



Strasbourg, 3 March 2008

**CDL-EL-OJ(2008)001ann**  
Or. Fr.

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

**24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

**Venice, 15 March 2008 at 2.30 p.m.**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**2.30 p.m.**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Council is invited to adopt the agenda as it appears in document CDL-EL-OJ(2008)001ann.

***Joint meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections and the Sub-Commission for the Protection of Minorities***

**2. Study on dual voting rights for persons belonging to national minorities**

At its 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> meetings (16 October 2006 and 18 October 2007), the Council for Democratic Elections examined the question of dual voting rights for persons belonging to national minorities, on the basis of a document prepared by the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM) and comments by Ms Durrieu ([CDL-EL\(2006\)029](#) and [CDL-EL\(2007\)025](#)) and Mr Bartole ([CDL-EL\(2007\)020](#)).

On the basis of these documents and the discussion held at the Council's 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Secretariat prepared a summary report ([CDL-EL\(2008\)002](#)) which is aimed at presenting not only those items on which the rapporteurs agree, but also those on which there is a diverging opinion. The members of the Council for Democratic elections are invited to make comments on this document; and in particular to come to a conclusion regarding contested items. In substance, it is a question of deciding if the right to dual vote can be admitted in certain circumstances or whether it should be excluded.

**3.30 p.m.**

***Meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections***

**3. Election of the president and the vice-president**

The Council is invited to elect a president and a vice-president.

**4. Code of good practice for political parties**

On 12 March 2007 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution [1546\(2007\)](#) on the Code of good practice for political parties, which invites the Venice Commission to draw up a code of good practice for political parties taking into account the elements in the above-mentioned Resolution.

**5. Armenia**

The Secretariat will inform the Council of the latest developments on electoral law in Armenia, in particular on the Presidential elections which took place on 19 February 2008. An opinion on the latest amendments to the Electoral Code could be presented to the next meeting.

**6. Azerbaijan**

Following a request from the Azeri authorities, the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR drew up a draft interim opinion on the draft amendments to the Electoral Code of Azerbaijan (draft amendments [CDL\(2008\)029](#), Election Code of Azerbaijan [CDL\(2003\)047](#)), on the basis of comments by Messrs Endzins, Paczolay and Pilgrim. This opinion was submitted to the

Commission for adoption at its session on 14-15 March 2008 ([CDL\(2008\)016](#)). Mr Paczolay will inform on progress of work.

## **7. Belgium**

The Belgian authorities requested the Council of Europe to evaluate the conformity of a project on e-voting in Belgium ("BeVoting Study") ([http://www.ibz.rn.fgov.be/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Elections/fr/presentation/bevoting-2\\_gb.pdf](http://www.ibz.rn.fgov.be/fileadmin/user_upload/Elections/fr/presentation/bevoting-2_gb.pdf)) with Recommendation (2004)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting. The General Directorate of Democracy and Political Affairs has prepared an expertise on this issue. The Council is invited to take note of this expertise.



Compliance Belgian  
BeVoting Rec 1.0- fin

## **8. Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Following the amendments made since 2006 to the electoral law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR were invited to make comments on the revised law (draft amendments [CDL-EL\(2008\)003](#), Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina [CDL\(2001\)089](#)). A draft joint opinion by the two organisations ([CDL-EL\(2008\)004](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Messrs Pilgrim, Sanchez Navarro and Torfason, is submitted to the Council for adoption.

## **9. Georgia**

The Secretariat will inform on the latest developments on the electoral law of Georgia, in particular on the Presidential elections which took place on 5 January 2008, as well as activities foreseen for the legislative elections which will take place in Spring 2008. An opinion on the latest amendments to the Electoral Code could be presented to the next meeting.

## **10. Ukraine**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the latest developments on the electoral law of Ukraine and in particular the Conference on European standards and the development of electoral legislation in Ukraine, which took place in Kyiv on 16 January 2008.

## **11. Future activities**

The draft code of good practice for political parties will be submitted to the next meeting. Draft joint opinions on the electoral law of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia should also be presented.

The Seminar on the cancellation of election results will take place on 30-31 May 2008 in Skopje, in co-operation with the Constitutional Court.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the schedule of work on the situation of human rights and democracy in Europe (imperative mandate, remote voting, procedures for amendment of Constitutions and good governance).

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

An exchange of views will take place with the representatives of OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation.

**13. Date of the next meeting**

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 12 June 2008 at 10 am.