



Strasbourg, 13 June 2005

Restricted
CDL-PV(2005)002syn
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

63rd PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 10-11 June 2005)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- held an exchange of views with Ambassador Anne-Marie Nyroos, Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe and with Ambassador Daniel Bučan, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the Council of Europe on co-operation between the **Committee of Ministers** and the Venice Commission;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Peter Schieder and Mr Erik Jurgens, Members of the **Parliamentary Assembly** of the Council of Europe, on co-operation with the Assembly;
- was informed by Mr Ian Micallef, Member of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**, on the activities of the Congress;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Raphaël Alomar, Governor of the **Council of Europe Development Bank**, on co-operation with the Bank;
- was informed by Mr Luigi Berlinguer on the activities of the ENCJ (European Network of the Councils of the Judiciary);
- was informed about the follow-up to earlier Venice Commission opinions: on Human Rights in **Kosovo**; on amendments to the law on the Ombudsman in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**; on the constitutional situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the powers of the High Representative; and on the law on Political Parties of **Armenia**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Tigran Torossyan, Deputy Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly, and adopted the second interim opinion on constitutional reforms in **Armenia**;
- was informed on progress in the preparation of the amendments to the law on the procedure of conducting gatherings, meetings, rallies and demonstrations in the

Republic of **Armenia**, and endorsed the joint opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on an initial version of these amendments;

- adopted the joint interim opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the revised draft amendments to the Electoral Code of **Armenia**;
- adopted the joint interim opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft amendments to the Electoral Code of **Azerbaijan**;
- postponed the examination of the opinion on possible solutions to the matter of decertification of police officers in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**;
- examined the comments by Messrs van Dijk, Jambrek, Malinverni and Matscher on the nature – domestic or international - of the proceedings before the Human Rights Chamber and the Constitutional Court of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated *amicus curiae* opinion and to submit it to the **European Court of Human Rights**;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Georgia**;
- held an exchange of view with representatives of the **Italian** Government and adopted the opinion on the compatibility of the Gasparri Law and the Frattini Law of Italy with the standards of the Council of Europe in the field of freedom of expression and media pluralism, especially in the light of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;
- adopted the opinion on the Federal Law on the Prokuratura (the Prosecutor's Office) of the **Russian Federation**;
- adopted the opinion on amendments to the Constitution of **Ukraine**;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Bulgaria**;
- held an exchange of view with Ms Vesna Skare-Ozbolt, Minister of Justice of **Croatia**;
- was informed on co-operation on constitutional reform in **Kyrgyzstan**;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Liljana Ingilizova-Ristova, President of the Constitutional Court of "**the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**";
- started the consideration of the opinion on OSCE/ODIHR guidelines on freedom of assembly and decided to adopt it at its next session;
- was informed on progress of work on the study on the role of the Second Chamber;
- was informed on the results and conclusions of the meeting of the Sub-Commission for the protection of minorities;
- was informed on the results and conclusions of the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections;

- adopted a common questionnaire of the OSCE and the Council of Europe on election observations;
- was informed on the results of the study on the supremacy of international law over domestic law, prepared at the request of Turkey;
- confirmed the dates of its next Plenary session: 21-22 October 2005, and of the 2006 sessions (17-18 March; 9-10 June; 13-14 October and 15-16 December 2006).