



Strasbourg, 23 November 2009

CDL-EL-OJ(2009)004
Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**31st MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

Venice, 10 December 2009 at 10 a.m.

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council is invited to adopt the agenda as it appears in document CDL-EL-OJ(2009)004ann.

2. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretariat will inform the Council on:

- the reform of the electoral law of Armenia;
- the follow-up to the joint opinion on the law on amending some legislative acts on the election of the President of Ukraine ([CDL-AD\(2009\)040](#)).

3. International status of election observers

At previous meetings the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission adopted two documents on this question, following a request from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on the basis of comments by Messrs Sanchez Navarro, Musin, Masters and Pohler. The first document contained an inventory of a situation in domestic and international law in Europe ([CDL-AD\(2009\)020rev](#)). The second document summarised the recommendations emanating from election observation missions ([CDL-AD\(2009\)026](#)).

At its last meeting the Council examined a third document which contains draft guidelines. This document was submitted to the international organisations concerned for consultation and their comments were taken into account ([CDL-EL\(2009\)022](#)). The Council is invited to examine this revised document with a view to adoption ([CDL-EL\(2009\)022rev](#)).

4. Thresholds and other features of the electoral system which bar parties from access to Parliament

Following the adoption of the report on thresholds and other features of the electoral system which bar parties from access to Parliament ([CDL-AD\(2009\)037](#)) by the Commission, Mr Colliard prepared a second report aimed at a solid and in-depth evaluation of the prevailing situation across member States. This report is now submitted to the Council for adoption ([CDL-EL\(2009\)026](#)).

5. Cancellation of election results

At its last meeting the Council examined the report presented by Mr Kask ([CDL-EL\(2009\)020rev](#)) on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire on the cancellation of election results ([CDL-EL\(2007\)043rev](#); [CDL-EL\(2009\)019](#); see also [CDL-EL\(2009\)019add](#)). On the basis of comments by members of the Council and the Venice Commission, Mr Kask has drawn up a revised report ([CDL-EL\(2009\)020rev2](#)), which contains a chapter on case-law. This revised report is submitted to the Council for adoption.

6. Evaluation of the electoral process

This item is postponed to the March 2010 meeting owing to the absence of the rapporteur (A. Gross).

7. Other developments and future activities

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the 6th Conference on European Electoral Management Bodies on “Enhancing participation in elections” which took place in The Hague on 30 November and 1 December 2009. It is planned to hold the 7th Conference in London on 22-23 June 2010. The topic will be “Putting the voter first at elections”. Those members who are interested in participating, and in particular presenting a report, are invited to inform the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will inform the Council of the participation in the 2nd International Seminar of the Observatory of Electoral Justice (Mexico City, 17-18 November 2009) and on the Workshop on the certification of e-voting systems (Strasbourg, 26 November 2009).

The Secretariat will inform the Council on work concerning the state of human rights and democracy in Europe (follow-up to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation [1791\(2007\)](#)) on the issues of good governance and procedures for amending Constitutions.

Members are invited to make proposals for future activities.

8. 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, in particular concerning Georgia.

9. Date of the next meeting

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 11 March 2010 at 10 a.m.