



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 27 September 2019

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**66th MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC
ELECTIONS**

Venice, 10 October 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. Amicus curiae Brief for the European Court of Human Rights

Following the request of the European Court of Human Rights, the Council is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Amicus curiae Brief by the Venice Commission in the case of Mugemangango v. Belgium on procedural safeguards that a State must provide in the framework of a procedure for contesting the outcome of an election or the distribution of seats ([CDL\(2019\)029](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Bazy-Malaury and Mr Holmøyvik.

3. Revised code of good practice on referendums - issues to be addressed

The Council is invited to discuss the issues to be addressed in the revision of the code of good practice on referendums (see [CDL-EL\(2019\)003](#), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Alivizatos, Mr Castellà Andreu, Mr Kask, Ms Kiener, Mr Maiani and Mr Vermeulen).

4. Albania, draft opinion on the powers of a President to set the dates of elections in a parliamentary system

Following the request of Mr Gramoz Ruçi, Speaker of the Parliament of Albania, the Council is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft opinion on the powers of a President to set the dates of elections in a parliamentary system ([CDL\(2019\)027](#); see [CDL-REF\(2019\)021](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Kask, Ms McMorrow, Mr Pinelli, Mr Tuori and Mr Varga.

5. Study – election dispute resolution (for information)

The Secretariat will inform the Council of the progress made in the draft of the Report on election dispute resolution (see [CDL-EL\(2019\)001](#) and [CDL-REF\(2019\)010](#)).

6. Communication by the Secretariat

The following activities took place between the 65th and 66th meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections:

- 16th EMB Conference on “Election dispute resolution” (Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 27-28 June 2019);
- participation in the II International Conference on “Cybersecurity and Electoral Justice” on the topic “Exponential progress of technology and disinformation and repercussion on electoral campaigns on social networks” (Madrid, 16-17 September 2019);
- participation in a meeting with Montenegrin authorities; expert assistance to the parliamentary Committee on further reform of electoral and other legislation, on the draft code of ethics for political parties during election campaigns (Podgorica, Montenegro, 19 September 2019);
- participation in the International conference “Denied by the system: establishing an all-inclusive system to protect democracy” (Tirana, Albania, 25 September 2019);
- participation in the 28th Conference of the ACEEEO on “Judicial protection of electoral rights and the transparency of elections” (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 25-26 September 2019);

- participation in the OSCE/ODIHR Seminar on Election dispute resolution (Vienna, Austria, 1 October 2019);
- participation in the IFES Seminar on Election dispute resolution (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7 – 8 October 2019).

Mr François Friederich will introduce the Activities of the Directorate General of Democracy in the electoral field:

- Albania: Bridge training for members and staff of the Central Electoral Commission (November);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Study on violence against women in politics;
- Georgia: collaboration in the elaboration of a tool kit on election dispute resolution (November-December);
- Georgia: seminar on Election dispute resolution (29 November 2019);
- Republic of Moldova: post electoral conference (December 2019);
- Ukraine: preparation of a tool kit on media monitoring of elections for Civil Society Organisations;
- presentation of the Elecdata platform.

7. Future activities

- participation in the XIVth Inter-American meeting of electoral management bodies (Panama City, Panama, 13 – 14 November 2019);
- legal assistance to the Parliamentary Assembly delegation observing elections in Belarus, 17 November 2019;
- participation in the collaboration on the elaboration of a tool kit on election dispute resolution, (November-December 2019);
- participation in the 14th Annual implementation meeting for endorsers of the Declaration of principles for international election observation (Warsaw, Poland, 20-21 November 2019) (tbc);
- participation in workshop no. 5 of the OCTOPUS Conference, dedicated to “Cybercrime, fake news & election interference” (Strasbourg, France, 22 November 2019);
- participation in a Seminar on election dispute resolution (Tbilisi, Georgia, 29 November 2019);
- co-organisation, with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, of the Regional parliamentary conference on preventing and responding to the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes (Tbilisi, Georgia, 2-3 December 2019);
- co-organisation, with the Administrative Court of Tunisia, of an international symposium on “Administrative Justice and Electoral Disputes” (Tunis, 12-13 December 2019);
- (New) Report on Electoral Law and Electoral Administration in Europe - Synthesis study on recurrent challenges and problematic issues (see [CDL-AD\(2006\)018](#)).

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, 5 December 2019 at 10.00 am.