



Strasbourg, 24 November 2006

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Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**19TH MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

Venice, 16 December 2006 14h30

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council is invited to adopt its agenda as it appears in document CDL-EL-OJ(2006)004ann.

2. Code of good practice on referendums

At their last session the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission adopted the guidelines on the holding of referendums ([CDL-AD\(2006\)027rev](#)), which were forwarded to the Parliamentary Assembly and to the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe.

The Secretariat, in co-operation with the rapporteurs, Messrs van Dijk, Luchaire and Malinverni, prepared a draft introduction and explanatory note which will be attached to the guidelines (see document [CDL-EL\(2006\)033](#)). The explanatory note is aimed at developing those aspects of the guidelines which are specific to referendums. It therefore does not comment on the principles and general rules which apply to both referendums and elections. In this respect, the explanatory report to the Code of good practice in electoral matters ([CDL-AD\(2002\)023rev](#), pp. 19) should be referred to.

The Council for Democratic Elections is invited to examine the introduction and the explanatory note, with a view to adopting the Code of good practice on referendums in its entirety ([CDL-EL\(2006\)033](#)).

3. Convention on Standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States

A Convention on standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States ([CDL-EL\(2006\)031](#)) was adopted on 7 October 2002.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe requested the Venice Commission's opinion on this text. Mr Grabenwarter has prepared a draft opinion ([CDL-EL\(2006\)034](#)) which is submitted to the Council for adoption.

4. Code of good practice on political parties

At its last meeting the Council held an exchange of views on the possibility of drawing up a code of good practice on political parties. The Council is invited to continue these discussions on the basis of the note prepared by the Secretariat ([CDL-EL\(2006\)035](#)). The Parliamentary Assembly's work in the same field should be taken into consideration.

5. Croatia*

In March 2006 Mr O. Masters, Venice Commission expert, participated in a working meeting with representatives of the Office of State Administration of Croatia on the drawing up of a new law on the direct election of mayors and heads of municipalities. The revised version of this law ([CDL\(2006\)082rev](#); see [CDL\(2006\)083](#)) has been sent to the expert who has prepared comments which are submitted for approval ([CDL\(2006\)081](#)).

* These items will be dealt in the Plenary Session unless any member requests discussion in the Council for Democratic Elections.

6. Georgia*

At their sessions in March and June the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission adopted the joint opinion by OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission on the Electoral Code of Georgia, as amended on 23 December 2005 ([CDL-AD\(2006\)023](#)).

Further amendments were made during 2006. The draft joint opinion ([CDL\(2006\)084](#)) by OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission on the Electoral Code of Georgia, as amended on 24 July 2006 ([CDL\(2006\)080](#)) is now submitted for approval.

In addition, a Commission expert (Ms Lidija Korac, Bosnia and Herzegovina) assisted the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia in Tbilisi on three occasions since May 2006. The latest visit took place on 20-23 November and in particular was aimed at strengthening the independence of the Central Electoral Commission and planning its activities before the next elections.

7. Statement by the Secretariat

The Commission participated in a meeting on the latest developments on e-voting in Strasbourg on 23-24 November 2006.

The Venice Commission Secretariat was represented at a meeting of experts on voter registration and electoral observation organised by OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw on 7-8 December 2006.

The Secretariat also participated in an assistance mission to the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine on the follow-up to legislative elections in March 2006. Amongst other things, the necessity to adopt a single electoral code was confirmed.

8. Future activities

The Commission could be invited to take part in the Parliamentary Assembly's observation mission on the occasion of the parliamentary elections in Serbia (January 2007).

The Council could nominate a rapporteur to examine the question of the cancellation of election results.

Members are invited to make proposals for future activities.

9. Co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR

An exchange of views will be held with representatives of OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation. In particular, the representatives of OSCE/ODIHR could be invited to inform the Council of the latest developments regarding the Electoral Code of Albania.

10. Dates of the next meetings

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Saturday 17 March 2007 at 14h30.

* These items will be dealt in the Plenary Session unless any member requests discussion in the Council for Democratic Elections.

As the session of the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe is scheduled for the same week as the Venice Commission's June session (1-2 June 2007), the Council is invited to fix the date of its June 2007 meeting.