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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

43rd PLENARY MEETING (Venice, 16 June 2000)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission:

- held an exchange of views with Mr Pietro Ercole Ago, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, on the request by the Italian Chair to examine the feasibility of drafting a general legal reference framework facilitating the settlement of ethno-political conflicts in Europe, and adopted an outline for the possible preparation of such a framework;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Jiří Mucha, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe on the proposal to set up a general judicial authority of the Council of Europe and agreed to adopt its opinion on this matter at its next plenary meeting on 13 to 14 October 2000;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Erik Jurgens, member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, on co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly;
- was informed of the results of the meeting on the revision of the Constitution of Armenia (Strasbourg, 25-26 April 2000) and of the intention to hold a further meeting on this topic in October;
- endorsed the draft Law on the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, prepared in co-operation with the Office of the High Representative;
- adopted its opinion on the standing of the Federation Ombudsmen before the Constitutional Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- agreed to set-up a working group on the revision of the Constitution of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- agreed to examine, at the request of the OSCE mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the question whether the right of access to information is covered by the right to freedom of expression in international and comparative constitutional law.
- adopted its report on the amendments to the constitutional law of Croatia on human rights and the rights of national minorities;
- was informed by Mr Malinverni of the successful conclusion of the work of the Joint Committee charged with preparing a compromise proposal for the revision of the Constitution of Moldova; adopted, for the attention of the Parliamentary Assembly, a Second Interim Report on Constitutional Reform in Moldova and appointed rapporteurs to examine, following the request of the Monitoring Committee of 13 June 2000, the various alternative drafts for a revision of the Moldovan Constitution;
- asked, following the request of the Monitoring Committee, its rapporteurs on the constitutional referendum in Ukraine, to prepare an opinion on the two alternative draft laws submitted to implement the referendum;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Kim, President of the Constitutional Court of Korea, on future co-operation with the Republic of Korea;
- approved the report on the financing of political parties and asked a working group to examine the possible follow-up;
- agreed to examine the question of constitutional amendments required before the ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- fixed the dates of its next meeting as 13-14 October 2000.

The plenary meeting was followed on 17 June 2000 by the ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Commission with speeches by:

- Mr Paolo Costa, Mayor of Venice;
- Mr Enrico Cavaliere, President of the Regional Council of Veneto;
- Mr Lamberto Dini, President of the Committee of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy;
- Lord Russell-Johnston, President of the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Mr Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General;
- Mr Antonio La Pergola, President of the Commission.

G. BUQUICCHIO

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