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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

from 3 March to 17 May 2016

**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.*

Strasbourg, 3 March 2016

- Working meeting with Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on current activities of the Venice Commission.

Paris, 4 March 2016

- Hearing by the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on issues of common interest and co-operation with the Venice Commission.

- Working visit to the French Authorities with the member-rapporteurs on the Draft Constitutional Law of the "Protection of the Nation". Meetings with representatives of the Constitutional Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Prime Minister's Office, and Mr Dominique Raimbourg, Chairman of the Law Commission of the National Assembly.

Strasbourg, 16 March 2016

- Working lunch with Ambassador Markus Börlin, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe.

Strasbourg, 18 March 2016

- Working meeting with a delegation from the Supreme Court of India, headed by Chief Justice T.S. Thakur on the Venice Commission's activities and co-operation in the field of constitutional justice, WCCJ and CODICES.

- Meeting with Mr Bujar Nishani, President of Albania, on the constitutional reform of the judiciary.

Strasbourg, 29 March 2016

- Courtesy visit by Ambassador Christopher Yvon, new Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe.

Strasbourg, 5 April 2016

- Meeting with Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the Council of Europe, on the appointment of judges to the Constitutional Court.

Brasilia, Brazil, 9 April 2016

- Addresses the IVth General Assembly of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CJCPLP) on "the effectiveness of constitutional guaranties" and co-operation with the WCCJ.

Strasbourg, 13 April 2016

- Courtesy visit to Ambassador Katya Todorova, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers.

Strasbourg, 18 April 2016

- Meeting with Mr Vladimir Voronin, former President of the Republic of Moldova, on the situation in the country and the recent decision of the Constitutional Court of Moldova.

- Meeting with Mr Igor Dodon, Leader of the Moldovan Socialist Party, on the draft amendments to the Electoral Code.
- Interview with Action TV (Moldova) on the direct election of the Head of State.

Strasbourg, 19 April 2016

- Meeting with Ms Valentina Buliga, Head of the Moldovan Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the amendments to the Electoral Code.
- Courtesy visit by Mr Titus Corlatean, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania and member of the Romanian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Sofia, Bulgaria, 21 April 2016

- Keynote Speech at the High Level Conference of Ministers of Justice and Representatives of the Judiciary on “Strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, a prerequisite for the rule of law in member states of the Council of Europe”, organised by the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria in co-operation with the Council of Europe.

-Bilateral meetings with:

- Ms Arpine Hovhannisyan, Minister of Justice of Armenia, on the electoral reform process,
- Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva, Minister of Justice of Bulgaria, on the judicial reform and future co-operation with the Venice Commission,
- Mr Rafael Català, Minister of Justice of Spain, on the Law on the Constitutional Court and co-operation with the Venice Commission.
- Interview with Mr Samull Dimitrov for SEGA Daily on the judicial reform in Bulgaria.

Ankara, Turkey, 25-26 April 2016

- Opening speech at the symposium on “the effects of judgments concerning individual applications” organised by the Constitutional Court of Turkey on the occasion of its 54th anniversary.
- Courtesy visit to Mr Hasim Kiliç, former President of the Constitutional Court of Turkey.
- Interview with Ms Duyen Güvenç for Cumhuriyet Daily.

Strasbourg, 10 May 2016

- Meeting with Mr Francisco Falcao, President of the Supreme Court of Brazil and Judge Marie Thereza Moura on co-operation between the Venice Commission and Brazil.

St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 17 May 2016

- Addressing the International Conference in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the activity of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation on “Modern constitutional justice: challenges and prospects”.
- Joint press conference with Mr Serguei Mavrin, Vice-President of the Constitutional Court.
- Working dinner with Mr Han-Chul Park, President of the Constitutional Court of Korea on the prospects of the establishment of an Asian Human Rights Court.