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Or. fr.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**13<sup>th</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**  
**(Venice, 9 June 2005 at 9.45 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)002ann.

## **2. Armenia**

The Council is invited to adopt the draft joint opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL-EL\(2005\)010](#)) on the revised draft amendments to the version dated 19 April 2005 of the Armenian Electoral Code ([CDL-EL\(2005\)012](#); see also documents [CDL-EL\(2005\)011](#), version of 15 March 2005 of the draft amendments and CDL(2003)052, the Electoral Code), with a view to its adoption by the Venice Commission. At its last session the Council and the Venice Commission had adopted an opinion on a previous version of the revised draft amendments to the Armenian Electoral Code ([CDL-AD\(2005\)008](#); cf. [CDL\(2005\)008](#), version of 14 December 2004 of the draft amendments).

## **3. Azerbaijan**

The Council is invited to adopt the draft joint opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the draft amendments to the Electoral Code of Azerbaijan ([CDL-EL\(2005\)013](#)); see documents [CDL-EL\(2005\)019](#) and [CDL\(2003\)047](#)). The text submitted to the Commission for expertise was drawn up following the meeting which took place on 1 March 2005 between representatives of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the one hand, and the Azeri authorities on the other hand (this meeting was mentioned during the last meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections).

## **4. Serbia and Montenegro**

The representatives of OSCE/ODIHR are invited to inform the Council on progress of work concerning the electoral legislation in Serbia.

## **5. Questionnaires on election observation**

Following the decision taken by the Council at its last meeting, a new version of the questionnaire on election observation ([CDL-EL\(2005\)009](#)) requested by Resolution 1320(2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly has been prepared jointly with OSCE/ODIHR and will be submitted to the Council for adoption. It takes account of comments made on the former version of the draft questionnaire ([CDL-EL\(2004\)014rev2](#)) by members of the Council for Democratic Elections as well as by local and national elected officials members of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe. The questionnaire should be used as a basis to be completed by each organisation. Following its adoption by the Council and the Venice Commission, this questionnaire will be submitted to the Parliamentary Assembly and to the Congress for local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe and should be applied as soon as it has been adopted.

## **6. Participation of political parties in the electoral process**

Mr Sanchez Navarro will inform the Council on progress of work concerning the participation of political parties in the electoral process (see documents [CDL-EL\(2005\)018](#) and [CDL-EL\(2004\)024](#)) with a view to adopting a report at the next meeting.

## **7. Women's participation in elections**

Following the decision taken by the Venice Commission at its 61<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session (December 2004) the Commission's opinion on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1676(2004) on Women's participation in elections ([CDL-AD\(2005\)002](#)) has been sent to the Committee of Ministers.

As a first stage, the Committee of Ministers has invited the Venice Commission to consider the question of whether the relevant provisions of the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters concerning electoral equality should be strengthened or completed to take into account certain of the proposals made by the Assembly. It invited the Venice Commission, within the framework of the Council for Democratic Elections, to work with the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe, the CDEG and the CDLR on this matter (CM/AS(2005)Rec1676 final, point 6). The Council is invited to decide on the follow-up to be given to this request.

## **8. Study on Referendum**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work on the study on referendum, following the questionnaire adopted by the Council and the Venice Commission ([CDL\(2004\)031](#); see the replies to the questionnaire CDL-EL(2005)011bil prov); the section of the table and the summary report relating to national referendums is already available ([CDL-EL\(2005\)023 prov](#) and [CDL-EL\(2005\)020 prov](#)).

In addition the Committee of Ministers has requested by 30 September 2005 comments from the Venice Commission on Recommendation 1704(2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly entitled : Referendums : towards good practices in Europe. The Council is invited to nominate a reporting member for this issue.

## **9. Media monitoring during election observation missions**

The Council may be invited to adopt the final joint document on media monitoring during election observation missions by OSCE/ODIHR, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. This final document concludes the joint work of the three organisation started at the beginning of 2004 and which was, in particular, based on the reports by Ms Herdis Thorgeirsdottir and Mr Masters ([CDL-AD\(2004\)047](#)). It takes into account not only these reports but also the contribution of the Directorate General of Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

## **10. Implementation of the Code of good practice in electoral matters**

Further to the comments made in the report of the Parliamentary Assembly on the observation of the parliamentary elections in Moldova (doc. 10480, item 13), the Council is invited to examine the question of the time limit of one year to revise the electoral law (see

the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, [CDL-AD\(2002\)023rev](#), item II.2 and document [CDL-EL\(2005\)017](#)).

## **11. Future activities**

The Council is invited to examine possible future activities :

- *Opinions and recommendations on electoral law*

The Ukrainian authorities have requested the Venice Commission to give an opinion on the law of Ukraine on elections of people's Deputies of Ukraine ([CDL-EL\(2005\)021](#)).

Requests may also be received for opinion on :

- the law on State register of voters ([CDL-EL\(2005\)022](#))
- the law on presidential elections
- the law on elections to the Crimean Parliament

Mr Masters could inform the Council on latest developments in Kosovo, which could lead to an opinion.

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

- *Legislation on referendums in Montenegro*

The Secretariat will inform the Council of a request from the Parliamentary Assembly concerning legislation on referendums in Montenegro.

- *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 (July), Azerbaijan (November).

## **12. Co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR**

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.

## **13. Date of the next meeting**

It is proposed to hold the next meeting in the morning of Thursday, 20 October 2005 starting at 9h45.