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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

37th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

Venice, 16 June 2011 at 10 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:

- assistance to the Central Election Commission of Albania in the framework of the local elections on 8 May 2011;
- assistance to the mission observing the early parliamentary elections of 5 June 2011 in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”;
- the work of the Committee of Ministers on “an internationally recognised status for election observers”.

3. Out of country voting

At its last meeting, the Council for Democratic Elections examined a revised report on out of country voting, drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Durrieu and M. Trocsanyi ([CDL-EL\(2010\)032rev](#)). Following the discussions at the March 2011 meeting a new revised report is now presented to the Council for adoption ([CDL\(2011\)027](#)), with a view to its submission to the Commission’s Plenary Session.

4. Funding of electoral campaigns

Following a request from the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Council examined an opinion on the need for a code of good practice in the field of funding of electoral campaigns ([CDL\(2011\)012](#)), prepared on the basis of comments by Mr Esanu. A revised version of this document ([CDL\(2011\)012rev](#)) is presented to the Council for adoption, with a view to its submission to the Commission’s Plenary Session.

5. Electoral rights of citizens with disabilities

The Council for Democratic Elections at its 34th meeting and the Venice Commission at its 84th Plenary Session (October 2010) adopted a declaration on the participation of people with disabilities in elections ([CDL-AD\(2010\)036](#)).

At its last meeting, the Council decided to make the wording of the paragraph in the above declaration which was contested by the Committee of Experts on the participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL) more positive.

This version ([CDL\(2011\)041](#)) is presented to the Council for adoption, with a view to its submission to the Commission’s Plenary Session; see also the information document on this issue ([CDL\(2011\)043](#)).

6. Armenia

In a letter dated 10 February 2011, the President of the National Assembly of Armenia requested the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR for an opinion on the draft new electoral code ([CDL-REF\(2011\)009](#)). The draft joint opinion ([CDL\(2011\)020](#)) by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Maria Teresa

Mauro (expert, Italy), Mr Kåre Vollan (expert, Norway) and Mr Jessie Pilgrim (OSCE/ODIHR expert) was transmitted to the Armenian authorities in the view of the adoption of a revised Electoral Code by the end of May 2011. It is presented to the Council for adoption, with a view to its submission to the Commission's Plenary session.

7. Bulgaria

The President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe asked the Venice Commission to prepare an opinion on the electoral code of Bulgaria ([CDL-REF\(2011\)008](#)). The draft opinion, drawn up jointly with OSCE/ODIHR on the basis of comments by Messrs Kask, Mifsud Bonnici, Kåre Vollan (expert, Norway) and Denis Petit (OSCE/ODIHR expert) ([CDL\(2011\)025](#)), is presented to the Council for adoption with a view to its submission to the Commission's Plenary Session.

8. Kyrgyzstan

In March 2011, the Kyrgyz authorities asked the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR to prepare an opinion on the draft law on Presidential and Parliamentary Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic ([CDL-REF\(2011\)017](#)), on the draft law on elections to local governments ([CDL-REF\(2011\)022](#)) and on the draft law on Electoral Commissions of the Kyrgyz Republic ([CDL-REF\(2011\)023](#)). The draft joint opinion ([CDL\(2011\)026](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Endzins, Ms Stavnychuk, Mr Tanchev and Mr Jessie Pilgrim (OSCE/ODIHR expert) is submitted to the Council for adoption with a view to its submission to the Commission's Plenary Session.

9. Montenegro

Following a request from the Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro dated 9 March 2011 the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR analysed the draft law drawn up by a multi party working group ([CDL-REF\(2011\)021](#)) on amendments to the law on the election of councillors and members of parliament ([CDL-EL\(2010\)010](#)). As this was an urgent matter (the law had to be adopted at the end of May 2011) the draft opinion ([CDL\(2011\)028](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by MM Kask, Paczolay, Konrad Olszewski (OSCE/ODIHR expert) and Jessie Pilgrim (OSCE/ODIHR expert) has already been sent to the Montenegrin authorities. The draft opinion is presented to the Council for adoption, with a view to its submission to the Commission's Plenary Session.

10. Serbia

The Secretariat will inform the Council on follow up to the opinion on the draft law on altering and amending the law on election of members of Parliament of the Republic of Serbia ([CDL-AD\(2011\)005](#)).

11. Ukraine

The Secretariat will inform the Council of recent developments concerning the electoral legislation of Ukraine.

12. 8th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies

The Venice Commission organised, in co-operation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior, the 8th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies in Vienna on 12-13 May 2011. The Secretariat will inform the Council about this event (see document [CDL-EL\(2011\)004syn](#)).

13. Co-operation with Northern Africa

The Secretariat will inform the Council on recent developments concerning co-operation with Northern Africa, in particular Tunisia, following the visit of a Venice Commission delegation to Tunis on 4-6 June 2011.

14. Other developments and future activities

The Council may be called to comment at a next meeting on:

- a study on the abuse of administrative resources;
- an opinion on the future new draft electoral code of Georgia;
- an opinion on the electoral legislation of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.

15. 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. According to the rules, opinions are prepared jointly with OSCE/ODIHR.

16. Date of the next meeting

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 13 October 2011 at 10.00 a.m.