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Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

43rd MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

Venice, 15 December 2012 at 2.30 p.m.

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Address by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly will speak on the Assembly's work and co-operation with the Venice Commission in the electoral field.

3. Congress: Observation of local and regional elections, latest developments and work programme 2013

Mr Molin will present the Congress' recent and future work in the electoral field, concerning in particular the observation of local and regional elections, as well as the work programme for 2013. He will notably inform the Council on progress of work on the criteria for eligibility for local and regional elections.

4. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretariat will inform the Council on:

- assistance to the missions observing the parliamentary elections in Montenegro (14 October 2012) and in Ukraine (28 October 2012);
- the Seminar on electoral disputes in Ukraine (19 October 2012);
- the progress of work on the electoral law of Mexico and in particular the visit of a Commission delegation to Mexico on 12-13 November 2012; the issue of the VOTA database was also discussed on this occasion;
- the informal comparative studies on electoral complaints and appeals and on the composition of election commissions in Europe, prepared at the request from the deputy chairman of the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan;
- the Conference on electoral lists held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 4-6 December 2012.

In addition, the Secretariat will inform of the decisions taken by the Venice Commission on:

- the report on "Limitation of mandates and incompatibility of political functions" (see document [CDL\(2012\)50rev](#));
- the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR) on Amendments to the law on the election of members of parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan (see documents [CDL\(2012\)077](#), [CDL-REF\(2012\)043](#) and [044](#));
- the opinion on the constitutional situation in Romania (see document [CDL\(2012\)055](#))

5. The use of administrative resources during electoral campaigns

The Council is invited to examine the preliminary draft report on the use of administrative resources during electoral campaigns ([CDL\(2012\)075](#)), drawn up on the basis of contributions from Messrs Gonzalez Oropeza ([CDL\(2012\)076](#)) and Hirschfeldt. This document takes into account the comparative table on this issue revised on the basis of comments by members of the Commission and the Council ([CDL-REF\(2012\)025rev](#)). A final version should be submitted to the Venice Commission in 2013.

6. Future activities

A meeting with the Committee on general legislation of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia on electoral systems will take place in Strasbourg on 18 December 2012.

During 2013 the Council and the Commission will be invited to decide on the criteria for eligibility for local and regional elections (see item 3 above).

At its last meeting the Council for Democratic Elections decided to deal with the following issues:

- the method of nominating candidates within political parties (including by primary elections);
- the question of open lists; this study should also deal with women's representation.

The Council could decide on a schedule and appoint rapporteurs.

The Secretariat will inform the Council on forthcoming activities planned in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Programme and possible co-operation with Armenia with a view to the preparation of the 2013 Presidential elections.

See also item 7 below.

7. Co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR

An exchange of views will take place with the representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation. Joint opinions will be prepared on the electoral legislation of Moldova and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

8. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 7 March 2013 at 10 a.m.