



Strasbourg, 12 June 2006

Restricted
CDL-PV(2006)002syn
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

67th PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 9-10 June 2006)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- adopted its opinion on amendments to the law on the Constitutional Court of **Armenia** and was informed about recent constitutional developments in that country;
 - adopted the joint opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the amendments to the electoral code of the Republic of **Armenia**;
 - endorsed the preliminary opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**;
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Kote Vardzelashvili, Deputy Minister of Justice of **Georgia**, and adopted its opinion on the draft Law of Georgia on restitution of property and compensation on the territory of Georgia for the victims of the conflict in the former South Ossetia district;
 - adopted the joint opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the electoral code of **Georgia** as amended up to 23 December 2005 ;
 - endorsed the comments by Mr Christians on the draft law on churches and religious communities in the Republic of **Serbia**;
 - was informed by Mr Ranko Krivokapic, Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro, about the constitutional situation in **Montenegro**;
- adopted the joint opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the amendments to the electoral code of “**the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**”;
- adopted its opinion on possible constitutional and legislative improvements to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the Constitutional Court of **Ukraine** ;
 - held an exchange of views with Mr Grygory Titarchuk, Prosecutor General's Office of **Ukraine**, examined the comments by Ms Suchocka, Mr Hamilton and Mr Cornu, expert

of Directorate General I of the Council of Europe, on constitutional amendments on the Prokuratura of Ukraine and instructed the rapporteurs to prepare a consolidated opinion for the Plenary Session in October following an exchange of views with the Ukrainian authorities;

- examined the comments by Messrs Scholsem and Tuori on the possible introduction of the entitlement for former Government members to resume their parliamentary seat in **Ukraine** and instructed the rapporteurs to prepare a consolidated opinion for the Plenary Session of October;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Albania**;
- examined the draft study on the effectiveness of national **remedies concerning the excessive length of proceedings** and instructed all Commission members to submit updated information on their respective country by the end of August 2006 with a view to adopting the report at the next Plenary Session;
- adopted the declaration on **women's participation in elections**;
- adopted the report on the **participation of political parties in elections**;
- adopted the report on **electoral law and electoral administration in Europe**;
- adopted the **revised guide for the evaluation of elections**;
- decided to restructure its Sub-Commissions;
- held an exchange of views with Ambassador Neris Germanas, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe and with Ambassador Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Permanent Representative of Latvia 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 Keith Whitmore, President of the Institutional Affairs Committee of the **Congress on Regional and Local Authorities** of the Council of Europe, on co-operation with the Congress;
- heard an address by Mr Kong-hyun Lee, Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of **Korea** which had recently acceded to the Venice Commission;
- was informed on the activities of the **Council of Europe Development Bank** ;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Leon de la Torre Kraus on the possibilities of co-operation with the **Conference of Constitutional Courts of Latin America, Spain and Portugal**;
- confirmed the dates of the 2007 sessions (16-17 March, 8-9 June; 19-20 October and 14-15 December 2007).