



Strasbourg, 4 March 2015

**CDL-EL-OJ(2015)001ann**  
Or. Engl.

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

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

**Venice, 19 March 2015 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. Election of a Chair**

Mr Gross' mandate in the Council for Democratic Elections has not been renewed; the Council is therefore invited to elect a new Chair.

## **3. Report on proportional electoral systems: the allocation of seats inside the lists (open/closed lists)**

At its December meeting the Council for Democratic Elections endorsed a first version of the draft report on proportional electoral systems: the allocation of seats inside the lists (open/closed lists) prepared on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Mr Kask, Mr Mifsud Bonnici and Mr Kåre Volla (expert, Norway) ([CDL\(2014\)051](#)).

Following the suggestions for revision made at the Council's last meeting, the Secretariat has prepared, in co-operation with the rapporteurs, a slightly modified version of this report ([CDL\(2015\)016](#)). The Council is invited to adopt this revised version, with a view to its submission to the Commission for adoption. See also the revised comparative table ([CDL\(2015\)015](#)).

To recap, 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).

## **4. Electoral lists and voters abroad**

In accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its last meeting:

Ms Alanis Figueroa and Ms Christina Binder (expert, Austria) have prepared comments ([CDL-EL\(2015\)003](#) and [CDL-EL\(2015\)004](#)) on the Secretariat memorandum ([CDL-EL\(2013\)011](#)).

On the basis of case studies relating to Bulgaria (by Mr Tanchev), Moldova (by Mr Iure Ciocan, expert and Mr Esanu) and Tunisia (by Mr Mohamed Krir, expert), the Secretariat has prepared a summary report on this issue ([CDL-EL\(2015\)009](#)), which is submitted to the Council.

The final draft of the Congress' report on "Electoral lists and voters residing de facto abroad" (see CG/2015(28)6PROV) will be submitted to the Congress for adoption on 24 March 2015.

The Council could decide to continue working on this issue.

## **5. Report on the method of nomination of candidates within political parties**

A first draft of the report on the method of nomination of candidates within political parties is submitted to the Council ([CDL-EL\(2015\)006](#)). It is based on comments by Ms Alanis and Ms Biglino. 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 [Doc. 13021](#), item 3 above). The Secretariat has introduced all the replies received to the questionnaire on this subject, as well as additional information, into a table showing the

replies to the different questions, concerning both the relevant national legal provisions and the practice of political parties ([CDL\(2015\)007](#)). The table contains information concerning 50 countries. The draft is submitted to the Council for discussion with a view to its adoption at the June 2015 session.

## **6. Guidelines on the misuse of administrative resources – Roadmap (information item)**

Following the adoption of the report on the misuse of administrative resources during the electoral process ([CDL-AD\(2014\)033](#)) and the 11<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on this theme, the Venice Commission will prepare guidelines. The Secretariat will inform the Council on this issue.

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

The Secretariat will inform the Council on progress in the preparation of the 12<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies which will take place in Brussels on 30 and 31 March 2015 on “Ensuring neutrality, impartiality and transparency in elections: the role of Electoral Management Bodies”. The Conference is organised in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior of Belgium and falls in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

## **8. Information about the current work and future activities**

### *- Communication by the Secretariat*

- Eligibility for local and regional elections  
The Congress’ final draft report on “Criteria for standing for local and regional elections” (see CG/2015(28)7PROV) will be submitted to the Congress for adoption on 26 March 2015.
- Since the Council’s December 2014 meeting the following activities have taken place in the electoral field:
  - Meeting on electoral reform in Ukraine (Strasbourg, 27-28 January 2015)
  - Participation in a Conference on the reform of the law on local elections of Ukraine (Kyiv, 27 February 2015)
  - Round Table on Election Dispute Resolution (Warsaw, 9-10 March 2015, see below)

In addition to the 12<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies, the following activities will take place in the near future:

- Post Electoral Conference in Moldova (Chisinau, 23-24 March 2015)
- Second International Conference organised by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania on “Electoral Integrity and Regional Co-operation” (Bucharest, 25-26 March 2015)

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

- The Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers has sent to the Venice Commission a request from the Provincial Council of the Trento Province for an Opinion on a Citizens’ Initiative Bill on Public Participation, Citizens’ Initiative, Referendums and Popular Initiative and Amendments to the Provincial Electoral Law.

- *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. The OSCE/ODIHR is invited to inform the Council on its current and future activities in the electoral field.

The representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR and the Secretariat are invited to present the Round Table on Election Dispute Resolution held in Warsaw on 9-10 March 2015.

**9. Date of the next meeting**

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 18 June 2015 at 10 a.m.