



Strasbourg, 7 June 2010

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Or. Engl

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

**83<sup>rd</sup> PLENARY SESSION**  
**(Venice, 4 June 2010)**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Commission

- held an exchange of views with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, **Secretary General of the Council of Europe**;
- adopted the opinion on the draft law on normative legal acts of **Azerbaijan**;
- held a preliminary discussion on the compatibility with human rights standards of an official warning addressed by the Ministry of Justice of **Belarus** on 13.01.2010 to the Belarusian Association of journalist;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the law on amendments and modifications to some laws of the Republic of Belarus regulating the conduct of elections and referendums, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- adopted the opinion on the draft law on the prevention of conflict of interest in the Institutions of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law on public assemblies of the Sarajevo Canton of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Janeta Petrova, Deputy Minister of Justice of **Bulgaria**, and adopted the second interim opinion on the draft law of Bulgaria on forfeiture in favour of the state of criminal assets;
- held a preliminary exchange of views on the draft amendments to the constitution of **Georgia** with Mr Avtandil Demetrashvili, Chairman of the State Constitutional Commission;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the electoral code of Georgia, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Omurbek Tekebaev, Deputy Head of the Provisional Government of **Kyrgyzstan**; was informed on visits to that country during May 2010 and adopted the opinion on the draft Constitution of Kyrgyzstan;
- was informed on the constitutional situation in **Moldova** and on the request for an opinion on the revision of the Constitution of that country;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft amendments to the electoral code of Moldova, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of **Montenegro** and adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law amending the law on the election of councillors and members of Parliament of Montenegro, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- was informed on a request by the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly for the Commission to prepare an opinion on the amendments of October 2009 to the law on defence of the **Russian Federation**;
- adopted the report on **counter-terrorism measures and human rights**;

- adopted the revised **guidelines on Freedom of Assembly**, prepared in co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR;
- adopted the draft comments by the Venice Commission in view of the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Recommendation 273(2009) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe "Equal access to local and regional elections", previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- was informed on the results and conclusions of the meeting of the **Joint Council on Constitutional Justice** of 1-2 June 2010;
- was informed by Mr Rogov, President of the Constitutional Council of Kazakhstan on constitutional developments in **Kazakhstan**;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Nepal**;
- was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Turkey**;
- was informed on the state of judicial reforms in **Ukraine**;
- was informed on progress in the reflection of the Commission's working methods and the role of the Scientific Council;
- held an exchange of views with the representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 15-16 October 2010; 17-18 December 2010; 25-26 March 2011; 17-18 June 2011; 14-15 October 2011; 16-17 December 2011.

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The session was followed by the Ceremony to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission on 5 June 2010