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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW  
(VENICE COMMISSION)

69<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION  
(Venice, 15-16 December 2006)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- Adopted the study on non-citizens and minority rights;
- Adopted the study on the effectiveness of national remedies in respect of excessive length of proceedings;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Ranko Krivokapic, Speaker of the Parliament of **Montenegro** on developments with respect to the adoption of a new Constitution in Montenegro and noted the willingness of Montenegro to co-operate closely with the Venice Commission with a view to drafting a new Constitution in full conformity with European standards;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Gia Kavtaradze, Minister of Justice of **Georgia**, within the framework of the preparation of the opinions on the Law of Georgia on Disciplinary Responsibility and Disciplinary Prosecution of Judges of Common Courts (to be adopted in March 2007) and on draft amendments to the Constitution of Georgia ;
- invited the reporting members to prepare the opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of Georgia in the light of the discussions, and to send it as soon as possible to the Georgian authorities;
- adopted the joint opinion by OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission on the Electoral Code of Georgia, as amended on 24 July 2006;
- adopted its opinion on the law of **Armenia** on the Human Rights Defender and amendments;
- endorsed the comments on the revised version of the law on the direct election of mayors and heads of municipalities in **Croatia**;
- was informed on the request for an evaluation of the current Constitution of **Finland** and decided to set up a working group in this respect;

- held an exchange of views with Mr Marat Kaipov, Minister of Justice of **Kyrgyzstan**, within the framework of the preparation of an opinion on the new Constitution of Kyrgyzstan (to be adopted in March 2007) ;
- held an exchange of views within the framework of the preparation of the opinion on the new Constitution of **Serbia** (to be adopted in March 2007);
- held an exchange of views within the framework of the preparation of the opinions: on the draft Law on Cabinet of Ministers and Central Public Executive Authorities; and on the draft laws on the judiciary and on the status of judges of **Ukraine** (to be adopted in March 2007);
- was informed on follow-up to its opinions on Freedom of Assembly in **Azerbaijan** and on property restitution and compensation on the territory of **Georgia** for the victims of conflict in the former South Ossetia District;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Alikhan M. Baimenov, Majilis Deputy, Parliament of Kazakhstan and with Ms Svetala Bychkova, member of the Constitutional Council on possible co-operation with the Republic of **Kazakhstan**, in the light of the decision of the European Commission to approve a joint programme on co-operation between the Venice Commission and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in **France** and in **Israel**;
- was informed on the “white book on judicial reform” of **Mexico**;
- fixed the dates of the 2007 sessions as follows, 16-17 March, 1-2 June, 19-20 October and 14-15 December 2007.