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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES
from 28 May to 19 September 2015

**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.*

28-29 May 2015 – Johannesburg, South Africa

- Exchange of views with the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) on the organization of a roundtable in Venice (October 2016).
- Attending the conference on “the “New” separation of powers: can the doctrine evolve to meet the C21 context?” organised by IACL and Johannesburg University.
- Meeting with Mr Mogoeng Mogoeng, Chief Justice of South Africa, on the crisis affecting constitutional justice in the region.

3 June 2015 – Strasbourg

- Presentation of the Venice Commission’s Annual Report of activities 2014 to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, questions and answers.

4 June 2015 – Paris

- Opening address at the Parliamentary Conference on implementation of the Right to Free Elections: the challenge of applying election legislation and the Council of Europe standards, co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the National Assembly of France.

5 June 2015 – Rome, Italy

- Discussant at the Conference on “the current political challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean Region” co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Italian Parliament with the participation of Mr Pietro Grasso, President of the Senate, Mr Benedetto della Vedova, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Luca Giansanti, Director General of Political Affairs and Security, Ms Hala Mustafa, Political Scientist from Egypt and Mr Abdul Rahman Al Ageli, co-founder of the Libyan South Forum.
- Working meeting with Ambassador Giorgio Malfatti di Monte Tretto, Secretary General of the Istituto Italo-Latino Americano (IILA) on possible co-operation in the framework of the Sub-Commission on Latin-American.

8 June 2015 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with a delegation of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors of Turkey, composed by Mr Metin Yandirmaz, Deputy President and Head of Third Chamber, Mr Mehmet Yilmaz, Head of Second Chamber, Mr Ömür Topaç, Member of First Chamber, Ms Müjgan Karyağdi, Deputy General Secretary, Mr Ozan Muzaffer Köstü, Rapporteur Judge, Mr Burak Turan Benli, Rapporteur Judge and M. Murat Ülkü, Judicial Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Turkey to Council of Europe, on judicial independence in Turkey in the light of recent events.

16 July 2015 – Italy

- Telephone conversation with Mr Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, on the constitutional amendments’ process concerning decentralisation and judiciary.

21 July 2015 – Italy

- Telephone conversation with Mr Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania, on the judicial reform strategy.

15-16 July 2015 – Jakarta, Indonesia

- Attending the International Symposium on constitutional complaint, organised by the Constitutional Court of Indonesia on the occasion of its 12th Anniversary.
- TV interview by MK on constitutional complaint.

27 August 2015 – Strasbourg

- Courtesy visit by Mr Zguidane Ridha, outgoing Consul General of Tunisia in Strasbourg, and Mr Mohamed Trabelsi, incoming Consul General of Tunisia in Strasbourg.

3 September 2015 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mrs Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Head of the Council of Europe in Venice, on the Unidem Programme for the MENA countries.

14 September 2015 – Rabat, Morocco

- Key-note speech at the launching seminar of the UniDem Programme for the training of civil servants from countries of the MENA Region on “Human Rights and Public Service”.
- Meetings with Mr Eluafa, Minister for Good Governance, Mr El Yazami, President of the National Council of Human Rights, Mr Abouddrar, President of the Central Body for the prevention of corruption, Morocco, and Mr Abu-Zaid, Minister for Public Service of the Palestinian Authority.
- Interviews on the Programme with MAP (Moroccan Press Agency), SNRT Radio and SNRT TV.

19 September 2015 – Paris

- Meeting with Mr Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania, Mr Fatmir Xhafaj, President of the Parliamentary ad hoc Committee on the reform of the judiciary, and Mr Engjell Agaci, Head of the Prime Minister’s Private Office, on the reform of the judiciary and the anti-corruption cleansing.