



Strasbourg, 10 June 2015

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Or. fr.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**51<sup>st</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

**Venice, 18 June 2015 at 9.45 a.m.**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

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## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Council is invited to adopt its agenda as it appears in this document.

## **2. Report on the method of nomination of candidates within political parties**

At its March meeting the Council for Democratic Elections examined a first draft of the report on the method of nomination of candidates within political parties ([CDL-EL\(2015\)006](#)). The revised version ([CDL\(2015\)028](#)), prepared on the basis of comments by Ms Alanis Figueroa, Ms Biglino, Mr Craig and Mr Vermeulen, takes particular account of the need to guarantee access to justice and is presented to the Council for adoption (see also document [CDL\(2015\)007](#)).

## **3. Exclusion of offenders from Parliament**

Following the agreement between the ruling majority and the opposition in Albania, ending the boycott of Parliament, the President of the Special Parliamentary Committee to address the issue in the Resolution for agreement between the ruling majority and the opposition in the Assembly of Albania asked for the Venice Commission's co-operation on the issue of people with criminal records, who hold a public office or seek to be elected or appointed to one. In this framework, a draft preliminary report on the exclusion of offenders from Parliament was drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Bartole, Mr Kask and Mr Sørensen ([CDL\(2015\)029](#)). The report takes into account the situation in more than 30 States as well as contributions from members of the Commission on this issue. It is submitted to the Council for adoption.

## **4. Guidelines on combatting the misuse of administrative resources**

Following the adoption of the report on the misuse of administrative resources during the electoral process ([CDL-AD\(2013\)033](#)) and the 11<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on this theme, guidelines on this issue have been prepared by Mr Barrett, Mr Gonzalez Oropeza, Mr Hirschfeldt, Mr Kalchenko and Mr Kask ([CDL-EL\(2015\)010](#)). The guidelines are submitted to the Council with a view to their adoption at a forthcoming session.

## **5. People's rights in the Trento Province (Italy)**

The Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers forwarded to the Venice Commission a request from the Provincial Council of Trento concerning a Citizen's initiative bill on public participation, citizens' initiative, referendum and popular initiative and amendments to the provincial electoral law. The rapporteurs travelled to Trento on 27 May 2015 to meet the authorities. The draft opinion ([CDL\(2015\)019](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Castella Andreu, Ms Kiener, Mr Maiani and Ms Peter, is submitted to the Council for adoption (see also documents [CDL-REF\(2015\)016](#) and [017](#)).

## **6. The important of the technical aspects of electoral law**

Ms Weesing-Loeber (expert, the Netherlands) will make a presentation on the importance of the technical aspects of electoral law, which will be based in particular on the Venice Commission's work in this area.

## **7. European Conferences of Electoral Management Bodies (information item)**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies which took place in Brussels on 30 and 31 March 2015 on "Ensuring

neutrality, impartiality and transparency in elections: the role of Electoral Management Bodies". The Conference was organised in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior of Belgium and falls in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the preparation of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies, which will take place in Bucharest on 14-15 April 2016 and which will be organised in co-operation with the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania.

## **8. Co-operation with International IDEA**

Mr Abdurashid Solijonov will give a presentation on the Electoral Processes Programme of International IDEA with a view to identifying synergies and possible joint initiatives with the Venice Commission.

The Council is invited to examine the request from IDEA for observer status at the Council for Democratic Elections.

## **9. Information about current work and future activities**

- Communication by the Secrétariat

The Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly will inform the Council on the Parliamentary Conference on the implementation of the right to free elections, co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in Paris on 4-5 June 2015

Since the Council's March 2015 meeting the following activities have taken place in the electoral field:

- Post Electoral Conference in Moldova (Chisinau, 23-24 March 2015)
- Second International Conference organised by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania on "Electoral Integrity and Regional Co-operation" (Bucharest, 25-26 March 2015)
- Round Table on the rules of procedure of the Central Electoral Commission of Albania (Tirana, 1 April 2015)
- Meeting on the financing of electoral campaigns: a challenge for the electoral process in the Southern Mediterranean (Tunis, 27-28 April 2015)
- Meeting with the parliamentary group on local elections of the *Verkhovna Rada* (Kyiv, 21 April 2015)
- Meeting with the expert group of the civil society working on the draft law on local elections (Kyiv, 29 April 2015)
- 10th International Electoral Affairs Symposium (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 26-27 May 2015)
- Training sessions on the resolution of electoral disputes for proxies (Chisinau, 26-29 May 2015)
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly's mission observing the Legislative elections in Turkey (7 June 2015)
- Launching event of an Organisation of Arabic Speaking Electoral Management Bodies (Beirut, 8-9 June 2015)

The following activities are already planned:

- The 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) (Chisinau, 9-11 September 2015)

- the 2nd General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 17-22 August 2015)
- The European Conference on the Codification of Electoral Law, organised by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania which will take place on 19-20 October in Bucharest

The Secretariat will give further details on these activities at the request of the members.

- Co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR

An exchange of views will take place with the representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation. The OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council on its current and future activities in the electoral field.

#### **10. Date of the next meeting**

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 22 October 2015 at 9.45 a.m.