



Strasbourg, 15 December 2014

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Or. Engl

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**101<sup>st</sup> PLENARY SESSION**  
**(Venice, 12-13 December 2014)**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Commission

- Adopted the opinion on the Law on non-governmental organisations (Public Associations and Funds), as amended, of **Azerbaijan**;
- Adopted the *Amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of **Georgia** on the question of the defamation of the deceased;
- Adopted the *Amicus Curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of the Republic of **Moldova** on certain provisions of the Law on professional integrity testing (anti-corruption law) of the Republic of Moldova concerning, in particular, constitutional court and ordinary court judges;
- Adopted the opinion on the Draft law on the rights and duties of judges and the Judicial Council of **Montenegro** and on the Draft law on Courts of Montenegro;
- Adopted the interim opinions on the Draft law on the State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro and on the Draft law on the Special Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro, and, in the light of the urgency of the domestic proceedings, authorised the rapporteurs to send the final opinions to the parliament of Montenegro prior to the March Plenary Session;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Pavlo Petrenko, Minister of Justice of **Ukraine**, and with Messrs Leonid Yemets and Yegor Soboliev, Members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and adopted the interim opinion on the Law on Government Cleansing ("Lustration Law") of Ukraine and agreed to continue co-operation with Ukraine with a view to the revision of this Law;
- Adopted the **joint Guidelines on Freedom of Association** by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR;
- Was informed on **follow-up** to: the Amicus curiae brief on the Immunity of Judges for the Constitutional Court of Moldova; the Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine; the Opinion on the Draft Law on making changes and additions to the Civil Code (introducing compensation for non-pecuniary damage) of the Republic of **Armenia** and the opinion on the Draft Concept Paper on the Constitutional Reforms of the Republic of Armenia;
- Was informed about the request from Ukraine for an opinion on the draft Law on the judicial system and the status of judges;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Geoffrey Vos, President elect of the **European Network of Councils for the Judiciary**, on future co-operation;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Rafael Ribo, Chairman of the European Chapter of the **International Ombudsman Institute**, on future co-operation;
- Was informed on progress of work on judicial reform in **Albania**;
- Was informed on recent constitutional developments in **Kazakhstan, Romania and the United Kingdom**;
- Was informed on progress of work in the preparation of a checklist of elements of **the Rule of law**;

- Held an exchange of views with representatives of the **Committee of Ministers**, of the **Parliamentary Assembly** and of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe;
- Approved certain new working practices and adopted **two amendments to the Commission's Rules of Procedure**;
- **Elected** M Il-won Kang (Republic of Korea) as Co-Chair of the Joint Council for Constitutional Justice and Mr Enrique Lewandowski (Brazil) as Chair of the Sub-Commission on Latin America;
- Was informed of the imminent creation of an **Association of former members and substitute members of the Venice Commission**;
- Confirmed the dates for the **2015 sessions** as follows: 20-21 March 2015; 19-20 June 2015; 23-24 October 2015; 18-19 December 2015.