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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

64th PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 21-22 October 2005)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- held an exchange of views with Ambassador Joaquim Duarte, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe and Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, and with Ambassador Constantin Yerocostopoulos, Permanent Representative of Greece 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;
- 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 about the follow-up to earlier Venice Commission opinions: on Human Rights in **Kosovo**; on the constitutional situation in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and the powers of the High Representative; on the draft law on the Ombudsman of **Serbia**;
- adopted the final opinion on constitutional reforms in **Armenia**, the joint opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the law on making amendments and addendums to the law on the procedure of conducting gatherings, meetings, rallies and demonstrations in the Republic of Armenia and the joint final opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the amendments to the Electoral Code of Armenia;
- adopted the joint final opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft amendments to the Electoral Code of **Azerbaijan**;

- adopted the opinion on possible solutions to the matter of decertification of police officers in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and the opinion on voting rules in the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- was informed on the Conference on the new initiative of the President of **Georgia** for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in South Ossetia;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Omurbek Chirkeshovich Tekebaev, Speaker of the Parliament, Mr Marat Tashtanovitch Kaipov, Minister of Justice and Mr Daniyar Narymbaev, Plenipotentiary of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Parliament and adopted the interim opinion on constitutional reform in **Kyrgyzstan**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Bela Marko, Minister of State of Romania and with Mr Adrian Lemeni, State Secretary for Religious Affairs, and adopted the opinion on the draft law on the status of national minorities in **Romania** as well as the opinion on the draft law on religious freedom and the general regime of religions of Romania;
- endorsed the comments by Mr Malinverni on the draft law on the parliament of the Chechen Republic (**Russian Federation**);
- held an exchange of views with Mr Stojkovic, Minister of Justice of the Republic of **Serbia**, and adopted the opinion on the chapter on the judiciary in the draft constitution of Serbia as approved by the government of Serbia;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Mladenovska-Gorgievska, Minister of Justice of “**the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**” and adopted the opinion on the draft constitutional amendments on the reform of the judicial system;
- adopted a comparative study on referendums in Europe;
- was informed on co-operation with the **Southern African** Judges Commission;
- adopted, at the request of the **Committee of Ministers**, the opinion on PACE Recommendation 1714 on restrictions on the right to vote, on PACE Recommendation 1704 on referendums: towards good practices in Europe and on PACE Recommendation 1713 on democratic oversight of the security sector;
- adopted the joint OSCE/ODIHR- European Commission- Council of Europe guidelines for media monitoring during **election observation** missions and endorsed the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation;
- adopted the opinion on the OSCE/ODIHR guidelines on **freedom of assembly**;
- elected Mr Paczolay (Hungary) as member of the **Bureau**;
- confirmed the dates of its next plenary session: 16-17 December 2005, and of the 2006 sessions (17-18 March; 9-10 June; 13-14 October and 15-16 December 2006).