



Strasbourg, 28 March 2011

CDL-PV(2011)001syn
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

86th PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 25-26 March 2011)

SYNOPSIS

At its 86th Plenary Session (25-26 March 2011), the Venice Commission

- Held an exchange of views with Mr B. Nouicer, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Tunisia**, and with Ms Anne Brasseur, PACE Rapporteur on the situation in Tunisia, about the developments in that country since the “Jasmine revolution” and about co-operation with the Venice Commission on the constitutional and electoral reforms currently under preparation;
- Adopted the opinion on questions arising in the framework of the preparation of a new constitution of **Hungary**, following an exchange of views with Mr T. Navracsics, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Administration and Justice;
- Adopted the opinion on the concept paper for the establishment and functioning of a Constitutional Assembly in **Ukraine**, following an exchange of views with Mr M. Kozyubra, Professor, Member of the Ukrainian Commission for Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law;
- Adopted the opinion on the draft law on languages in Ukraine;
- Adopted the opinion on the draft law on altering and amending the law on the election of members of Parliament of **Serbia**, prepared jointly with OSCE/ODIHR;
- Adopted the opinion on the law on the Financing of political activities of Serbia, prepared jointly with OSCE/ODIHR;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr S. Bosković, Assistant Minister of Justice of Serbia, and authorised the rapporteurs to prepare an opinion on the bye-laws implementing the laws on the High Judicial Council and on judges and to send it to the authorities of Serbia before the June 2011 Plenary session;
- Adopted the opinion on the draft Law on Judges and Prosecutors of **Turkey**, prepared jointly with the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe, following an exchange of views with Mr M. Yardimci, Head of Department at the Ministry of Justice of Turkey;
- Endorsed the opinion on the draft Law on prosecutors of **Bolivia**, following an exchange of views with Mr M. Uribe Melendres, Attorney General, and Mr N. Cox Mayorga, Deputy Minister of Justice of Bolivia;
- Was informed on **follow up** to the following opinions:
 - o Interim joint opinion with the OSCE/ODIHR on the law on making amendments and supplements to the law on freedom of conscience and religious organisations of the Republic of **Armenia**;
 - o Amicus Curiae brief for the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina on certain provisions of the election law of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, of the Constitution of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the statute of the city of Mostar;
 - o Joint opinion on the 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;

- Opinion on the act on the state language of the **Slovak Republic**;
- Adopted the report on the **rule of law**;
- Took note of the stocktaking on the notions of **good governance and good administration**;
- Was informed on constitutional developments in **Bulgaria, Italy, Kazakhstan** and **Morocco**;
- Was informed on the results and conclusions of the **Second World Congress on Constitutional Justice**, held in Rio de Janeiro on 16-18 January 2011;
- Adopted its **annual report of activities for 2010**;
- Decided to convene a meeting of interested members in June 2011, with a view to discussing the possible re-establishment of the **sub-commission on Latin America**;
- held an exchange of views with representatives of the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- Fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 17-18 June 2011; 14-15 October 2011 and 16-17 December 2011.