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Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**60th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC
ELECTIONS**

Venice, 7 December 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council is invited to adopt its agenda as it appears in this document.

2. Draft report on Constituency delineation and seat allocation

During its 57th meeting (December 2016), the Council decided to launch a study on the allocation of seats to constituencies and equal voting power in general with a focus on the issue of gerrymandering.

A draft report ([CDL\(2017\)033](#)) on constituency delineation and seat allocation has been drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Ms Cleveland, Ms Karakamisheva-Jovanovska, Mr Kask as well as Lord Richard Balfe and Ms Leontine Loeber (experts). It is submitted to the Council for adoption.

3. Guidelines on political party regulation

The Council is invited to discuss the first draft of the revised guidelines ([CDL-EL\(2017\)003](#)). As with the first edition ([CDL-AD\(2010\)024](#)), this version was prepared by the OSCE/ODIHR Core Group of Experts on Political Parties, in consultation with the Venice Commission, notably with Mr Alivizatos, Mr Eșanu, Mr Vermeulen, as well as Mr Pieter van Dijk (Venice Commission expert). The Council is invited to propose amendments. A revised version will be submitted to the Council, with a view to its adoption, at one of its next meetings.

4. Study on referendums – questionnaire

Following the decision taken by the Scientific Council to launch a study on the dangers of referendum abuse, the Council discussed the first draft questionnaire prepared by Mr Alivizatos during its last meeting ([CDL\(2017\)022](#)).

A working group met in the margins of the October session and, on the basis of its work, Mr Alivizatos prepared a revised draft questionnaire, which is submitted to the Council for adoption ([CDL\(2017\)022rev](#)).

5. Armenia – draft law on referendums

Following a request from Mr Davit Harutyunyan, Minister of Justice, Armenia, the Council is invited to examine, with a view to its adoption, the joint draft opinion of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL\(2017\)034](#)) on the draft constitutional law on referendums in Armenia ([CDL-REF\(2017\)049](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Endziņš, Ms Khabrieva, Mr Maiani and Mr Vilanova Trias as well as Mr Vashchanka, OSCE/ODIHR expert.

6. Republic of Moldova – Legal framework governing the funding of political parties

Following a request from Mr Cesar Dorin Preda, Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Council is invited to examine, with a view to its adoption, the draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL\(2017\)032](#)) on the legal framework of the Republic of Moldova governing the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns ([CDL-REF\(2017\)044](#) and [045](#); see also [CDL-REF\(2017\)020](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Dimitrov, Mr Frenco as well as Mr Pieter van Dijk (Venice Commission expert), Mr Fernando Casal Bertóia and Mr Richard Katz (members of the OSCE/ODIHR Core Group of Experts on Political Parties), Ms Tatyana Hilscher-Bogushevich and Ms Alice Thomas (OSCE/ODIHR experts) and Mr Alvis Vilks (GRECO expert).

7. Communication by the Secretariat

The following activities took place between the 59th and 60th meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections:

- participation in an expert meeting on two new draft election-related publications: “Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities” and “Guidelines on the Role of Public Security Providers in Elections” (OSCE/ODIHR, Warsaw, 19-20 June 2017);
- legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing the parliamentary elections in Albania (25 June 2017);
- participation in the 2017 Annual Conference of the International Public Law Society (ICON-S) - “Courts, Power, Public Law” (Copenhagen, 6 July 2017), with an intervention on “New Trends in Electoral Matters: The Role of Courts and the Venice Commission”;
- assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic in the electoral field including in particular:
 - An activity on political parties and more precisely on electoral campaigns and electoral dispute resolution (Bishkek, 27-30 June 2017);
 - Two training sessions in view of the Presidential Elections on 15 October – (1) for journalists, on media monitoring; (2) for Judges of the Supreme Court and the Bishkek Inter-District Court on electoral disputes resolution (Issyk-Kul, 30 July-5 August 2017);
- participation in a Conference on “support to Elections in the Western Balkans” (Warsaw, 8 September 2017);
- training workshop on electoral disputes in Georgia (Batumi, 22-24 September 2017);
- training workshop on electoral disputes in the Republic of Moldova (Chişinău, 19-20 October 2017);
- participation in the 2nd International Joint Conference on electronic voting - Conference E-VOTE-ID (Bregenz, 26-27 October 2017);
- participation in a post-electoral Conference entitled “The 2017 elections in Albania - Lessons learned and steps ahead: Legislation, Administration, Education” (Tirana, 2 November 2017);
- participation in the annual meeting of the OSCE/ODIHR Core Group of Experts on Political Parties (Warsaw, 2-3 November 2017);
- participation in the 26th annual ACEEEO Conference “Conscious voters in the digital age” (Sofia, 9-10 November 2017);

- organisation, in co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly, of a Regional Conference on “Misuse of Administrative Resources during Electoral Processes: a major challenge for Democratic Elections” aimed in particular at EU Eastern Partnership States (London, 9-10 November 2017);
- seminar on electoral disputes in Ukraine (Kyiv, 28-29 November 2017);
- Seminar on “politics and money: democracy v. corruption”, organised by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (Mexico City, 5-6 December 2017).

8. Future Activities

The Venice Commission will participate in:

- 12th Implementation Meeting of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, organised by the Organization of American States (Washington DC, 13-15 December 2017);
- Conference on financing of political parties in Moldova: lessons learned in the Eastern Partnership (Chişinău, 14-15 December 2017).

At the request of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission will prepare an opinion on recall referendum.

9. Co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR

An exchange of views will take place with the representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation. The OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council on its current and future activities in the electoral field.

10. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday, 15 March 2018 at 10.00 am.