rapporteurs: Ms Yelysaveta Yasko, Ukraine, EPP/CD and Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Ireland, ALDE): held an exchange of views with Mr Ugo Bernalicis, Member of the French Parliament, Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on obstacles to the Independence of the Judiciary (15th legislature);

- The honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye (Co-rapporteurs: Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC): held an exchange of views on recent developments in Türkiye following the adoption of Resolution 2459 (2022) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Türkiye; was informed about the state of preparation of the next visit of the co-rapporteurs to take place early January 2023 and made a call for candidates to replace Mr Boriss Cilevičs who will be leaving the Assembly on 23 January 2023;
- Relations 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 Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC): held an exchange of views on the ongoing mediation efforts with Mr Toivo Klaar, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and Mr Brice Roquefeuil, Special Envoy for the South Caucasus, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership and French Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group; authorised the co-rapporteurs for Azerbaijan and Armenia to jointly carry out a fact-finding visit to the region, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (*Co-rapporteurs: Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE and Mr Nicos Tornaritis, Cyprus, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteur on the fact-finding visit to Podgorica (11-12 July 2022) and held an exchange of views;
- The honouring of obligations and commitments by Azerbaijan (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, United Kingdom, EC/DA and Ms Lise Christoffersen, Norway, SOC): agreed to request for a Venice Commission opinion on the law on political parties in Azerbaijan;
- **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Hungary** (Co-rapporteurs...): postponed the item until its next meeting;
- The honouring of obligations and commitments by Serbia (Co-rapporteurs: Ms Eva Decroix, Czech Republic, EC/DA and Mr Axel Schäfer, Germany, SOC): appointed Mr Axel Schäfer (Germany, SOC) as co-rapporteur and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- The honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Claude Kern, France, ALDE and ...): postponed the item until its next meeting;
- **74**th meeting of the Council for Democratic elections (Venice, 20 October 2022): heard an oral report by Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL);
- Meeting of the Monitoring Committee in Rome (30-31 May 2023): took note of the intention of the Chair to hold a meeting of the Monitoring Committee in Rome (Italy) on 30-31 May 2023 and agreed to hold this meeting, subject to receiving an official invitation letter and the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly:
- Joint hearing with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: agreed to hold a joint hearing on freedom of expression and media at a future meeting (April 2023 to be confirmed);
- Next meetings: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the first part-session 2023 of the Assembly (23-27 January);
 - o Paris, 21 March 2023 (Council of Europe office);
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2023 of the Assembly (24-28 April);
 - o Rome (tbc) 30-31 May 2023;
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2023 of the Assembly (19-23 June);
 - o Paris, 14 September 2023 (Council of Europe office);
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
 - o Paris, 13 December 2023 (Council of Europe office).

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