



Strasbourg, 8 October 2015

CDL-EL-OJ(2015)004ann
Or. Fr.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

52nd MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC
ELECTIONS

Venice, 22 October 2015 at 10.00 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. Exclusion of offenders from Parliament

Following the agreement between the ruling majority and the opposition in Albania, ending the boycott of Parliament, the President of the Special Parliamentary Committee to address the issue in the Resolution for agreement between the ruling majority and the opposition in the Assembly of Albania asked for the Venice Commission's co-operation on the issue of people with criminal records, who hold a public office or seek to be elected or appointed to one. In this framework, a draft preliminary report on the exclusion of offenders from Parliament was adopted at the June session ([CDL-AD\(2015\)019](#)). On this occasion, the Council decided that a revised report be prepared for the October 2015 session in which the "analytical" part would be developed. A new draft report ([CDL\(2015\)048](#)) has therefore been prepared on the basis of comments by Mr Bartole, Mr Kask and Mr Sørensen and is submitted to the Council for adoption.

3. Guidelines on combatting the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes

Further to the adoption of a report on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes in December 2013 ([CDL-AD\(2013\)033](#)) and the 11th European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on this theme, guidelines on this issue have been prepared by Mr Barrett, Mr Gonzalez Oropeza, Mr Hirschfeldt, Mr Kalchenko and Mr Kask ([CDL-EL\(2015\)010](#)). Following the discussions at the Council's June meeting, the rapporteurs have prepared a revised draft ([CDL\(2015\)038](#)) jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR taking into account the informal comments of the Secretariat of the Group of States against corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe. These draft joint guidelines are presented to the Council with a view to adoption.

4. Lessons to be learnt from 25 years of international election observation

Mr Gross is invited to present an outline of the report which he is preparing for the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission on Lessons to be learnt from 25 years of international election observation. This report will be submitted for adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

5. Ukraine : financing of political parties

The Council is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft joint opinion ([CDL\(2015\)035](#)) by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR, on the draft amendments to some legislative acts concerning prevention of and fight against political corruption in Ukraine ([CDL-REF\(2015\)031](#)) drawn up in co-operation with the Directorate of Human Rights of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe (DGI). This draft opinion, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Frendo, Mr Paczolay, Mr Quentin Reed (DGI expert), and Ms Barbara Jouan, Mr Richard Katz and Mr Daniel Smilov (experts, OSCE/ODIHR Core group of experts on political parties), was prepared following a request from Mr Yehor Soboliev, Chair of the Committee for the prevention of and fight against corruption of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, to examine the conformity of the draft amendments with international human rights standards.

6. Information about the current and future activities

- Communication by the Secretariat

Since the Council's June 2015 meeting the following activities, organised by the Venice Commission or in which the Venice Commission participated, have taken place in the field of elections and political parties:

- Political Party Expert Workshop, organised by the OSCE/ODIHR (Kyiv, 14 July 2015)
- Election seminar organised by the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE (Vienna, 20 July 2015), on which the Commission in particular intervened on the issue of administrative resources
- Assembly of the Association of World Electoral Management Bodies (A-WEB), (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 17-22 August 2015)
- Conference on "Money and Politics" (Mexico City, 3-5 September 2015)
- Meeting on gender equality, organised by the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia (Tbilisi, 8 September 2015)
- Hearing on gender equality in the electoral field, organized by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Paris, 10 September 2015)
- Seminar on "A Human Rights approach to elections" (Glasgow, 14-15 September 2015)
- The 24th Conference of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) (Chisinau, 9-11 September 2015)
- Post-electoral Conference following the local elections in Albania (Tirana, 29 September 2015)
- Legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Parliamentary Assembly observing the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan (4 October 2015)
- European Conference on the codification of electoral law, organised by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania (Bucharest, 19-20 October 2015)
- Meeting of the OSCE/ODIHR Core group of experts on political parties (Warsaw, 19-20 October 2015)

The following activities are already planned from now to the next meeting of the Council:

- Legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe observing the local elections in Ukraine (25 October 2015)
- Participation in the ad hoc Committee of experts on legal, operational and technical norms relating to e-voting (Strasbourg, 28-29 October 2015)
- Legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Parliamentary Assembly observing the parliamentary elections in Turkey (1 November 2015)
- Legal assistance to the Election Observation mission of the Parliamentary Assembly observing the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (1 November 2015)
- Training workshop for judges on electoral disputes (Yerevan, date to be confirmed)
- Regional Conference on gender equality in the electoral process (Tbilisi, 25-26 November 2015)

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

- Co-operation with the OSCE/BIDDH

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.

7. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 17 December 2015 at 10.00 a.m.