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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

from 4 March to 23 May 2013

**This document has been classified restricted on the date of issue. Unless the Venice Commission decides otherwise, it will be declassified a year after its issue according to the rules set up in Resolution CM/Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.*

4 March 2013 - Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Mihai Ghimpu, former President of Moldova, on the political situation in the country and on the Law on banning communist symbols.

5 March 2013 - Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Thorbjorn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on the situation in Hungary and on main issues to be dealt with during the next plenary session.

12 March 2013 – Strasbourg

- Working lunch with Mrs Ria Domen-Ruijten, member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on Turkey on the Turkish constitutional process and developments in Cyprus.

13 March 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Panzeri, Chairman of the European Parliament Monitoring Group on the situation in the Southern Mediterranean, on the situation in Tunisia and Libya.
- Meeting with Mr Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, member of the European Parliament, on Turkey and Libya.

17-18 March 2013 – Manama, Bahrain

- Speech on “the Jurisdiction of the interpretation of the Constitution through the Constitutional control organ, directly or indirectly” at the 8th Symposium of the Union of Arab Constitutional Courts or Councils.

20 March 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Ms Marina Stavniychuk, Advisor to President of Ukraine, Office for Constitutional and Legal Modernisation Affairs, on progress of the work of the Ukrainian Constitutional Assembly.

26 March 2013 – Strasbourg

- Courtesy visit by Mr Youssef Balla, new Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco to Strasbourg.
- Meeting with Mr Stelian Stoian, Ambassador of Romania to the Council of Europe, to discuss the modalities of the Venice Commission’s involvement in the process of amending the Constitution of Romania following the request by Prime Minister Victor Ponta.

27 March 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mrs Mary Mc Leod, Legal Adviser on the occasion of the US accession to Venice Commission. Overview of the main activities of the Venice Commission.

9 April 2013 – Kosice, Slovak Republic

- Opening address at the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic.

- Participation in the international conference on “the position of Constitutional Courts and their influence on the legal order of the State”.

10 April 2013 – Kosice, Slovak Republic

- Official opening of the new session chamber of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic.
- Award of the honorary degree of “Doctor of Honoris Causa” of the Pavol Jozef Safárik University in Kosice.

11-12 April 2013 – Monaco

- Visit of the Venice Commission delegation to Monaco for the preparation of the opinion on the Monaco Constitution.
- Meetings with Mr André Garino, Chairman of the Social and Economic Council; Mr Michel Roger, State Minister; Mr José Badia, Minister for External relations; Mr Laurent Anselmi, Legal Affairs Director; Mr Robert Colle, Secretary General of the Government; Ms Mireille Pettiti, Director General of external relations; Ms Elisabeth Lanteri-Minet, Director of International Affairs; Mr Michel-Yves Mourou, President of the Crown Council; Mr Georges Lisimachio, Head of the Prince’s Cabinet; Mr George Marsan, Mayor of Monaco; Mr Philippe Narmino, Director of the Judicial Services (Minister of Justice); Mr Jean-Pierre Dreno, Prosecutor General; Ms Brigitte Grinola-Gambarini, First President of the Appeal Court and Mr Didier Linotte, President of the Supreme Tribunal.

23 April 2013 – Strasbourg

- Courtesy visit by Mr Egidius Jarašiūnas, Judge at the European Court of Justice.
- Meeting with Mr Vladimir Voronin, former President of Moldova, and Mr Petrenko, member of Parliament on the legal and political situation in Moldova.
- Meeting with Ms Bidzina Ivanishvili, Prime Minister of Georgia, and Ms Tea Tsulukioni, Minister of Justice, on co-operation with the Venice Commission.
- TV interview on the Law on the judiciary of Georgia

24 April 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Mohammed Alaoui Belrhiti, Diplomatic Advisor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco on possible co-operation with the Venice Commission.
- Meeting with Mr David Bakradze, Leader of the Georgian Parliamentary opposition, and Ms Chiara Taktakishvili and Mr Kandelaki, members of Parliament, on the organic law on the courts of general jurisdiction and other legislative initiatives.
- Meeting with Mr Victor Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania, Mr Valeriu Zgonea, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and Mr Titus Corlatean, Minister for Foreign Affairs on the revision of the Romanian constitution.

25 April 2013 – Strasbourg

- Exchange of views with Prof. José Maria Beneito Perez, member of the Spanish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the Venice Commission.
- Meeting with Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on current issues under consideration by the Venice Commission.
- Meeting with Mr Antoni Martí, Prime Minister of Andorra, on the Venice Commission’s activities.

26 April 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Stavros Makridis, Deputy Head of Turkish Unit of the European Commission on the constitutional revision in Turkey.

29 April 2013 – Paris

- Meeting on working methods of the Venice Commission.

7-8 May 2013 – Cotonou, Benin

- Participation in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Benin and the Conference of African Constitutional Jurisdictions.
- Signing of the co-operation agreement between the Venice Commission and the Conference of African Constitutional Jurisdictions.

14-15 May – Marrakech, Morocco

- Participation in the 2nd Intercultural Workshop on “Democracy: the new constitutionalism in the Arab World – Drafting new constitutions in the context of change”.

16 May 2013 – Brussels, Belgium

- Working visit to the European Union. Meetings with Mr Luis-Felipe Fernandez de la Peña, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia (EEAS); Mr Rui Tavares, member of the European Parliament; Mrs Mara Marinaki, Managing Director for Global and Multilateral Issues (EEAS).
- Working dinner hosted by Ambassador Torbyørn Frøysnes, Head of the Council of Europe Liaison Office with the participation of Mrs Clara Martinez Alberola, Adviser of President Barroso; Mr Rafael Fernandez-Pita y Gonzales, Director General of Justice and Home Affairs, Council of Ministers; Mr Luis Romero-Requeña, Director General of the Legal Service, European Commission; Mr Michael Shotter, Member of the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission; Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, Special Representative for Human Rights (EEAS); Ambassador Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe

22 May 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Elmar Brok, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, on the legal situation in Moldova and Ukraine.

23 May 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the main issues currently under consideration by the Venice Commission and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe