



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 10 May 2007

**CDL-EL-OJ(2007)002ann\***  
Or. Fr.

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

**21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

**Venice, 2 June 2007 at 14h30**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

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*\*This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue. Unless the Venice Commission decides otherwise, it will be declassified a year after its issue according to the rules set up in Resolution CM/Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.*

## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Council is invited to adopt its agenda as it appears in document CDL-EL-OJ(2007)002ann.

## **2. Statement by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the following:

- preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Electoral Management Bodies which will take place in Strasbourg on 20-21 September 2007 (see draft programme [CDL-EL\(2007\)006prog](#)). The Conference will be preceded by the Annual ACEEEO (Association of European Election Officials) Conference which will take place on 18-19 September 2007;
- the Commission's assistance to a Parliamentary Assembly observation mission during the parliamentary elections in Armenia (12 May 2007);

The representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe could inform the Council on work concerning the code of good practice on referendums.

## **3. Albania**

The Council will be informed on progress of work concerning the latest amendments to the electoral code of Albania, adopted on 13 January 2007 (cf [CDL-EL\(2007\)009](#)).

## **4. Armenia\***

During the March 2007 session the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission adopted a joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the electoral code of Armenia as amended on 22 December 2006 ([CDL-AD\(2007\)013](#)). In the meantime, further amendments have been made to this text (see [CDL-EL\(2007\)008](#) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)010](#)). A new draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on these amendments will be drawn up on the basis of comments by Messrs Closa Montero ([CDL-EL\(2007\)014](#)) and Vollan ([CDL-EL\(2007\)015](#)) and OSCE/ODIHR and should be sent to the Armenian authorities before the next session.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on co-operation with Armenia with a view to the preparation of the parliamentary elections on 12 May 2007 (assistance to the Central Electoral Commission and a seminar on the holding and supervision of elections).

## **5. Azerbaijan**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on recent developments in co-operation with Azerbaijan in the electoral field ([CDL-EL\(2007\)011](#)).

## **6. Croatia\***

At the request of the Croatian authorities a draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL\(2007\)050](#)) on the draft law on the State Register of Voters in Croatia ([CDL\(2007\)049rev](#)) has been prepared on the basis of comments by Mr Torfason and OSCE/ODIHR. This opinion is submitted for adoption.

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

## **7. « The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia »\***

Ms Lazarova Trajkovska and the Secretariat could inform the Council on future activities in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and in particular on the preparation of a Conference of electoral administrators from States in the region.

## **8. Ukraine**

At the request of the Ukrainian authorities, the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR prepared a joint opinion ([CDL\(2007\)045](#)) on the draft law on the State Register of Voters of Ukraine ([CDL\(2007\)044](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Sanchez Navarro and OSCE/ODIHR. This opinion is submitted for adoption.

Following a request from the Parliamentary Assembly (see Resolution 1549(2007), item 18), a draft opinion on the legislation on early elections in Ukraine and the possibilities of improving the electoral legislation in the light of European practice was drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Sanchez Navarro ([CDL\(2007\)047](#); see [CDL-EL\(2005\)021](#) and [CDL\(2006\)070](#)). This opinion is submitted for adoption.

## **9. Media and electoral campaigns\***

At a meeting on the revision of Recommendation R(99)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning media coverage of electoral campaigns, organised by the Media Division of the Council of Europe on 26-27 March 2007, Ms Herdis Thorgeirsdottir and Mr Masters presented two contributions on behalf of the Venice Commission. The consolidated text of these contributions is submitted for adoption ([CDL\(2007\)048](#)).

## **10. Secrecy of the vote in the context of parliamentary procedure**

Following a request from the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Venice Commission decided to study the question of secrecy of vote in the context of parliamentary elections. A draft summary report was drawn up by Mr Chagnollaude ([CDL-EL\(2006\)036](#)) on the basis of replies to the questionnaire which he had prepared ([CDL-EL\(2006\)022](#)). The report is submitted to the Council for adoption.

## **11. Code of good practice for political parties**

At its previous meetings the Council for democratic elections held an exchange of views on the possibility of drawing up a code of good practice on political parties (cf. [CDL-EL\(2006\)035rev](#)), which refers in particular to the Commission’s previous work in this field. On the basis of the Resolution adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on this issue (Resolution 1546(2007)), Messrs Colliard and Closa Montero prepared comments ([CDL-EL\(2007\)012](#) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)013](#)). The Council is invited to examine these comments.

## **12. Future activities**

A draft report on fixing election dates by the executive drawn up by Mr Velaers will be submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

The Council could undertake a study on the imperative mandate.

The Secretariat could inform the Council on the latest developments in co-operation with Georgia and possible future activities.

The Commission could be invited to take part in the Parliamentary Assembly's observation mission on the occasion of the presidential elections in Montenegro.

With a view to the seminar foreseen in Skopje at the beginning of 2008 on the question of the cancellation of election results, the Council could nominate a rapporteur to examine this issue.

Members are invited to make proposals for future activities.

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

The Council will hold an exchange of views with the representatives of OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation.

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

It is proposed that the next meeting take place on Thursday, 18 October 2007 at 9h45.