



Strasbourg, 18 March 2024

**CDL-PL-PV(2024)001syn**  
Or. Engl.

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

**138<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

**Venice, 15-16 March 2024**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Venice Commission:

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Pedro Rollán Ojeda, President of the Senate of **Spain**, and with Ms Isaura Leal Fernández, Second Secretary of the Bureau of the Congress of Deputies, and adopted the Opinion on the rule of law requirements of amnesties, with particular reference to the parliamentary bill of Spain “on the organic law on amnesty for the institutional, political and social normalisation of Catalonia”, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Rule of Law and on Constitutional Justice at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Emil Dechev, Deputy Minister of Justice of **Bulgaria**, and adopted:
  - o the joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the Code of Ethical Conduct for Bulgarian Judges; and
  - o the joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the Code of Ethical conduct for Bulgarian Prosecutors and Investigators;
- Adopted the Opinion on certain questions relating to the functioning of the Constitutional Court of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Rule of Law and on Constitutional Justice at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Balázs Orbán, Political Director of the Office of the Prime Minister of **Hungary**, and adopted the Opinion on Act LXXXVIII of 2023 on the Protection of National Sovereignty in Hungary, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Federal and Regional State at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Henri Khoury, Minister of Justice of **Lebanon**, and with Mr Georges Okais, Chair of the Parliamentary Sub-Commission on Administration and Justice, and adopted the Opinion on the draft law on the Administrative Judiciary of Lebanon;
- Adopted the **report on bicameralism**, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Federal and Regional State at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024;
- Adopted the **Annual Report of Activities 2023**;
- Endorsed the **Compilation** of Venice Commission Opinions and Reports concerning **Electoral Training** and the Compilation concerning **Central Electoral Management Bodies**;
- Was informed on **follow up** to the Opinion on the draft Law on amendments to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina; to the Opinion on the Law on the prevention of threats to national security, associated with excessive influence of persons having significant economic or political weight in public life (oligarchs) in **Ukraine**; to the Final Opinion on the draft law on de-oligarchisation in **Georgia** and to the Final Opinion on limiting excessive economic and political influence in public life (de-oligarchisation) in the **Republic of Moldova**;
- Elected P. Vilanova Trias (Andorra) as **Chair of the Sub-Commission on Federal and Regional State**, for a term expiring in December 2025;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Adam Bodnar, Minister of Justice of **Poland**, on the rule of law in Poland;

- Held an exchange of views with the Members of the **Bureau of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice**;
- held an exchange of views with the representatives of the **Committee of Ministers**, of the **Parliamentary Assembly** and of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Luigi Zanin, Director of International Cooperation, **Regione Veneto**;
- was informed on the Venice Commission's participation as legal advisor in **electoral observation** missions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- confirmed the dates of the next Plenary Sessions as follows: 21-22 June 2024; 11-12 October 2024; 6-7 December 2024.

The opinion for Bosnia and Herzegovina was prepared under the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme "Horizontal Facility II", co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.