



Strasbourg, 26 February 2016

**CDL-EL-OJ(2016)001ann**  
Or. Fr.

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

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

**Venice, 10 March 2016 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. Guidelines for preventing and responding to the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes**

Following the adoption of the report on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes in December 2013 ([CDL-AD\(2013\)033](#)) and the 11<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on this theme, two versions of guidelines on this issue, prepared on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Mr González Oropeza, Mr Hirschfeldt, Mr Kalchenko and Mr Kask, were discussed at the June and October meetings respectively. The second version was drawn up jointly with the OSCE/ODIHR taking into account the informal comments of the Secretariats of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and of the Group of States against corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe.

The Rapporteurs have prepared a revised version of the document, which in particular takes into account written comments which have been received and is presented to the Council with a view to adoption ([CDL\(2016\)009](#)).

## **3. Armenia – new Electoral Code**

By letter dated 15 January 2016, the Minister of Justice of Armenia requested the Venice Commission's co-operation on the reform of the Electoral Code. The revised Constitution stipulates that the new Code should be adopted before 1 June 2016. On 15 February 2016 the new draft Electoral Code was submitted to the Venice Commission for expertise. A joint opinion will be prepared with the OSCE/ODIHR. The visit of the rapporteurs to Armenia will take place during the week after the session. In view of the urgency, the Commission will be invited to authorise the rapporteurs (Mr Barrett, Ms Biglino, Mr Tanchev and Mr Vollan, expert) to send a preliminary opinion to the authorities prior to the June session. The Council and the Commission will be invited to endorse the draft opinion in June.

## **4. Georgia – Amendments to the Election Code**

The Georgian authorities requested an opinion from the Venice Commission on amendments to the Electoral Code ([CDL-REF\(2016\)004](#)) entered into force on 8 January 2016, regarding the redrawing of constituencies and moving to an absolute majority system ([CDL-REF\(2016\)001](#) and [CDL-REF\(2016\)005](#)). The draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL\(2016\)004](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr González Oropeza, Mr Kask as well as Ms Kseniya Dashutina, OSCE/ODIHR election expert, is submitted to the Council for adoption.

## **5. Publication of the lists of voters having participated in the elections**

The Council for Democratic Elections is invited to consider the issue of the possible publication of the lists of voters having participated in the elections, in the light of the note prepared by the Secretariat on this issue ([CDL-EL\(2016\)003](#)).

## **6. Co-operation with the Organization of American States**

The Elections Department of the Organization of American States in its capacity of observer to the Council for Democratic Elections, will present an overview of recent election observation activities with a view to developing strategies and exchanges of information with the Venice Commission and the Council.

## **7. Cooperation with the OSCE/ODHIR**

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.

## **8. Information on current and future activities**

Since the Council's December 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:

- Conference on the results of the 25 October 2016 local elections in Ukraine (Kyiv, 16-17 December 2015);
- Conference organised by the Carter Center on human rights and electoral standards (Atlanta, 14-15 January 2016);
- "Electoral System Week" including an "electoral systems workshop", a workshop on "Electoral system design and the increased participation of women in politics" as well as a national Round Table (Kyiv, 2-4 February 2016);
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies (Kakheti, Georgia, 16-17 February 2016), on the theme of "Electoral integrity";
- A regional Conference on "Money in Politics" (Tbilisi, 18-19 February 2016).

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

- "1<sup>st</sup> electoral expert debates" (Bucharest, 12-13 April 2016) on "electoral law and new technologies". The reports prepared for this Conference will be published in the review "Electoral expert" edited by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania. These "electoral expert debates" should take place on a regular basis;
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Electoral Management Bodies (Bucharest, 14-15 April 2016) on the theme "new technologies in elections: public trust and challenges for electoral management bodies";
- Depending on the progress of constitutional revision in Ukraine, activities relating to the two drafts on electoral reform registered at the Rada will be organised over the forthcoming months.

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

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

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 9 June 2016 at 10.00 a.m.