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Or. Engl

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

**78<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**  
**(Venice, 13-14 March 2009)**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Commission

- adopted the *amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of **Albania** on the admissibility of referendums to abrogate constitutional amendments;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the electoral Code of Albania;
- adopted the opinion on the draft Law on freedom to receive information and on the draft Law on making Amendments to the Code of Administrative Violations of **Armenia**;
- adopted the opinion on the draft amendments to the Criminal Code of Armenia;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Shahin Aliyev, Head of Department of Legislation and Legal Expertise, Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and adopted, by a vote, the opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of **Azerbaijan**;
- adopted the opinion on the draft concept for a new law on Statutory Instruments of **Bulgaria**;
- adopted the opinion on the draft law amending and supplementing the law on judicial power of Bulgaria;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Chiora Taktakishvili, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Legal Issues of the Parliament of **Georgia**, and with Ms Tamar Tomashvili, Deputy Head of Public International Law Department, Ministry of Justice of Georgia, and adopted the opinion on four constitutional laws amending the Constitution of Georgia as well as the opinion on the law on occupied territories of Georgia;
- adopted the *amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of Georgia on the limitation of the viewers' right of access to court against decisions of an independent broadcasting authority for the programme schedule;
- adopted the *amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of Georgia on the retroactivity of statutes of limitations;
- adopted the opinion on the Law on the Constitutional Court of the **Palestinian National Authority**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Yuksel Erdogan, Judge Rapporteur, Ministry of Justice, and adopted the opinion on the constitutional and legal provisions which are relevant for the prohibition of political parties in **Turkey**;
- adopted the opinion on amendments to the Constitution of **Ukraine** introduced by Messrs Yanukovych and Lavrynovych ;
- adopted the opinion on the draft law amending the law on the election of people's Deputies of Ukraine introduced by Messrs Portnov and Lavrynovych;
- adopted the explanatory report to the **Code of Good Practice in the field of Political Parties**;
- adopted the report on the **status of election observers in national and international law**;
- adopted the **annual report of activities 2008**;

- was informed on follow-up to the draft law on the High Judicial Council of the Republic of **Serbia**;
- held an exchange of views with the representatives of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- was addressed by Ms Veronique Arnault, Director of Multilateral Relations and Human Rights, DG-Relex, **European Commission**;
- was addressed by Mr Janez Lenarcic, Director of the **OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**;
- was addressed by Mr Peter Semneby, **EU Special Representative for the Southern Caucasus**;
- postponed the examination of the report on **independence of judges**;
- fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 12-13 June 2009; 9-10 October 2009; 11-12 December 2009.