



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 8 October 2007

**CDL-EL-OJ(2007)003ann\***  
Or. Fr.

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

**22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

**Venice, 18 October 2007 at 9h30**

**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)003ann.

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

Mr Dronov will inform the Council on the latest elections in Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the latest developments concerning electoral law in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Electoral Management Bodies which took place in Strasbourg on 20-21 September 2007 (see [CDL-EL\(2007\)006syn](#)) and which followed the Annual ACEEEO Conference (Strasbourg, 18-19 September 2007).

### **3. Code of good practice on referendums**

Mr van den Brande will inform the Council on the work of the Parliamentary Assembly concerning the Code of good practice on referendums.

### **4. Albania**

At its last meeting the Council was informed on progress of work concerning the latest amendments to the electoral code of Albania ([CDL-EL\(2007\)009](#)), and that a draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR would be forwarded to the authorities during the summer. The draft opinion drawn up on the basis of comments by Messrs Pilgrim and Kask ([CDL-EL\(2007\)018](#)) was therefore sent to the Albanian authorities on 4 July 2007.

This text is submitted to the Council for Democratic Elections for adoption.

### **5. Azerbaijan**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on co-operation with Azerbaijan concerning the revision of the electoral code, following the meeting which took place on 30 May 2007 ([CDL-EL\(2007\)011](#)).

### **6. Moldova (Gagauzia)**

Following observation of the election of the Governor of Gagauzia in December 2006, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe requested the Venice Commission to draw up an opinion on the law of the Gagauz autonomous territorial unit on the election of the Governor of Gagauzia ([CDL-EL\(2007\)022](#)). A draft opinion has been prepared on the basis of the comments of Messrs Darmanovic, Kask and Vollan. This opinion is submitted to the Council for adoption ([CDL-EL\(2007\)030](#)).

### **7. United Kingdom**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work concerning the request from the Parliamentary Assembly for an opinion on the United Kingdom electoral law, more specifically concerning voter registration and postal voting (see documents [CDL-EL\(2007\)021](#), [CDL-EL\(2007\)024](#) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)026](#)).

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

At its June meeting the Council examined the comments of the reporting members Messrs Closa Montero and Colliard, on the question, raised by the Parliamentary Assembly, of drawing up a code of good practice on political parties (see documents [CDL-EL\(2007\)012](#) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)013](#)). In the absence of the reporting members the Secretariat will inform the Council on the progress of work on the code of good practice for political parties.

## **9. Choosing the date of an election – Role of the executive**

Mr Velaers is invited to present the report which he prepared on choosing the date of an election ([CDL-EL\(2007\)028](#)). This document takes several reference documents into consideration:

- [CDL-EL\(2007\)005rev2](#) – comparative table on choosing the date of an election, drawn up by the Secretariat and revised on the basis of comments by Mr Velaers and other members of the Commission and the Council for Democratic Elections;
- [CDL-EL\(2007\)031](#) – list of constitutional and legislative provisions;
- [CDL-EL\(2007\)023](#) – note on the issue of dissolution of parliament;
- [CDL-EL\(2007\)027](#) – comparative table on the executive power.

Documents [CDL-EL\(2007\)023](#) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)027](#) also contain amendments proposed by Commission members. The Council is invited to take note of these four documents and to adopt Mr Velaers's report.

*11h30 Joint meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections and the Sub-Commission for the protection of Minorities*

## **10. Specific rules on the voting rights of national minorities**

At its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (October 2006) the Council examined the question of specific rules on the voting rights of national minorities, on the basis of a document drawn up by the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities and on comments by Ms Durrieu.

Following this initial exchange of views, the HCNM revised the document concerning dual voting for persons belonging to national minorities. The reporting members, Ms Durrieu for the Council for Democratic Elections and Mr Bartole for the Sub-Commission for the protection of minorities, presented their observations ([CDL-EL\(2007\)025](#)) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)020](#)). The Council is invited to examine these documents and to decide on the follow-up.

## **11. Future activities**

A draft joint opinion on the electoral law of Moldova will be submitted to the Council at its next meeting, as well as a draft opinion on the United Kingdom electoral law.

Draft opinions on the electoral law of Azerbaijan and Georgia may also be submitted.

In view of the Presidential elections in Armenia in 2008, the Commission will assist the Central Electoral Commission and hold a seminar on electoral disputes.

Further to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1791(2007) and Resolution 1547(2007) on the situation of human rights and democracy in Europe, the Council will examine whether it could deal with items concerning the deficit of democratic institutions.

**12. Date of the next meeting**

It is proposed that the next meeting take place on Thursday, 13 December 2007 at 9h45.