

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

50th PLENARY MEETING
(Venice, 8-9 March 2002)

S Y N O P S I S

The Commission

- held an exchange of views with Mr Pietro Ercole Ago, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe and with Mr Jean-Claude Joseph, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe on the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the new Statute of the Venice Commission;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly on the further intensification of co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly;
- was informed by Mr Libert Cuatrecasas, President of the CLRAE on the activities of the Congress and held an exchange of views on future co-operation with the Congress;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Prodi, the President of the European Commission on the co-operation between the European Union and the Venice Commission;
- examined the opinions on the draft amendments to the Electoral Law of Armenia and instructed the Secretariat to draw up a consolidated opinion which would be forwarded to the Armenian authorities;
- adopted the opinion on the draft law on the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan;
- adopted at the request of the Parliamentary Assembly the opinion on Possible groups to which the framework Convention on National Minorities could be applied in Belgium;
- was informed on the results of the meeting of the Working Group on the draft law on the rights of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina which took place in Paris on 1 March 2002 and adopted the opinions on the draft laws on the State Agency for Protection and Information and on civil service in Government Institutions, which would be forwarded to the Office of High Representative;
- discussed recent developments concerning the Ombudsman institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and progress in the work concerning the proposed merger of the Human Rights Chamber with the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Miljenko Kovac, Deputy Minister of Justice of Croatia regarding progress of the Constitutional Law on the Rights of Minorities and adopted the opinion on the Law on election of members of the representative bodies of local and regional self-government units of Croatia;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Adeishvili, Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, on the revision of the Constitution of Georgia, appointed Rapporteurs on the revision of the Constitution of Georgia and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated opinion on the Electoral Code of Georgia, which would be forwarded to the Georgian authorities;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Mishin, Vice-Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament, and adopted the opinion on the draft law on the modification of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova in particular concerning the status of Gagauzia;
- was informed on progress of work on the opinion on the draft law on Political parties in Ukraine and adopted the opinion on Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on the principles of the State policy of Ukraine in the Human Rights field;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in France, Germany, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
- was informed about the results of the meeting of the Sub-Commission on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and adopted the new Rules

of Procedure of the Venice Commission as proposed by the Sub-Commission in accordance with the revised Statute adopted by the Committee of Ministers;

- was informed about the meeting of the Council of Democratic Elections ;
- confirmed the dates of its next plenary session as 5 6 July 2002.

G. BUQUICCHIO

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Distribution:

Members

Associate Members

Observers

Permanent Representatives