



Strasbourg, 28 November 2014

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

49th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

Venice, 13 December 2014 at 2 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. Report on open and closed lists

A draft report on proportional electoral systems: the allocation of seats inside the lists (open/closed lists) has been prepared on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Mr Kask, Mr Mifsud Bonnici and Mr Kåre Vollan (Expert, Norway) ([CDL\(2014\)058](#); see the comparative table, [CDL\(2014\)051](#)).

The Council is invited to adopt the draft report, with a view to its submission to the Commission at its March 2015 session. This report falls in the framework of the work on measures to improve the democratic character of elections in the member States of the Council of Europe (see Parliamentary Assembly report “for more democratic elections” ([Doc. 13021](#)) adopted in October 2012).

3. Criteria for standing in local and regional elections

At its June 2014 meeting, the Council examined a draft report by the Congress on “criteria for standing in local and regional elections”. The Secretariat has prepared a memorandum which makes comments on the revised draft report (CG/GOV(27)5rev6, 1st version). The Congress’ Governance Committee approved this document on 17 November 2014, with some amendments (CG/GOV(27)5rev6, 2nd version). This Committee has not yet taken the Secretariat’s comments into consideration, but is ready to do so for a forthcoming meeting.

The representative of the Congress is invited to present the draft report and the Council is invited to take note of this report as well as of the Secretariat memorandum.

4. Electoral lists and voters abroad

Mr Wiene has prepared a preliminary draft report on “electoral lists and voters abroad” for the Congress’ Monitoring Committee (CG/MON(26)13). He is invited to present this text and the Council is invited to take note of it.

Ms Alanis Figueroa prepared a memorandum on Latin American answers to problems of *de facto* living abroad, which is also submitted to the Council.

5. Work of the International Standards Organization (ISO) on electoral processes

As indicated at the March 2014 meeting, the ISO electoral administration norms was not adopted; however the text was approved as a [technical specification](#) (ISO/TS 17582:2014, Quality management systems — Particular requirements for the application of ISO 9001:2008 for electoral organisations at all levels of government). The Council will be informed on progress of work on the basis of the memorandum prepared by Ms Alanis Figueroa.

6. Co-operation with the Organization of American States (OAS)

The representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) is invited to present to the Council the activities of this Organization in the electoral field as well as possibilities for future co-operation.

7. European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies (information item)

The Secretariat will inform the Council on the state of preparation of the 12th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies which will take place in Brussels on 30-31 March 2015 on "Ensuring neutrality, impartiality and transparency in elections: the role of Electoral Management Bodies." This Conference is organised in the framework of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, jointly with the Ministry of the Interior of Belgium.

8. Information about the current work and future activities

- *Communication by the Secretariat*

- Since the Council's June 2014 meeting, the following activities took place in the electoral field:
 - Round Table on electoral disputes and training workshop for judges of administrative courts in Tunisia (Tunis, 24-26 June 2014);
 - 11th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies (Helsinki, 26-27 June 2014), entitled "Combating the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes";
 - 23rd Annual Conference of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) on "The participation of women in the electoral process and in public life" and "planning of a general election" (Bucharest, 4-6 September 2014);
 - Training session on electoral disputes for judges of administrative courts in Tunisia (Tunis, 10-11 September 2014);
 - Post-electoral Conference in Georgia (2014 local elections: lessons learned and next steps) (Tbilisi, 16 September 2014);
 - Assistance to the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova, on electoral disputes and including training of trainers (21-26 September 2014);
 - Assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly observation mission on the occasion of the parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (5 October 2014);
 - Workshop on the resolution of electoral disputes; organised prior to the Parliamentary elections in Ukraine (Kiev, 7 October 2014);
 - Assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly observation mission on the occasion of the parliamentary elections in Tunisia (26 October 2014);
 - Assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly observation mission on the occasion of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine (26 October 2014);
 - Participation in the 5th Council of Europe Review Meeting to examine developments in E-voting since the adoption of Recommendation Rec(2004)11 on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting (Bregenz, 28 October 2014);
 - Assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly observation mission on the occasion of the first round of the presidential elections in Tunisia (23 November 2014);
 - Participation in the IXth Inter-American meeting of electoral authorities (Lima, 24-25 November 2014);
 - Assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly observation mission on the occasion of the parliamentary elections in Moldova (30 November 2014).

The Secretariat will give further details on these activities at the request of the members.

- The Secretariat will also inform the Council on:
 - progress of work on the study on the method of nominating candidates within political parties. This report falls in the framework of the work on measures to improve the democratic character of elections in the member States of the Council of Europe (see item 2 above);
 - the project presented in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Facility Programme of the European Union for the years 2015-2017.
- Co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR

An exchange of views will take place with the representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR on the possibilities of future co-operation. The OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council on its current and future activities in the electoral field.

9. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 19 March 2015 at 10 a.m.