



Strasbourg, 2 December 2025

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Or. Engl.

COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

85th MEETING

**Venice, 11 December 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
(Regione del Veneto, Fondamenta Santa Lucia 23)**

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Republic of Moldova – *Amicus curiae* brief on the status of, and the measures concerning, successor parties of political parties declared unconstitutional

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to approval, the draft *amicus curiae* brief ([CDL\(2025\)059](#)) on the status of, and the measures concerning, successor parties of political parties declared unconstitutional (cf. [CDL-REF\(2025\)047](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Cartabia, Mr Darmanović and Mr Kaarlo Tuori (Expert, Honorary President of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe). This *amicus curiae* brief was requested by the President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova on 12 September 2025.

3. Report on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to possible approval, the draft Report ([CDL\(2025\)063](#)) on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Giovagnoli, Mr Kask, Ms Pabel and Ms Silva Gallinato. This report was requested by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 3 April 2024.

4. Exchange of views on the right to free elections at all levels of governance in Europe

The Council will be informed and hold an exchange of views about the Report on the right to free elections at local and regional levels, which is currently under preparation by the Congress of Local and Regional authorities of the Council of Europe and will be submitted for adoption to the Congress session in March 2026.

5. Joint hearing on: Securing the rights of observers for trusted and inclusive electoral processes

The Council will be informed and hold an exchange of views on the status of international observers in local and regional elections. This issue will be on the agenda of the Congress' further work, building on issues raised in certain member states in the context of election observation.

The Council will also hold an exchange of views on the organisation of a joint hearing by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Venice Commission and the Congress in the first semester 2026 on Securing the rights of observers for trusted and inclusive electoral processes in the framework of the Secretary General's New Democratic Pact.

6. Latest developments in electoral legislations in member States

The Council will hold an exchange of views on positive or concerning developments in electoral matters.

7. Exchange of views on activities and other issues of interest to the Council for Democratic Elections

The members and observers of the Council are invited to provide information on issues of interest for the Council.

([Venice Commission](#), [Parliamentary Assembly](#), [Congress](#), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights).

8. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday, 5 March 2026 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.