



Strasbourg, 25 November 2013

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

from 1 October to 25 November 2013

**This document has been classified restricted on the date of issue. Unless the Venice Commission decides otherwise, it will be declassified a year after its issue according to the rules set up in Resolution CM/Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.*

1 October 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Davit Usupashvili, President of the Parliament of Georgia, on the process of amending the Georgian constitution.

2 October 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr G. Petrenco, member of the Moldovan Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the electoral legislation in Moldova.

7 October 2013 – The Hague

- Keynote speech with Mr Frans Timmermans, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Symposium organised by the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs aimed at raising awareness in the Netherlands on the work of the Venice Commission, with the participation of Dutch members of the Venice Commission, members of Parliament, academics, students, the public office-holders, NGO representatives and journalists.

8 October 2013 – Strasbourg

- Exchange of views with Mr Stefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, on legal developments in candidate and potential candidate States to the European Union.

- Meeting with Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on activities of common interest.

17 October 2013 – Belgrade

- Key note speech at the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Serbian Constitutional Court. Participation in the conference on “Position and perspective of constitutional justice”.

18 October 2013 – Bucharest

- Opening address and participation in the 3rd Intercultural workshop on Democracy on “Political parties - Key factors in the political development of democratic societies”.

- Meeting with Mr Titus Corlatean, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, on political issues of common interest and follow-up to the Venice Commission opinion on Rule of Law in Romania.

- Meeting with Mr Victor Ponta, Prime Minister of Romania, on the on-going constitutional reform process in Romania.

- Award of the honorary degree of “Doctor Honoris Causa” of Bucharest University.

- Interviews for Mediafax, with Ms Catalina Mihai and for Astevarul.

23-25 October 2013 – Mexico City

- Opening address and concluding remarks at the Congress on the Implementation of international Human Rights treaties organised by the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico.

- Participation in meeting of the Sub-Commission on Latin America.

- Meeting with Mr Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo, Mexican Under Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, on the co-operation with the Venice Commission and the activities of Sub-Commission on Latin America.

29 October 2013 – Strasbourg

- Chairing the Round Table on constitutional and judicial reform in Turkey, organised by the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and the Venice Commission.

30 October 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mrs Claudette Gastaud, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe, on the follow-up to the Venice Commission opinion on “the balance of powers in the constitution and the legislation of the Principality of Monaco.”
- Courtesy visit by Ambassador Rudolf Lennkh, Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe and incoming Chairman of the Committee of Ministers.

31 October 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Ambassador Santiago Oñate Laborde, Permanent Observer of Mexico to the Council of Europe, on the Venice Commission’s activities in Latin America.

8 November 2013 – Lisbon

- Speech on “The Venice Commission’s contribution to legal and constitutional reforms in the Arab countries” at the regional Conference organised by the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the political changes in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

14 November 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Sadullah Ergin, Minister of Justice of Turkey, on recent developments in the constitutional reform and judicial fields.
- Meeting with Mr Alexei Meshkov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, on the co-operation between Russia and the Venice Commission.
- Attending the ceremony of the handing over the Committee of Ministers chairmanship from Armenia to Austria.
- Attending the ceremony of the launching of the Turkish version of the HUDOC case law data base at the European Court of Human Rights.

15 November 2013 – Strasbourg

- Interview for Zaman on recent legal and constitutional developments in Turkey.

21 November 2013 – Brussels

- Attending the “Assises de la Justice”: “What role for Justice in the European Union?”
- Participation in the Panel on “Towards a New Rule of Law mechanism” with Mr A. Shatter, Minister of Justice of Ireland; Mr R. Tavares, Member of the European Parliament; Mr J.M. Sauvé, Vice-President of the Conseil d’Etat of France.

- Working dinner with Mr Nasip Naço, Minister of Justice of Albania, on future co-operation in the judicial field.

25 November 2013 – Strasbourg

- Courtesy visit by Mr Marek Biernacki, Minister of Justice of Poland.