



Strasbourg, 19 October 1999
<cdl\adm\doc\1999\summary\cdl-syn40.e>

Restricted
CDL (99) SYN40

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

40th PLENARY MEETING
(Venice, 15-16 October 1999)

S Y N O P S I S

The Commission:

- held an exchange of views with Messrs. Sveinn Bjornsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe and Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, Justin Harman, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Council of Europe, Igor Grexa, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Slovakia to the Council of Europe, Erik Jurgens, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly and member of the First Chamber of the States General, Netherlands ;
- welcomed the accession of Georgia to the Commission and the acceptance of the Republic of Korea as an observer to the Commission ;
- held an exchange of views with Mr F. Abdiu, President of the Constitutional Court of Albania on the draft Law on the organisation and functioning of the Constitutional Court of Albania ;
- was informed on the progress of constitutional revision in Armenia ;
- took note of the draft law on the Ombudsman of the Republika Srpska drawn up by the Working Group on Ombudsman Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- was informed on the meeting of the Working Group on the restructuring of human rights mechanisms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the progress in work concerning the statute of the Brčko district, and of the meeting of the Working Group on the establishment of the court of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- instructed Messrs. Matscher and Hamilton to prepare a draft opinion on certain constitutional aspects of the Bulgarian Law amending the Penal Procedure Code ;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Crnic, President of the Constitutional Court of Croatia, who emphasised the importance of the participation of international advisers in the work of the Constitutional Court of Croatia ;

- adopted an opinion on the on the questions raised on the conformity of the laws on local administration and territorial organisation and the law on local public administration of the Republic of Moldova with the legislation currently in force concerning minorities, prepared on the basis of the comments from Messrs. Tuori, Malinverni and Matscher and decided to forward it to the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly ;
- was informed of the developments in constitutional reform in Moldova ;
- instructed Messrs Svoboda, Torfason and Said Pullicino to comment on the draft law on the organisation of the judiciary in Ukraine ;
- was informed on recent developments in Kosovo ;
- was informed about the Conference on “The contribution of constitutional arrangements for the stability of South-East Europe” to be held in Ljubljana on 29-30 November 1999 within the framework of the Stability Pact ;
- examined the report on electoral law and national minorities and decided to give members one further opportunity to up-date this report, with a view to its adoption at the next Plenary meeting :
- examined the report on self-determination and secession drawn up at the request of the Committee on Political Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly, and asked those members who wish to do so to send their comments so that a final text can be adopted at the next meeting and forwarded to the Parliamentary Assembly ;
- was informed on the creation in the near future of a Commission, similar to the Venice Commission, within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as on the progress of the programme “Democracy from the Law Book to Real Life” ;
- approved the following UniDem seminars :
 - the setting up of the new constitution of Albania (Trieste, 13-14 December 1999)
 - protection of human rights in the 21st Century : towards a complementarity of different approaches to human rights protection (Dublin, 2-3 March 2000)
 - Democracy in a society in transition (Lund, 19-20 May 2000).

G. BUQUICCHIO

Distribution:

Members

Associate Members

Observers

Permanent Representatives