



Strasbourg, 3 June 2019

CDL-EL-OJ(2019)001ann
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**65th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC
ELECTIONS**

Venice, 20 June 2019 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 the President and Vice-President

The Council is invited to elect a President and Vice-President.

3. Study - Recall of mayors and local elected representatives

The Council for Democratic Elections examined a first version of the draft report on the recall of mayors and local elected representatives in June 2018. It is invited to examine its revised version ([CDL\(2019\)019](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Castellà Andreu, Ms Jametti and Ms Karakamisheva-Jovanovska before its submission to the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and the Mediterranean Basin and to the plenary session.

4. Study - Use of digital technologies and elections

In June 2017, the Council for Democratic Elections, upon an initiative by Mr José Luis Vargas Valdez and on the basis of his “Study on the role of social media and the internet in democratic development”, decided to undertake a study on the use of social media during electoral processes, jointly with the Council of Europe's Information Society Department. The Council is now invited to examine the draft report ([CDL\(2019\)002](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Ms Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir, Mr Rubio Nuñez, Mr Vargas Valdez, Ms Rozgonyi (DGI expert, Media and Internet Governance Division) and Ms Ruzic (DGI Expert, Data Protection Division) which should be submitted to the plenary session; see also [CDL-REF\(2019\)009](#)).

5. Study – Election dispute resolution

In March 2018, the Council had already been informed about the drafting of a preliminary study in the field. The Council is now invited to examine the draft report on this issue ([CDL-EL\(2019\)001](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Holmøyvik, Mr Kask, Ms Pabel, Mr Vargas Valdez, Mr Dominiononi (expert) and Mr Kalchenko (expert); see also [CDL-REF\(2019\)010](#)).

6. Communication by the Secretariat

The following activities took place between the 64th and 65th meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections:

- Round table on electoral dispute resolution (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 14 December 2018);
- Meeting of the Core Group of Experts on Political Parties, (Warsaw, Poland 12-13 January 2019);
- Intervention of the President of the Venice Commission before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, during the discussion of the draft report on "Updating guidelines to ensure fair referendums in Council of Europe member States" (Strasbourg, 22 January 2019).
- During February-March 2019, a series of training for national judges on election dispute resolution took place in different cities of Ukraine: - Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Chernivtsi, Kramatorsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Odessa;
- Conference “Europe votes 2019: How to unmask and fight online manipulation” (Brussels, 11 February 2019);

- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova, 24 February 2019;
- 3rd General Assembly of the Arab Electoral Management Bodies and regional conference (Dead Sea, Jordan, 3-5 March 2019);
- Round table on draft amendments to the legislation regarding sanctions for election-related offences (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 29 March 2019);
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing presidential election in Ukraine, 31 March 2019;
- Study visit of the Malaysian Electoral Reform Committee (Berlin, Germany, 2 April 2019);
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing presidential election (first round) in North Macedonia, 21 April 2019;
- Seminar on Social media in electoral campaigns (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 25 April 2019);
- Legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing presidential election (second round) in North Macedonia, 5 May 2019;
- Seminar on Good practices in electoral matters (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 30 May 2019);
- Brainstorming workshop with Members of Parliament on “Reform of the legal framework governing elections” in Armenia (Tsakhkadzor, Armenia, 8-9 June 2019);
- Visit of the Venice Commission’s team of electoral experts in the framework of the EU-funded project on reform of electoral legislation and practice in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, 13-14 June 2019);
- 2nd Seminar on Social media in electoral campaigns (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 15-16 June 2019).

7. Future activities

- 16th EMB Conference on “Election Dispute Resolution” (Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 27-28 June 2019);
- participation in the Regional Parliamentary Conference on misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes (Tbilisi, Georgia, 2-3 July 2019);
- participation in the 28th Conference of the ACEEEO on electoral justice (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 25-26 September 2019).

8. 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.

9. Date of the next meeting

The Council is invited to fix the date of its next meeting for Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 10.00 am.