



Strasbourg, 2 March 2018

**CDL-EL-OJ(2018)001ann**  
Or. fr.

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

**61<sup>ST</sup> MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC  
ELECTIONS**

**Venice, 15 March 2018 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. Study – Individual right to re-election: presidential elections**

The Organisation of American States (OAS) asked the Venice Commission to study the individual right to re-election. This study has been divided into several parts. The first concerns the presidential elections. The council is therefore invited to examine with a view to adoption, the draft report ([CDL\(2018\)006](#)) on term limits and a possible individual right to re-election – Part I Presidents (see document [CDL-REF\(2018\)009](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Castella Andreu, Ms Cleveland, Mr Hyst, Mr Kang, Ms Otálora Malassis, and Mr Tuori.

## **3. Voting rights at local level as an element of successful long-term integration of migrants and IDPs in Europe's municipalities and regions (Congress)**

In the context of mass migration in the area of the Council of Europe for political, humanitarian and socio-economic reasons, an increasing number of people have settled (or have been re-settled) in countries/regions other than their country/ region of origin. Since voting encourages migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to actively participate in the life of their community, voting rights, at the local level, may be seen as a natural starting point for successful long-term integration. The preliminary draft report by the Congress examines the international standards with regard to voting rights of IDPs and non-citizens, outlines the major challenges to the implementation of such rights and describes the diversity of approaches chosen by Council of Europe member States in this respect.

## **4. Study – Identification of electoral irregularities through statistical methods**

Following a decision taken by the Council in December 2016 and the intervention of one of the four appointed experts, Mr Carsten Schürmann, at the June 2017 meeting, the Commission is invited to endorse, as a reference for election observers, the draft report ([CDL\(2018\)010](#)) on the identification of electoral irregularities by statistical methods, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Daniel Bochsler, Mr Juraj Medzihorsky, Mr Carsten Schürmann and Philip Stark.

## **5. Republic of Moldova – Amendments to the electoral code**

Following the request of Mr Cesar Florin Preda, Chairman of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Council is invited to examine, with a view to its adoption, the draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR ([CDL\(2018\)013](#)) on amendments to the electoral legislation of the Republic of Moldova ([CDL-REF\(2018\)001](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Mr Holmøyvik, Mr Kask as well as OSCE/ODIHR experts.

## **6. Study – Election dispute resolution: point of information**

The secretariat will inform the Council of the progress of the study on the treatment of electoral disputes.

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

The following activities took place between the 60th and 61st meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections:

- participation in the 12<sup>th</sup> implementation meeting of the declaration of principles for international election observation (Washington DC, December 13-15, 2017);
- participation in a conference on Financing of political parties in Moldova: Lessons learned in the Eastern Partnership (Chişinău, 15 December 2017);
- participation in an international conference on the Role of administrative courts in electoral disputes (Cairo, 8-9 January 2018);
- participation in the conference Voting of Albanian citizens abroad (Tirana, 23 January 2018);
- participation in the Workshop on Libya's draft law on presidential elections (Tunis, 25-26 January 2018).

## **8. Future activities**

The Venice Commission will participate in:

- Joint parliamentary seminar on “the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections” (Tirana, 10-11 April 2018);
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing presidential election in Montenegro, 15 April 2017;
- Meeting of the Norwegian Election Act Committee (Oslo, 17 April 2018);
- 15th Conference of Electoral Management Bodies on the theme “Security in Elections” (Oslo, 19-20 April 2018);
- 2nd Scientific Electoral Experts Debates (Sinaia, 3-4 May 2018).

## **9. 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.

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

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday, 21 June 2018 at 10.00 am.