



Strasbourg, 30 November 2015

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Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

53rd MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC
ELECTIONS
Venice, 17 December 2015 at 10.00 a.m

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Voters residing *de facto* abroad : draft summary report

At its June 2013 meeting, the Council decided to study the issue of voters residing de facto abroad who remain registered as resident in their country of origin. This led to the drafting of several documents: a Secretariat memorandum ([CDL-EL\(2013\)011](#)), on which Ms Alanis Figueroa ([CDL-EL\(2015\)004](#)) and Ms Christina Binder (expert Austria) ([CDL-EL\(2015\)003](#)) made comments; a contribution by Ms Alanis Figueroa concerning the situation in Latin America ([CDL-EL\(2015\)002](#)) as well as case studies relative to Bulgaria (by Mr Tanchev, [CDL-EL\(2015\)008](#)), the Republic of Moldova (by Mr Iure Ciocan, expert and Mr Esanu, [CDL-EL\(2015\)005](#)) and Tunisia (by Mr Mohamed Krir, expert, [CDL-EL\(2015\)007](#)); these case studies are summarised in an information report on electoral lists and voters abroad in Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova and Tunisia ([CDL-PI\(2015\)003](#)).

The draft summary report on voters residing de facto abroad ([CDL\(2015\)049](#)) is intended to sum up the findings of the various documents quoted above by focusing on the problems linked to voters de facto abroad and the solutions found to prevent fraud. It is submitted to the Council for adoption.

3. Award of the International Centre for Political Studies (ICPS)

The Venice Commission applied for three awards from the International Centre for Political Studies (ICPS): the International Institutional Engagement Award, the Gender Equality Award and the Minority Participation Award. At the prize giving ceremony held in Puerto Vallarta (Mexico) on 14 November 2015, the Venice Commission received the International Institutional Engagement Award and was also shortlisted for the two other awards for which it had applied (the Gender Equality Award and the Minority Participation Award).

The Council for Democratic Elections will be informed on this matter. The Council's work was instrumental in this success.

4. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretariat will present the following activities:

- *Ukraine*

The Commission:

- o participated in an exchange of views on the legislation on local elections (22 October 2015)
- o provided legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe observing the local elections in Ukraine (25 October 2015)
- o organised a Conference on the challenges raised by the legislation on local elections (5-7 November 2015)
- o plans a meeting with the *Verkhovna Rada* (Parliament) on the revision of electoral legislation in March 2016

- *Morocco*

The NHRC (National Human Rights Council) has invited the Venice Commission to take part in a seminar on electoral legislation and practice which will take place in Rabat in January 2016.

- *Latin America*

The Venice Commission participated in the 10th Congress of Electoral Management Bodies of Latin America organised by the OAS (Organisation of American States) in Rio de Janeiro on 19-20 November 2015.

The Sub-Commission on Latin America will meet in Santiago (Chile) on 5 December 2015 and will examine the possibility of creating a working group on electoral matters in particular case-law.

The Secretariat will give further details on the following activities at the request of the members:

- *Other past and future activities*

- Participation in the ad hoc Committee of experts on legal, operational and technical norms relating to e-voting (Strasbourg, 28-29 October 2015)
- Legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Parliamentary Assembly observing the parliamentary elections in Turkey (1 November 2015).
- Legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Parliamentary Assembly observing the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (1 November 2015).
- Regional Conference on gender equality in the electoral process (Tbilisi, 25-26 November 2015).
- Participation in a Conference organised by the Carter Center on human rights and electoral standards (Atlanta, 14-15 January 2016).
- The 13th Conference of European Electoral Management Bodies will take place in Bucharest on 14-15 April 2016. The theme of the Conference is: "new technologies in elections: public trust and challenges for electoral management bodies"
- This Conference will be preceded on 12-13 April 2016, by a scientific conference "1st electoral expert debates" devoted to electoral law and to new technologies, in particular the constitutional problems which may arise from these innovations. The reports prepared for this Conference will be published in the review "Electoral expert" edited by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania. These "electoral expert debates" should take place on a regular basis.

5. Co-operation with the OSCE/ODHIR

An exchange of views will take place with the representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation. The OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council on its current and future activities in the electoral field.

6. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 10 March 2016 at 10.00 a.m.