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Or. Engl

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

**85<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**  
**(Venice, 17-18 December 2010)**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Commission

- adopted the joint interim opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft Law on public assemblies of **Armenia**;
- adopted the joint interim opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft Law on making amendments and supplements to the Law on freedom of conscience and religious organisations of Armenia;
- adopted the opinion on the compatibility with universal human rights standards of an official warning addressed by the Ministry of Justice of **Belarus** to the Belarusian Association of journalists on 13.01.2010;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Anastas Anastasov, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria and Chairperson of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee and adopted the opinion on the draft Law amending the law on judicial power and the draft Law amending the Criminal Procedure Code of **Bulgaria**, prepared jointly with the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft Law on Peaceful Assembly of **Kyrgyzstan**;
- was informed on the letter sent by the President of the Commission to the President of Kyrgyzstan in relation to the current prosecution of the members of the former Constitutional Court of that country;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Hans Petter F. Gravdahl, Director General, Royal Norwegian Ministry for Local Government and Regional Development, and adopted the joint opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the electoral legislation of **Norway**, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- adopted the opinion on the Federal Law on the amendments to the Federal Law on defence of the **Russian Federation**;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the Law on the financing of political parties of **Serbia**;
- adopted without debate the *amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of “**the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**” on amendments to several laws relating to the system of salaries and remunerations of elected and appointed officials;
- adopted the interim opinion on the draft Law on the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors of **Turkey**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Andriy Portnov, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, and adopted the opinion on the constitutional situation in **Ukraine**;
- adopted the opinion on the draft unified electoral code of Ukraine, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- adopted the opinion on the **United Kingdom** revised Code of Practice on observing elections, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- was informed on the follow-up to the Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on the Judicial System and the Status of Judges of Ukraine by the Venice Commission and the Directorate of Co-

operation within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe and to the Final opinion on the third revised draft Act on forfeiture in favour of the state of assets acquired through illegal activity of Bulgaria;

- was informed on the follow-up to the Opinions on the draft Criteria and standards for the election of judges and court presidents of Serbia, on the draft laws on judges and on the organisation of courts of Serbia and on the draft Law on the High Judicial Council of Serbia, and notably on the meeting with the Minister for Justice of Serbia on 16 December;
- adopted the Report on **individual access to Constitutional Justice**;
- adopted the Report on European standards as regards the **independence of the judicial system – Part II: The Prosecution Service**;
- adopted the report on **electoral fraud**, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Roque Raymundo, Senior Human Rights Adviser to the UN Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> (UNMIK), and with Mr Andy Sparkes, Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), and adopted the opinion on the **compatibility of acts by UNMIK and EULEX with human rights standards**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Rafael Ribo, Chairman of the European Chapter of the **International Ombudsman Institute** on the modalities of future co-operation;
- was informed on constitutional developments in **Kazakhstan** by Mr Nikolay Belorukov and Mr Amanzhol Nurmagambetov, members of the Constitutional Council of that country;
- was informed on a recent constitutional amendment reducing the scope of jurisdiction of the constitutional court of **Hungary**;
- was informed on constitutional developments in **Japan**;
- was informed by Mr Mevlüt Çavusoglu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, on the results of the meeting between the Presidential Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Enlarged Bureau of the Commission, held on 17 December 2010;
- held an exchange of views with representatives of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 25-26 March 2011; 17-18 June 2011; 14-15 October 2011 and 16-17 December 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> *All references to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*