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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

from 26 November 2013 to 7 February 2014

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26 November 2013 – Strasbourg

- Participation in a meeting of the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on external relations for an exchange of views with representatives of Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia in the framework of the Southern Neighbourhood Policy.

28 November 2013 – Strasbourg

- Presentation of the Venice Commission to the Steering Committee of Human Rights of the Council of Europe followed by an exchange of views on its role and recent activities in the field of fundamental rights and freedom.

10 December 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, on co-operation with South Mediterranean countries and the Russian Federation.

11 December 2013 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Stefan Füle, European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, on recent political developments and Venice Commission activities in Eastern Partnership countries after the Vilnius Summit.

12 December 2013 - Strasbourg

- High level meeting with representatives of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on the co-operation with the Venice Commission.

13 December 2013 – Brussels

- Meeting with Mr Gunnar Wiegand, European External Action Service (EEAS) Director for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, on Venice Commission activities in Eastern European countries as well in Central Asia.
- Presentation of the main Venice Commission activities and exchange of views with Government representatives in the EU Committee for co-operation with the Council of Europe and the OSCE (COSCE).

17 December 2013 – Strasbourg

- Participation in an informal meeting of Presidents of the Monitoring Bodies of the Council of Europe organised by the Secretary General aimed at identifying the main challenges in the areas of activities of the Council of Europe as well the appropriate responses by the Organisation.

7-8 January 2014 – Tripoli, Libya

- Exchange of views with members of the General National Congress (GNC) of Libya on the interpretation of 2011 constitutional declaration and on issues concerning linguistic minorities.
- Meetings with Mr Nuri Ali Abu Sahmain, President of GNC, Mr Salah Bashir Al-Marghani, Minister of Justice, Mr Kamal Bashir Dhan, Chairman of the Supreme Court and of the High Council of Judges.

- Meeting with Mr Claudio Cordone, Director of Rule of Law Section, and Mr Mohammed Elghannem, Constitution expert of UNSMIL.
- Exchange of views with the Council of Amazigh concerning their participation in the Constituent Assembly elections.
- De-briefing of the EU Ambassadors.

15 January 2014 – Strasbourg

- Statement on the proposed amendments to the Turkish legislation on the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors warning against the adoption and implementation of the amendments before their conformity with international standards and the Turkish Constitution has been confirmed

16-17 January 2014 – Tbilisi, Georgia

- Exchange of views with the Constitutional Commission of the Parliament of Georgia on the future co-operation for amending the Georgian Constitution.
- Meetings with Mr Davit Usupashvili, Speaker; Mr Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister; Mr Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia; and representatives of the Parliamentary Minority.
- Working meeting with Mrs Tea Tsulukiani, Minister of Justice, and Mr Aleksandre Baramidze and Mr Gocha Lortkipanidze, Deputy Ministers, on the future co-operation on the second justice reform phase.
- Working meeting with the interfaction working group on electoral reform.
- Joint press conference with the Speaker.
- De-briefing with Ambassadors present in Tbilisi.

27 January 2014 – Brussels, Belgium

- Hearing by the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on the new constitution of Tunisia, the constitutional process in Libya and the Turkish draft law on the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors.

30 January 2014 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Kostantine Kublashvili, President of the Supreme Court of Georgia, on the judicial reform.

31 January 2014 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mr Hasim Kilic, President of the Constitutional Court of Turkey, on recent initiatives concerning the reform of the Turkish High Council of Judges and Prosecutors.
- Assisting at the solemn opening of the Judicial Year of the European Court of Human Rights.

4 February 2014 – Strasbourg

- Meeting Mr Stefan Füle, European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, on political and legal developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Libya, Moldova, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

5 February 2014 – Strasbourg

- Meeting with Mrs Anne Brasseur, newly elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on our future co-operation.
- Presentation of the newly adopted Tunisian constitution at a meeting chaired by Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

7 February 2014 – Geneva, Switzerland

- Lecture on “Democracy in Europe and beyond: the role of the Venice Commission” given at the Geneva Diplomatic Club, followed by a discussion.