



Strasbourg, 18 October 2000

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CDL (2000) SYN 44

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**44<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING**  
**(Venice, 13-14 October 2000)**

### SYNOPSIS

The Commission:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Guillermo Kirkpatrick, Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe, and with Mr Hendrik Wagenmakers, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe, in the context of its co-operation with the Committee of Ministers;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Lydie Err, Vice-President of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, in the framework of its co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly;
- was informed on progress in the work on constitutional revision in Armenia and on the results of the seminar on efficiency of constitutional justice in a society in transition held in Erevan on 6-7 October 2000;
- approved the opinion on the law on parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, prepared by Mr Nolte in collaboration with the Secretariat;
- was informed as to progress in the process of constitutional revision in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and decided to continue its work on this matter;
- was informed on the Forum on Federalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was held in Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar on 26-28 July 2000 in cooperation with the German Embassy in Sarajevo;
- adopted its opinion on constitutional guarantees for freedom of information in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- adopted its opinion on the draft constitutional law on the rights of minorities in Croatia and decided to continue its co-operation with the Croatian authorities on this matter;

- adopted its opinion on the constitutional amendments concerning legislative elections in Slovenia;
- was informed on the results of the meetings held in Kyiv on 13-15 September 2000 on the implementation of the constitutional referendum in Ukraine and adopted its opinion on constitutional reform in Ukraine;
- decided to form a working group on the situation in Abkhazia;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in Moldova and possible follow-up to the visit to Moldova of the President of the Committee of Ministers, in which the Commission also participated;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Giorgio Battaglioni concerning the revision of the electoral law in the Swiss canton of Ticino and decided to continue its work on this matter;
- adopted the report on a general legal reference framework to facilitate the settlement of ethno-political conflicts in Europe, prepared by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Federal and Regional State;
- fixed the dates of its next meeting as 15-16 December 2000;
- fixed the schedule of its meetings for 2001 as follows:
  - 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 9-10 March
  - 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 6-7 July
  - 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 19-20 October
  - 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 14-15 December.

G. BUQUICCHIO

Distribution:

Members

Associate Members

Observers

Permanent Representatives