

Referendums

- Code of Good Practice on Referendums
- Referendums in Europe – An analysis of the legal rules in European States
- Tables summarising the replies to the questionnaire on local and regional referendums
- Tables summarising the replies to the questionnaire on local and regional referendums

CDL-AD(2007) 008rev

CDL-AD(2005) 034

CDL-AD(2005)034add

CDL-AD(2005)034add2

Political parties

- Method of nomination of candidates in political parties
- Guidelines on political party regulation
- Code of Good Practice in the Field of Political Parties
- Prohibition of financial contributions to political parties from foreign sources
- Participation of political parties in elections
- Guidelines and explanatory report on legislation on political parties: some specific issues
- Guidelines and report on the financing of political parties
- Guidelines on prohibition and dissolution of political parties and analogous measures

CDL-AD(2015)020

CDL-AD(2010)024

CDL-AD(2009)021

CDL-AD(2006)014

CDL-AD(2006)025

CDL-AD(2004)007rev

CDL-INF(2001)008

CDL-INF(2000)001

Election observation and assessment

- Declaration of global principles for non-partisan election observation and monitoring by citizen organizations and Code of conduct for non-partisan citizen election observers and monitors
- Supervision of electoral processes (series “Science and technique of democracy” series, No. 48)
- Timeline and inventory of political criteria for assessing an election
- Figure based management of possible election fraud
- Cancellation of election results
- Internationally recognised status of election observers – Guidelines
- Internationally recognised status of election observers – Summary of recommendations
- Internationally recognised status of election observers – Report
- Guidelines on media analysis during election observation missions
- Declaration of principles for international election observation and Code of conduct for international election observers and pledge to accompany the Code
- Election evaluation guide
- Election observation form
- Electoral glossary: English – French

CDL-AD(2012)018

CDL-STD(2010)048

CDL-AD(2010)037

CDL-AD(2010)043

CDL-AD(2009)054

CDL-AD(2009)059

CDL-AD(2009)026

CDL-AD (2009)020rev

CDL-AD(2009)031

CDL-AD(2005)036

CDL-AD(2006)021

CDL-AD(2005)013

CDL-EL(2011)001rev

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MORE INFORMATION

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ENG

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.



VENICE COMMISSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Main reference documents
of the Venice Commission



I. FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Constitution

• Protection of children’s rights: international standards and domestic institutions	CDL-AD(2014)005
• Rule of law	CDL-AD(2011)003rev
• Stocktaking on the notion of “good governance” and “good administration”	CDL-AD(2011)009
• Constitutional provisions on amendments of the constitution	CDL-AD(2010)001
• Constitutional referendum	CDL-INF(2001)010
• Constitutional implications of the ratification of the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)	CDL-INF(2001)001

State formation

• Settlement of ethno-political conflicts	CDL-INF (2000) 016
• Self-determination and secession in constitutional law	CDL-INF (2000) 002
• Consequences of state succession on citizenship	CDL-NAT (1996) 008rev

Federalism

• Federated and regional entities and international treaties	CDL-INF (2000) 003
• Federal and regional state	CDL-INF (1997) 005

Parliament

• Exclusion of offenders from parliament	CDL-AD(2015)019
• Scope and lifting of parliamentary immunities	CDL-AD(2014)011
• Role of the opposition in a democratic Parliament	CDL-AD(2010)025
• Imperative mandate	CDL-AD(2009)027
• Women’s representation in political systems	CDL-AD(2009)029
• Right of legislative initiative	CDL-AD(2008)035
• Role of the second chamber	CDL(2006)059rev
• Role of extra-institutional actors in the democratic system (Lobbying)	CDL-AD(2013)011

Executive

• Relationship between political and criminal ministerial responsibility	CDL-AD(2013)001
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Judiciary

• Restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of association of judges	CDL-AD(2015)018
• Implementation of international human rights treaties in domestic law and the role of courts	CDL-AD(2014)036
• Independence of the judicial system – Part I (judges)	CDL-AD (2010) 004
• Independence of the judicial system – Part II (the prosecution service)	CDL-AD(2010) 040
• Judicial appointments	CDL-AD (2007) 028
• Remedies to excessive length of proceedings	CDL-AD (2006) 036rev
• Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights	CDL-AD (2002) 034

Constitutional justice

• Individual access to constitutional justice	CDL-AD(2010) 039rev
• Composition of constitutional courts	CDL-STD (1997) 020
• Execution of constitutional court decisions	CDL-INF (2001) 009

II. PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Security, terrorism and human rights

• Democratic oversight of the security services – update of the 2007 report - and report on democratic oversight of signals intelligence agencies	CDL-AD(2015)006
• Counter-terrorism measures and human rights	CDL-AD(2010) 022
• Private military and security firms and erosion of the state monopoly on the use of force	CDL-AD (2009) 038
• Civilian command authority over armed forces	CDL-AD (2008) 004
• Video-surveillance in public places	CDL-AD (2007) 014
• Democratic oversight of the security sector in member states	CDL-AD (2007) 016
• International legal obligations in respect of secret detention facilities and interstate transport of prisoners	CDL-AD (2006) 009
• Human rights in emergency situations	CDL-AD (2006) 015
• Possible revision of the Geneva Conventions	CDL-AD (2003) 018

Fundamental freedoms

• Guidelines on the legal personality of religious or belief communities	CDL-AD(2014) 023
• Guidelines on freedom of association	CDL-AD(2014)046
• Guidelines on freedom of assembly	CDL-AD (2010) 020
• Blasphemy, religious insults and incitement to religious hatred	CDL-AD (2008) 026

Minority rights

• Dual voting for persons belonging to national minorities	CDL-AD (2008) 013
• Preferential treatment of kin-minorities by their kin-state	CDL-INF (2001) 019
• Participation of minorities in public life (cf. “Science and technique of democracy” series, No. 45)	CDL-STD(2011)045

III. ELECTIONS, REFERENDUMS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Code of good practice in electoral matters and its interpretative declarations

• Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters	CDL-AD(2002) 023rev
• Stability of the electoral law – Interpretative declaration	CDL-AD(2005) 043
• Women’s participation in elections – Interpretative declaration	CDL-AD(2006) 020
• Participation of persons with disabilities in elections – Interpretative declaration	CDL-AD(2011) 045

Electoral process

Synthesis documents

• Misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes	CDL-AD(2013)033
• Electoral law and electoral administration in Europe – Synthesis study on recurrent challenges and problematic issues	CDL-AD(2006)018
• Europe’s electoral heritage	CDL(2002)007rev
• Measures to improve the democratic nature of elections in Council of Europe member states	CDL-AD(2012)005

Specific issues

• Funding of electoral campaigns – Opinion on the need for a code of good practice	CDL-AD(2011) 020
• Imperative mandate and similar practices	CDL-AD(2009) 027
• Choosing the date of an election	CDL-AD(2007) 037
• Report on measures to improve the democratic nature of elections in Council of Europe member states	CDL-AD(2012)005

Electoral systems

• Proportional Electoral Systems: the Allocation of Seats inside the Lists (openclosed lists)	CDL-AD(2015)001
• Thresholds and other features of electoral systems which bar parties from access to parliament – Report (II)	CDL-AD(2010) 007
• Thresholds and other features of electoral systems which bar parties from access to parliament – Comparative report (I)	CDL-AD(2008) 037
• Electoral systems – Overview of available solutions and selection criteria	CDL-AD(2004) 003

Right to vote

• Out-of-country voting	CDL-AD(2011) 022
• Abolition of restrictions on the right to vote in general elections	CDL-AD(2005)011 and 012
• Remote voting and electronic voting – Compatibility with the standards of the Council of Europe	CDL-AD(2004) 012

Affirmative action and similar measures

Women

• Impact of electoral systems on women’s representation in politics	CDL-AD(2009)029
• Declaration on women’s participation in elections	CDL-AD(2006)020

National minorities

• Dual voting for persons belonging to national minorities	CDL-AD (2008) 013
• Electoral rules and affirmative action for national minorities’ participation in decision-making process in European countries	CDL-AD (2005) 009
• Electoral law and national minorities	CDL-INF (2000) 004