



Strasbourg, 25 June 2018

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Or. Engl

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

**115<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**  
**(Venice, 22-23 June 2018)**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Commission

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Artak Zeynalyan, Minister of Justice of **Armenia** and with Ms Arpine Hovhannisyan, Vice President, National Assembly of Armenia, on future co-operation and was informed on the planned legal reforms in Armenia;
- Held an exchange of views with Ms Nela Kuburović, Minister of Justice of **Serbia**, and adopted the Opinion on draft amendments to the constitutional provisions on the judiciary of Serbia, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on the Judiciary on 21 June 2018;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Balázs Orbán, State Secretary, Prime Minister's Office of **Hungary**, and adopted the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the compatibility with international human rights standards of the Hungarian Government's new "Stop Soros" legislative package to the extent that it affects NGO activities in Europe, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on the Fundamental Rights on 21 June 2018;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Florin Iordache, Chair of the Joint Special Parliamentary Commission for amending the Judicial Laws of **Romania**, and with Mr Bodgan Dima, State Advisor, Presidential Administration, was informed on progress of work on the draft opinion on the draft legislation on the judiciary of Romania and authorized the rapporteurs to prepare a preliminary opinion to be sent to the Romanian authorities in July 2018, following consultation with the Bureau and the Chair of the Sub-Commission on the Judiciary;
- Adopted the *amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of **Georgia** on the effects of the decisions of constitutional courts on final judgments in civil and administrative cases;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Mentor Borovci, Director of Legal Office, Office of the Prime Minister of **Kosovo**, and adopted the Opinion on the "draft law on amending and supplementing the Law no. 03/I-174 on the Financing of Political Entities (Amended and Supplemented by Law no. 04/I-058 and Law no. 04/I-122) and Law no. 003/I-073 on General Elections (Amended and Supplemented by Law no. 03/I-256)", previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections on 21 June 2018;
- Adopted the Opinion on the Draft Act amending the Constitution, on the Draft Act on the Human Rights and Equality Commission and on the Draft Act on Equality of **Malta**, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on Fundamental Rights on 21 June 2018;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Nikola Saranović, Deputy Minister, Director General at the Directorate for International Cooperation and projects, Ministry of Justice of **Montenegro**, and adopted the Opinion on the draft law on amendments to the law of Montenegro on the Judicial Council and Judges;
- Decided to continue examination of the Report on **the recall of Mayors and other local elected representatives**, with a view to adoption at a forthcoming session;
- Was informed on **follow up** to the:
  - Opinion on Constitutional amendments as adopted at the second reading in December 2017 by the Parliament of **Georgia**;
  - Opinion on the Draft Act amending the Act on the National Council of the Judiciary of **Poland**, on the Draft Act amending the Act on the Supreme Court, proposed by the President of Poland, and on the Act on the Organisation of Ordinary Courts of Poland;

- Opinion on the Draft Law of **Ukraine** on Anticorruption Courts and on the Draft Law of Ukraine on Amendments to the Law on the Judicial System and the Status of Judges (concerning the introduction of mandatory specialisation of judges on the consideration of corruption and corruption-related offences);
  - Opinion on the law on national referendum of Ukraine;
  - Opinion on the draft law on principles of the state language policy of Ukraine;
  - Joint Opinion on the draft Checklist on the abuse of administrative resources in elections at the local and regional level, prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
- Held an exchange of views with Ms Brigitte Ohms, Member of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), and was informed on progress of work on the **Venice Principles on the protection and promotion of the Ombudsman Institution**;
  - Held an exchange of views with Mr Gerhard Reissner, former President of the **Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)**;
  - Held an exchange of views with Mr Tamás Sulyok, President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary and with Mr Jinsung Lee, President of the Constitutional Court of the **Republic of Korea**;
  - Was informed on assistance to **Albania** in the framework of electoral reform;
  - Was informed on support to **Bosnia and Herzegovina** for the reform of the rules on the election of the House of Peoples of the Federation;
  - Was informed on recent constitutional developments in **France** and in **Kazakhstan**;
  - Was informed on the results and conclusions of the 15th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on “Security in elections” (Oslo, 19-20 April 2018); the UniDem-Med Seminar on “Improving the relation between the Administration and the Citizens: a democratic imperative” (Rabat, 23-26 April 2018); the 2nd Scientific Electoral Experts’ Debates “Equal Suffrage” (Sinaia, Romania, 3-4 May 2018); and the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow, 8-9 June 2018);
  - Was informed on the results and conclusions of the meeting of the **Council for Democratic Elections** (21 June 2018);
  - Was informed on planned activities by the President of the **Scientific Council**, and upon proposal of the Scientific Council, decided to prepare a study on separate opinions of constitutional court judges and to co-organise a conference on stocktaking of progress of reforms in Central and Eastern Europe since 1989, to be held in Lund (Sweden) in Spring 2019;
  - endorsed the Compilations of Venice Commission opinions and reports relating to **qualified majorities and anti-deadlock mechanisms** and on **Social and Economic Rights**;
  - Held an exchange of views with the representatives of the **Committee of Ministers**, the **Parliamentary Assembly** and the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe;
  - Confirmed the dates of the **next Plenary Sessions** as follows: 19-20 October 2018 and 14-15 December 2018 and confirmed the dates for the 2019 sessions as follows: 15-16 March 2019; 21-22 June 2019; 11-12 October 2019 and 6-7 December 2019.