



Strasbourg, 7 June 2024

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

80th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS
Venice, 20 June 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Revised interpretative declaration on the stability of electoral law

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to approval, the draft revised interpretative declaration on the stability of electoral law ([CDL\(2024\)013](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Castellà Andreu, Mr Darmanović, Mr Holmøyvik, Mr Kask, Ms Pabel and Mr Rubio Nuñez.

3. Georgia – Follow-up Opinion to the Joint Opinion on the draft amendments to the Election Code and to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to approval, the draft Follow-up Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)012](#)) to the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and ODIHR on the draft amendments to the Election Code and to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia ([CDL-AD\(2023\)047](#)) ([CDL-REF\(2024\)008](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Alivizatos, Mr Frendo and Ms Pabel. This Follow-up Opinion was requested by the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly on 7 March 2024.

4. Georgia – Opinion on amendments to the Election Code which abolish gender quotas

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to approval, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)018](#)) on amendments to the Election Code of Georgia which abolish gender quotas ([CDL-REF\(2024\)014](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Alivizatos, Mr Frendo and Ms Pabel. This Opinion was requested by the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly on 16 April 2024.

5. Republic of Moldova – Opinion on the Law of the Republic of Moldova on the partial implementation of the postal vote

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to approval, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)022](#)) on the Law of the Republic of Moldova on the partial implementation of the postal vote ([CDL-REF\(2024\)019](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Mr Holmøyvik and Ms Milašiūtė. This Opinion was requested by the President of the Parliament of Republic of Moldova on 3 May 2024.

The Opinion was prepared under the [Quick Response Mechanism \(QRM\)](#) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme [Partnership for Good Governance](#), co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

6. Haiti – Opinion on possible legislative solutions to conduct future electoral processes

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to approval, the draft Interim Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)023](#)) on possible legislative solutions to conduct future electoral processes in Haiti, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Frendo, Mr Holmøyvik, Ms Otálora Malassis and Mr Séners. This Opinion was requested by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States on 4 March 2024. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Latin America will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 20 June 2024.

7. Migration and asylum in the electoral campaigns

The Parliamentary Assembly, in its [Resolution 2525 \(2024\)](#) “The theme of migration and asylum in election campaigns and its consequences on the reception of migrants and their rights”

adopted on 24 January 2024, encouraged, in paragraph 8(1) “the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission to develop a code of conduct for electoral candidates and/or for the media to combat narratives which run counter to the European Court of Human Rights case law on regulating freedom of expression and the prohibition of hate speech”.

The Council could propose to the Venice Commission to carry out a study on circumscribing freedom of expression and banning hate speech in the context of election campaigns in the light of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and the standards drawn up by Council of Europe bodies, notably Committee of Ministers recommendations, in the area of combating hate speech and hate crimes, and on the promotion of pluralism in the expression of opinions in a democratic environment. Such a study could potentially result in the subsequent drafting of a checklist.

8. Information on issues of interest for the Council of Democratic Elections

Mr Darmanovic will inform the Council on the visit of a delegation of the Venice Commission to Mexico in the context of the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The members of the Council are invited to provide information on issues of interest for the Council on electoral matters.

9. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday, 10 October 2024 from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.