



SECRETARIAT

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31 May 2018

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 29 May 2018

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in Paris, on 29 May 2018, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **The functioning of democratic institutions in Poland** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Yves Cruchten, Luxembourg, SOC and Ms Theodora Bakoyannnis, Greece, EPP/CD): appointed Ms Theodora Bakoyannnis (Greece, EPP/CD) co-rapporteur to replace Ms Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter (Switzerland, EPP/CD) and took note of her written declaration of non-conflict of interest; held an exchange of views on the judicial reforms in Poland with the participation of Mr Łukasz Piebiak, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Justice, accompanied by Mr Tomasz Darkowski, Director of the Legislative Department, Mr Dariusz Drajewicz, Vice-President of the National Council of the Judiciary of Poland, Ms Zuzanna Rudzińska-Bluszcz, Office of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson), Mr Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission, Mr Tymoteusz Zych, Institute for Legal Culture Ordo Iuris, Ms Małgorzata Szuleka, Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Ms Barbora Cernusakova, Amnesty International;
- **Azerbaijan** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and ...): agreed to postpone the appointment of a co-rapporteur to replace Mr Cezar Florin Preda (Romania, EPP/CD), who resigned from his position as co-rapporteur for Azerbaijan, to its next meeting;
- **Ukraine** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Eerik-Niiles Kross, Estonia, ALDE and Ms Dzhema Grozdanova, Bulgaria, EPP/CD): decided to declassify an information note by the co-rapporteurs on Mr Kross' fact-finding visit to Kyiv (19-21 March 2018);
- **Armenia** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Giuseppe Galati, Italy, EPP/CD and Ms Yuliya Lovockhina, Ukraine, SOC): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their fact finding visit to Yerevan (23-25 May 2018);
- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (Co-rapporteurs: Mr Ionuț-Marian Stroe, Romania, EPP/CD and Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE): heard an oral report from Mr Rigoni on the observation of the presidential election of 15 April 2018 and held an exchange on recent developments;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: authorised a fact-finding visit to Albania;
- **Other business**:
 - **Serbia** (Co-rapporteurs: Ms Maria Guzenina, Finland, SOC and ...): following the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs' decision on 15 May 2018, to deprive Mr Samad Seyidov (Azerbaijan, EC) of the right to act as a committee Rapporteur for a period of two years, pursuant to paragraph 27 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly, decided to appoint a new co-rapporteur to replace Mr Seyidov at its next meeting;

- Thanked its member and former PACE President Ms Anne Brasseur (Luxembourg, ALDE) who is leaving the Assembly for her outstanding contribution to the work of the Monitoring Committee and the Assembly;

– **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meetings as follows:

Strasbourg, 25-29 June 2018 (during the Assembly part-session);
Tbilisi, 17-18 September 2018 (*subject to approval by the Bureau and the availability of funds*);
Strasbourg, 8-12 October 2018 (during the Assembly part-session);
Paris, 14 November 2018 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*);
Paris, 12 December 2018 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*).

Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

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