



Strasbourg, 23 February 2017

**CDL-EL-OJ(2017)001ann**  
Or. Fr.

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

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

**Venice, 9 March 2017 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. Election of a Chair**

Mr Wienen has completed his term of office as Chair of the Council. The Council is therefore invited to elect a President of the Council for Democratic Elections for a two-year period.

## **3. Co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR – intervention by Mr Link**

Mr Link, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR will address the Council on co-operation between the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR in the electoral field. An exchange of views will take place 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.

## **4. The misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes at local and regional levels – Congress draft checklist**

At the March 2016 session, the Council for Democratic Elections and the Venice Commission adopted joint guidelines with the OSCE/ODIHR for preventing and responding to the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes ([CDL-AD\(2016\)004](#)). At its 31<sup>st</sup> session (October 2016) the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted [Resolution 402\(2016\)](#) on “The misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: the role of local and regional elected representatives and public officials”. On this basis, the Congress prepared a document entitled “Checklist for compliance with international standards and best practices preventing misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes at local and regional level” which complements the joint guidelines by focusing specifically on the local and regional level (CG-MON01(2017)10). The Secretary General of the Congress requested the Venice Commission’s opinion on this text before its adoption by the Congress.

The Council is invited to adopt the draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR (CDL(2017)012) on the draft Checklist for compliance with international standards and best practices preventing misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes at local and regional level drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett and Mr Kask as well as OSCE/ODIHR experts.

## **5. Mexico – Co-operation in the electoral field**

Ms Janine Otalora, President of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico and member of the Venice Commission in respect of Mexico, will inform the Council on the preparation of the elections in Mexico and related activities.

## **6. Setting minimal standards for electoral systems – intervention by Ms Centemero**

Ms Centemero, Parliamentary Assembly rapporteur on “setting minimal standards for electoral systems in order to offer a basis for free and fair elections” will present the work of the Parliamentary Assembly on this issue (see [PACE document 14072](#)). The Council is invited to discuss possibilities of co-operation in this field.

## **7. Communication by the Secretariat**

- Activities organised between the Council's 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> meetings :
  - Fact finding mission to define the modalities of long term technical assistance to the Central Electoral Commission of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (Skopje and Strumica, 23-26 January 2017).
  - Second General Assembly of the Organisation of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (Tunis, 7 February 2017).
  - Conference on "Innovative Services and Effective Electoral Procedures" (Borjomi, Georgia, 27-28 February 2017) (7th Annual Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies)
  - Long term technical assistance to the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia from 27 February to 3 April 2017
  - Long term technical assistance to the Central Electoral Commission of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (March-June 2017)
  - Seminar on Electoral disputes in Armenia (Yerevan, March 2017)

## **8. Future activities**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Electoral Management Bodies will take place in St Petersburg on 15-16 May 2017 on the theme "Operational Electoral Management Bodies for democratic elections".

In addition the following activities are planned from now to the next meeting of the Council:

- Post electoral Conference in Georgia (Tbilisi, 13 March 2017)
- Workshop on the financing of political parties and election campaigns (Kyiv, 15 March 2017)
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing the parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (26 March 2017)
- International Conference on "financing of the political process during elections" (Tunis, 28-29 March 2017)
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing the parliamentary elections in Armenia (2 April 2017)

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

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday 15 June 2017 at 10.00 am.