



Strasbourg, 26 September 2011

**CDL-EL-OJ(2011)003ann**  
Or. Fr.

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

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

**Venice, 13 October 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:

- the meeting organised on 22-23 September in Chisinau in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, on lists and electoral disputes;
- the work of the Committee of Ministers on “an internationally recognised status for election observers”;
- the work of the United Nations on the electoral rights of citizens with disabilities.

## **3. Albania**

Following the local elections and in particular the controversy relating to the election of the Mayor of Tirana, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe requested an opinion on which improvements should be made to the electoral legislation and practice in Albania in the light of recent experience. A joint opinion with the OSCE/ODIHR will be prepared for the Commission’s December session. The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work.

## **4. Armenia**

At the last session, the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission endorsed an interim opinion on the draft new electoral code of Armenia (CDL-AD(2011)021). Following the adoption of a new electoral code ([CDL-REF\(2011\)029](#)) on 26 May 2011, a new draft opinion has been prepared on the basis of comments by Ms Maria Teresa Mauro (expert, Italy), Mr Kåre Vollan (expert, Norway) and Mr Jessie Pilgrim (OSCE/ODIHR expert) ([CDL\(2011\)081](#)). This draft opinion is submitted to the Council for adoption.

## **5. Georgia**

On 12 September 2011, Mr Mikheil Machavariani, first vice president of the Parliament of Georgia, requested an opinion from the Venice Commission on the draft electoral code of Georgia ([CDL-REF\(2011\)044](#)). The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress of work with a view to the adoption in December 2011, of a draft joint opinion drawn up with the OSCE/ODIHR.

## **6. “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”**

Following the adoption of a revised version of the electoral Code of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in April 2011 ([CDL-REF\(2011\)039](#)), the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR prepared a draft opinion on this text, which is submitted to the Council for adoption ([CDL\(2011\)091](#)).

## **7. Ukraine**

On 23 June 2011, Mr Oleksandr Lavrynovych, Minister of Justice of Ukraine asked the Venice Commission to examine the draft law on the election of members of parliament of Ukraine ([CDL-REF\(2011\)034](#)). The draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL\(2011\)059](#)) on this text is submitted to the Council for adoption. The Secretariat will inform the Council of the visit of a delegation of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR to Ukraine.

## **8. Co-operation with Northern Africa**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on recent developments concerning co-operation with Northern Africa. In particular the following events concerning Tunisia should be noted: A Training seminar for lawyers on electoral disputes (20-23 September); A Round Table on “elections and democratic transition: a historical opportunity?” in Brussels on 21 September, as well as legal assistance to the pre-electoral and forthcoming observation missions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

## **9. Future activities**

The Secretariat will inform the Council on planned future activities in particular the study on the abuse of administrative resources, and legal assistance to the observation mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Bulgaria.

Members are invited to make proposals for future activities.

## **10. 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 established practice, opinions are prepared jointly with OSCE/ODIHR (see above Albania and Georgia).

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

It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 15 December 2011 at 10.00 a.m.