



SECRETARIAT

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5 February 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 a hybrid manner and by videoconference  
on 25-28 January and 3 February 2021**

The Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), meeting in a hybrid manner and by videoconference on 25-28 January and 3 February 2021 in camera, with Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE), Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD) and Mr Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden, SOC) in the Chair:

- **on Monday, 25 January 2021 at 2.00pm.**, as regards:

*Mr Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden, SOC), oldest member present in the Chair:*

- **Election of the Chairperson of the Committee:** re-elected Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE), Chairperson by acclamation;

*Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:*

- **Election of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee:** re-elected the following Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation:

- Mr Zsolt Németh (Hungary, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson,
- Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson (Sweden, SOC), Second Vice-Chairperson,
- Ms Inese Lībiņa-Egnere (Latvia, EPP/CD), Third Vice-Chairperson;

- **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of the Russian Federation:** appointed Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC) as rapporteur and heard from him a declaration of non-conflict of interest;

- **Sub-committee on conflicts between Council of Europe Member States:** decided to re-constitute the sub-committee (the list of the members is attached in appendix);

- **The progress of the Assembly's monitoring procedure (January-December 2020)** (*rapporteur: Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen, Denmark, ADLE*): took position on 19 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;

- **Post-monitoring dialogue with Montenegro** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Lithuania, EPP/CD and Mr Damien Cottier, Switzerland, ALDE*): in light of the agenda of the January 2021 part-session adopted by the Assembly, postponed the consideration of an addendum to the report on the post-monitoring dialog with Montenegro until its meeting on 9 March 2021;

- **on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 at 2.45pm.**, as regards:

*Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:*

– **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of the Russian Federation** (*rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;

- **on Wednesday, 27 January 2021 at 2.45pm.**, as regards:

*Mr Michael Aastrup Jensen (Denmark, ALDE) in the Chair:*

– **Spain**: held an exchange of views with Mr Roger Torrent i Ramió, Speaker of the Parliament of Catalonia, and Mr Antonio Gutiérrez (Spain, SOC), Chairperson of the Spanish Delegation to PACE and agreed to organise another exchange of views on this issue at a next meeting after the Catalan regional elections have taken place;

- **on Thursday, 28 January 2021 at 8.30am.**, as regards:

*Mr Zsolt Nemeth (Hungary, EPP/CD) in the Chair:*

– **Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the parliamentary delegation of the Russian Federation** (*rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*): took position on 7 amendments tabled to the draft resolution;

- **on Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 10.00am.**, as regards:

– **The honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe by Hungary** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr George Papandreu, Greece, SOC and Mr František Kopřiva, Czech Republic, ALDE*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs on their meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 with the PACE delegation of Hungary and held an exchange of views on the situation in Hungary with the participation of Mr Miklós Szánthó, Director of the Center for Fundamental Rights and Mr András Léderer, Senior Advocacy officer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee; decided to ask for an opinion of the Venice Commission on the legislative and constitutional package adopted by the Hungarian parliament in December 2020; in the framework of the preparation of the periodic review reports on Hungary, Romania and Malta, decided to organise, at one of its next meetings, an exchange of views with representatives of the European Commission responsible for the reports on “the rule of law situation in the European Union”;

– **Periodic review reports**: held an exchange of views on the selection of countries for periodic review reports on the honouring of membership obligations to the Council of Europe and following a vote, selected France, the Netherlands and San Marino for report; invited the Chairperson to send this list to the Bureau for ratification by the Assembly in accordance with [paragraph 8](#) of the Terms of Reference of the Committee;

– **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Poland** (*co-rapporteurs: Ms Azadeh Rojhan Gustafsson, Sweden, SOC and Mr Pieter Omtzigt, Netherlands, EPP/CD*): heard an oral report by the co-rapporteurs of their virtual meetings with Polish NGOs, the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland and the PACE delegation and held an exchange of views;

- **on Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 2.00pm.**, as regards:

– **The honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania** (*co-rapporteurs: Mr Joe O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD and Mr Petter Eide, Norway, UEL*): considered an information note on the electoral reforms in Albania and decided to declassify it;

– **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 a hearing on “Democratic challenges in Serbia after the June 2020 elections”, with the participation of Mr Ivica Dačić, Chairperson of the Serbian delegation to the PACE, for the majority, Mr Enis Imamović, member of the Serbian delegation to the PACE, for the opposition, Professor Tanasije Marinković, Full Professor of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade and Mr Rasa Nedeljkov, Program Director, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA); decided to ask for an opinion of the Venice Commission on “The constitutional and legal framework governing the functioning of democratic institutions in Serbia”;

- **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): appointed Ms Inese Lībiņa-Egnere (Latvia, EPP/CD) as co-rapporteur to replace Mr Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD) and heard from her a declaration of non-conflict of interest;
- **Military hostilities 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 Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC and ...): held an exchange of views and decided to organise another one on the implementation of the tripartite statement, in particular with regard to issue of prisoners of war at its next meeting;
- **Council for Democratic Elections (Venice Commission)**: decided to propose to the Bureau of the Assembly Mr Aleksander Pocij (Poland, EPP/DC) as the Committee's representative and Ms Jette Christensen (Norway, SOC) as his substitute for the year 2021;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**: took note of the details concerning submission of candidates for the 2021 Prize;
- **Authorisation of fact-finding visits**: re-confirmed the authorization given to the respective co-rapporteurs to conduct fact-finding visits to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine; authorised the respective co-rapporteurs to conduct fact-finding visits to Montenegro and Poland, as soon as the sanitary situation allows and subject to the availability of financial resources;
- **Other business**: made a call for candidates to replace:
  - Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC/DA) for the monitoring procedure in respect of Azerbaijan
  - Mr Frank Schwabe (Germany, SOC) for the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria
  - Ms Lise Christoffersen (Norway, SOC) for the post-monitoring dialogue with North Macedonia
- **Next meetings**:
  - 9 March 2021, videoconference
  - Strasbourg, 19-23 April 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 19 May 2021
  - Strasbourg, 21-25 June 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 13 September 2021
  - Strasbourg, 27 September-1 October 2021 (during the Assembly part-session)
  - 16 November 2021
  - 14 December 2021

\* \* \*

**The Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**, meeting by videoconference on 3 February 2021, with Mr Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden, SOC) oldest member present, in the Chair as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee**: postponed the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson until the next meeting;
- **Date and place of the next meeting**: 9 March 2021, videoconference.

Agnieszka Nachilo, Bas Klein, Sylvie Affholder

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations  
Secretary General of the Congress  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights  
Director of Communication  
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

**APPENDIX**

**Composition of the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States**

- **Co-rapporteurs on Armenia**

KILJUNEN Kimmo (SOC, Finland)  
ÅBERG Boriana (EPP/CD, Sweden)

- **Co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan**

SCHENNACH Stefan (SOC, Austria)  
...

- **Co-rapporteurs on Georgia**

CORLĂȚEAN Titus (SOC, Romania)  
KERN Claude (ALDE, France)

- **Co-rapporteurs on the Republic of Moldova**

FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain (SOC, Switzerland)  
LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Inese (EPP/CD, Latvia)

- **Co-rapporteurs on the Russian Federation**

SCHÄFER Axel (SOC, Germany)  
OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria (EPP/CD, Pays-Bas)

- **Co-rapporteurs on Turkey**

HAMMARBERG Thomas (SOC, Sweden)  
HOWELL John (EC/DA, United Kingdom)

- **Co-rapporteurs on Ukraine**

HEER Alfred (ALDE, Switzerland)  
THÓRARINSSON (EPP/CD, Iceland)

**Member of the Monitoring Committee of each of the member States that are party to the conflicts under the terms of reference of the sub-committee:**

**Armenia**

RUBINYAN Ruben, EPP/CD

**Azerbaijan**

SEYIDOV Samad, EC/DA

**Cyprus**

LOUCAIDES George, UEL

**Georgia**

KUTCHAVA Kakhaber, SOC

**Republic of Moldova**

POPSOI Mihail, EPP/CD

**Russian Federation**

KALASHNIKOV Leonid, UEL

**Turkey**

KOÇ Haluk, SOC

**Ukraine**

SOBOLEV Serhii, EPP/CD

***Ex officio:***

**Chair of the Monitoring Committee**

JENSEN Michael Aastrup (Denmark)

**Chairs of political groups *(not included above):***

**Group of the European People's Party**

POCIEJ Aleksander (Poland)

**Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group**

SCHWABE Frank (Germany)

**Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe**

MAIRE Jacques (France)

**European Conservatives Group & Democratic Alliance**

LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian (United Kingdom)

**Group of the Unified European Left**

KOX Tiny (Netherlands)

**Chairs of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:**

Dame Cheryl GILLAN, Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Boriss CILEVIČS, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights