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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

88th PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 14-15 October 2011)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Grigor Muradyan, First Deputy Minister of Justice of **Armenia**, and adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft Law on freedom of religion of Armenia, on the draft law on making a supplement to the Law on the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Holy Apostolic Church, on the draft law on making amendments and a supplement to the Administrative Offences Code and the draft law on making an amendment and a supplement to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Davit Harutyunyan, Chairman of the Committee on State and Legal Affairs of the National Assembly of Armenia, and adopted the joint final opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the electoral code of Armenia, following its adoption by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting of 13 October 2011;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Shahin Aliyev, Head of the Department of Legislation and Legal Expertise of the Office of the President of **Azerbaijan**, and adopted the opinion on the compatibility with human rights standards of the legislation of Azerbaijan on Non-Governmental Organisations;
- Adopted the opinion on the compatibility with universal human rights standards of article 193-1 of the Criminal Code of **Belarus** on the rights of non registered associations in this country;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Israel Ramiro Campero Mendez, Director General of Legal Affairs in the Parliament of **Bolivia**, and adopted the opinion on the draft code on constitutional proceedings of Bolivia;
- Adopted the *amicus curiae* brief on the Law of the Republika Srpska (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**) on the Status of State Property located on the Territory of the Republika Srpska and under the disposal Ban, prepared for the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Adopted the opinion on the law on amendments and supplements to the law on assembly and manifestations of **Georgia**;
- Adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the Law on the protector of human rights and freedoms of **Montenegro**;
- Adopted the *amicus curiae* brief on crimes against humanity, prepared for the Constitutional Court of **Peru**;
- Adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the revised Electoral Code of "**the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**", following its adoption by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting of 13 October 2011;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr. Ali Bilen, Judge, Director General for EU Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of **Turkey** and with Mr Ali Rıza Çoban, Reporter Judge at the Constitutional Court of Turkey, and adopted the opinion on the Law on the establishment and rules of procedure of the Constitutional Court of Turkey;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Vladislav Zabarski, Member of Parliament and with Mr Hryhoriy Nemyria, Former Deputy Prime Minister of **Ukraine**, and adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law on the election of

people's deputies of Ukraine, following its adoption by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting of 13 October 2011;

- Adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the Directorate of Justice and Human Dignity within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the draft Law on the Bar of Ukraine;
- Adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the Directorate of Justice and Human Dignity within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the draft Law on amendments to the law on the judiciary and the status of judges and to other legal acts of Ukraine, prepared by the National Commission for strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law;
- Adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft Law on freedom of peaceful assembly of Ukraine;
- Was informed on follow-up to the opinion on the Draft Law on languages in Ukraine; to the opinion on the new Constitution of Hungary and to the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law on amendments to the law on election of councillors and members of Parliament of Montenegro;
- Was informed by Dr Yahia El-Gamal, former Deputy Prime Minister of **Egypt**, on the reform process taking place in that country and by Mr Farouk Sultan, President of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt, on the Conference on constitutional drafting to be jointly organised with the Supreme Constitutional Court in January 2012 ;
- Was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Morocco**, in **Romania** and in **Tunisia**;
- Was informed on the Conference on the rule of law to be jointly organised with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and to be held in the framework of the United Kingdom Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in March 2012;
- Nominated Mr James Hamilton to represent the Commission at meetings of the OSCE/ODIHR Group of experts on political parties;
- 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: 16-17 December 2011; 16-17 March 2012; 15-16 June 2012; 12-13 October 2012 and 14-15 December 2012.