



Strasbourg, 6th October 2010

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Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**34th MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

Venice, 14 October 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council is invited to adopt its agenda as it appears in this document.

2. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the following items:

- Armenia: progress of work in view of drafting an opinion on the revised electoral code ;
- Azerbaijan: the implementation of an action plan for the parliamentary elections in November 2010 ;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: activities relating to the 3 October 2010 elections;
- Moldova: co-operation linked to the constitutional referendum and to the preparation of the legislative elections.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the joint work with OSCE/ODIHR on the question of political parties.

See also item 8.

3. Report on timeline and inventory of political criteria for assessing an election

At the October 2009 meeting, Mr Gross presented a draft report on the time line and an inventory of political criteria for assessing an election. A version of this document was examined at the June meeting. Mr Gross will present a slightly revised version of this report to the plenary with a view to its adoption (CDL-EL(2010)021rev).

4. Out-of-country Voting

At its last meeting, the Council took note of the document on the legal provisions on this subject ([CDL-EL\(2010\)013](#)), as well as the summary table ([CDL-EL\(2010\)014](#)). These documents have been revised on the basis of members' comments ([CDL-EL\(2010\)013rev2](#) and [014rev](#)).

The Rapporteurs Ms Durrieu and Mr Trocsanyi, have prepared comments which are submitted to the Council for information ([CDL-EL\(2010\)027](#) and [030](#)). The Council is invited to discuss the main questions which appear in the extract from document [CDL-EL\(2010\)027](#) which has been sent to members.

5. Electoral fraud

Following the interest shown by the Council in carrying out a study on the question of electoral fraud, an expert, Mr Vulchanov, has prepared a first contribution on this issue, entitled "figure based management of possible electoral fraud"; The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work.

6. Draft declaration with respect to the participation of people with disabilities in elections

The Venice Commission has been involved in the work of the Committee of Experts on the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL) from the beginning of its term of office in September 2009,.

In co-operation with the Commission, this Committee has drawn up a draft declaration on the participation of people with disabilities in elections (([CAHPAH\(2010\)16](#))). This document is submitted to the Council for comment and possible adoption.

Meanwhile, the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly requested the Venice Commission to examine the following points:

- accessibility and appropriateness of the information material that is used during elections and in the decision making process (e.g. brochures of political parties);
- accessibility and appropriateness of the voting procedures and facilities for politicians with disabilities;
- membership of political parties;
- working conditions in political and public life at national and international level;
- opportunities for politicians with disabilities to advocate the rights of the disabled;
- ways of lifting barriers to standing for elections.

The Council is invited to decide on the possible scope it may wish to give to this study, taking into account also the work it is currently undertaking for the Committee of Experts on the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life.

7. Norway

At the request of the Secretary of State of the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development responsible for electoral questions, the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR are drawing up a joint opinion in particular relating to electoral dispute resolution. This opinion should be submitted to the Council in December for adoption.

8. Other developments and future activities

In addition to the items already mentioned above, the Council may be called upon to decide at one of its next meetings on:

- an opinion on the revised Code of Practice for Election observers drawn up by the United Kingdom Electoral Commission;
- an opinion on the reform of the electoral law of Armenia;
- a study on the abuse of administrative resources.

Members are invited to make proposals for future activities.

9. Date of the next meeting

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 16 December 2010 at 10.00 a.m.