



Strasbourg, 3 June 2008

**CDL-EL-OJ(2008)002ann**  
Or. Fr.

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

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

**Venice, 12 June 2008 at 2 p.m.**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

2 p.m.

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

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

The Council is invited to adopt the agenda as it appears in document CDL-EL-OJ(2008)002ann.

#### **2. 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.

The Council dealt with this question at its 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> meetings (June and December 2007; see in particular document [CDL-EL\(2007\)044](#)). At its 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, the Council requested the rapporteurs to prepare a first draft code of good practice for political parties in time for the June 2008 meeting.

The rapporteurs have prepared a draft Code ([CDL-EL\(2008\)013](#)) for this meeting. The Council is invited to make comments on this draft with a view to drawing up a final version of the Code for adoption at a future meeting.

#### **3. 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 adopted by the Commission at its session on 14-15 March 2008 ([CDL-AD\(2008\)003](#)).

A draft for a revision of the electoral code of Azerbaijan has been presented to Parliament ([CDL-EL\(2008\)011](#)). The Council is invited to adopt the opinion on this text ([CDL-EL\(2008\)012](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Messrs Endzins, Paczolay and Pilgrim.

#### **4. Bosnia and Herzegovina**

At its last meeting, the Council examined the draft joint opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the revised electoral law of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This draft opinion did not take into account the amendments adopted by Parliament on 7 March 2008. The Council then instructed the Secretariat, in co-operation with the rapporteurs, to revise the opinion taking the 7 March amendments into account and to forward it to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This has now been done. The Council is invited to adopt the final version of this opinion ([CDL-EL\(2008\)004rev](#); see documents [CDL\(2001\)089](#) and [CDL-EL\(2008\)003](#)).

#### **5. Ukraine**

The Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament requested the Commission to draw up an opinion on drafts for a referendum law in Ukraine. At this stage, the Council is invited to take note of these drafts as well as the rapporteurs' comments ([CDL-EL\(2008\)009](#) and [CDL-EL\(2008\)010](#)), with a view to the adoption of an opinion at the next meeting.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the visit to Ukraine on 29 and 30 May 2008 in particular concerning the preparation of a unified electoral code.

## **6. Other developments and future activities**

### **- Mexico**

Messrs Manuel Gonzalez Oropeza, Salvador Nava Gomar and Gerardo de Icaza from the Federal Electoral Court of Mexico, will present the latest developments in electoral matters in Mexico.

### **- The Secretariat will inform on the following activities:**

pre-electoral assistance to the mission to observe the elections in Georgia (April-May 2008);  
assistance to the mission to observe the elections in Serbia (May 2008);  
assistance to the mission to observe the elections in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (May 2008);  
meeting of experts on human rights and democracy in Moldova (May 2008);  
conference on "Electoral law and practice in Council of Europe member States" organised with the Institute for international relations in Moscow (April 2008).

Joint opinions on the electoral legislation in Armenia and Georgia could be submitted to the Council at its next meeting. In addition, an opinion on the legislation on the local and presidential elections in Serbia is foreseen.

The Council is invited to take note of Mr Garrone's contribution to the commemorative volume in memory of Mr La Pergola entitled "From elections as an event to democracy as a structure – reflections on the stability of electoral law".

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

The Commission has received two requests from the Parliamentary Assembly, concerning the internationally recognised status of election observers and the impact of electoral systems on the representation of women in politics.

The members of the Council are invited to make proposals for future activities.

## **7. 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.

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

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 16 October 2008 at 10 am.

**4 p.m.**

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

**9. The protection of national minorities and elections**

At its 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> meetings (16 October 2006, 18 October 2007 and 15 March 2008), 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](#)) in co-operation with the Sub-Commission for the protection of minorities.

On the basis of the conclusions of the last meeting, the Secretariat prepared, in co-operation with the rapporteurs, a draft report which is submitted to the Council for adoption ([CDL-EL\(2008\)002rev2](#)) with a view to its presentation to the Venice Commission's plenary session in the presence of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities.