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CDL-DEM (2002) PV14

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**14th MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
ON DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS
(Venice, 4 July 2002 at 2.30 p.m.)**

R E P O R T

The Sub-Commission on Democratic Institutions met in Venice on 4 July 2002 with Mr Steinberger (Germany) in the Chair.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as it appears in document CDL-DEM (2002) OJ14.

2. Possible Venice Commission Guidelines for a Legislative Framework on Political Parties

Mr Vogel presented the introductory paper (CDL (2002) 101) he had prepared in contact with Mr Tuori. The Venice Commission had already adopted guidelines on the prohibition and on the financing of political parties. When acting as a rapporteur on draft laws on political parties of Armenia and Ukraine, he had come to the conclusion that the Commission could usefully deal with other topics related to political parties. Document CDL (2002) 101 refers to possible legal sources for such guidelines as well as to issues which could be addressed.

During the discussion it was underlined that it would be interesting and useful to have a Venice Commission document on political parties but that it might be too ambitious to aim at a comprehensive document addressing all issues.

The Sub-Commission invited Mr Vogel to prepare in co-operation with the Secretariat a paper outlining the possible issues to be addressed.

3. Possible Venice Commission activity on terrorism

Several speakers underlined the interest of a possible Venice Commission activity on terrorism. This topic was highly pertinent and could not be avoided by a Commission for Democracy through Law. Possible issues to be addressed were the definition of terrorism, international legal co-operation against terrorism and the need to respect human rights in the fight against terrorism.

On the other hand it was pointed out that many other bodies, in particular within the Council of Europe but also the European Union, dealt with terrorism. More information was needed to determine what could usefully be done by the Venice Commission.

The Sub-Commission asked the Secretariat to provide for its next meeting an overview of relevant activities of other bodies on this issue.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

M. L. Omari (Albanie)
M. F. Luchaire (Andorre)
Mr P. Kallis (Cyprus)
Mr C. Tuori (Finland)
M. O. Dutheillet de Lamothe (France)
Mr H. Steinberger (Chairman) (Germany)
Mr A. Endzins (Latvia)
Mr K. Lapinskas (Lithuania)
Mme M. J. Serra Lopes (Portugal)
Mme R. M. Stanoiu (Roumanie)
Mr J. Klucka (Slovakia)
M. A. J. Sánchez Navarro (Espagne)
Mr H.-H. Vogel (Sweden)
M. T. Belicanec («l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine»)

Secretariat

M. Gianni Buquicchio
Mr Thomas Markert
Ms Simona Granata-Menghini