



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 22 February 2005

Restricted
CDL-EL-OJ(2005)001ann
Or. fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

12th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS
(Venice, 10 March 2005 at 9.00 a.m.)

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council is invited to adopt its agenda as it appears in document CDL-EL-OJ(2005)001ann.

2. Electoral rules and affirmative action for national minorities

The Council is invited to adopt the revised version of the report on electoral rules and affirmative action for national minorities, drawn up by Ms Lazarova Trajkovska (CDL-EL(2004)020rev2), with a view to its adoption by the Venice Commission. This version takes into account comments made by members of the Council for Democratic Elections, the Venice Commission and the Forum of Minorities. The Council could decide to continue its work on electoral rules and affirmative action for national minorities.

3. Revision of the Armenian Electoral Code

The Council is invited to adopt the joint opinion on the revised draft amendments to the Armenian Electoral Code (CDL-EL(2005)006; see document CDL(2005)008), with a view to its adoption by the Venice Commission. Mr Hjörtur Torfason will inform the Council on progress of work on the Armenian Electoral Code.

4. Azerbaijan

The Secretariat will inform the Council on developments concerning the electoral law in Azerbaijan.

5. Questionnaires on election observation

The Secretariat will inform the Council on work concerning the questionnaires on election observation, in particular the drafts for a joint questionnaire with OSCE/ODIHR (see document CDL-EL(2004)014rev2).

6. Media monitoring during election observation missions

The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work with a view to the drawing up of a joint document on media monitoring during election observation missions by OSCE/ODIHR, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Lazarova Trajkovska will inform the Council on work concerning the revision of the electoral law on Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the visit of a Venice Commission/OSCE-ODIHR delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 21-23 February.

8. Moldova

The Secretariat will inform the Council of the Venice Commission's legal assistance to the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe which observed the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 6 March 2005.

9. Palestine National Authority

Mr Mifsud Bonnici will inform the Council about the Venice Commission's participation in the observation of the Palestine National Authority elections (see document CDL-EL(2005)007).

10. Participation of political parties in the electoral process

The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work concerning the participation of political parties in the electoral process (see document CDL-EL(2004)024 which was discussed at the Council's previous meeting).

11. European conference of electoral management bodies

Mr Hjörtur Torfason will inform the Council on the 2nd Conference of electoral management bodies, which took place in Strasbourg on 10-11 February 2005, and on the follow-up which will be given to this Conference (see document CDL-EL(2005)001syn).

12. Study on Referendum

The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work on referendums.

13. Future activities

The Council is invited to examine possible future activities :

- *Opinions and recommendations on electoral law*

Opinions or recommendations could be drawn up for :

- Serbia and Montenegro (OSCE/ODIHR will prepare a first draft); the representative of OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council on the visit of an OSCE/ODIHR delegation to Serbia and Montenegro
- Georgia ; Ms Lazarova Trajkovska could be invited to explain the problems of the current legislative revision
- Ukraine
- Kosovo

These recommendations should in principle be drawn up in co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR.

- *Venice Commission participation in election observation missions in accordance with item 15 of the agreement with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

Forthcoming assistance missions should take place in Albania (June), Palestine (July) Azerbaijan (November).

- *Cancellation of elections*

Mr Annus, Estonian member of the Venice Commission, suggested working on the cancellation of elections. The Council could decide to carry out a study on this question.

14. Co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR

a. Publicising documents

The Council is invited to authorise the Secretariat to publish joint opinions with OSCE/ODIHR on the Venice Commission's public web site.

b. Other activities

The representative of OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council of OSCE/ODIHR activities which could be carried out with the co-operation of the Venice Commission.

15. Date of the next meeting

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 9 June 2005 in the morning.