



Strasbourg, 24 October 2002

Restricted  
**CDL-EL (2002) PV 3**  
**Or. fr.**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**  
**(Venice, 16 October 2002)**

**MEETING REPORT**

## **1. Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters**

The Council examined the explanatory report to the code of good practice in electoral matters, drawn up by the Venice Commission Secretariat (CDL-EL (2002) 5, pp. 12 ss). This document explains the guidelines adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (Venice, 3 July 2002) and adopted by the Venice Commission at its 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary session (5-6 July 2002). It takes into account written comments made by members of the Council before the meeting.

The members of the Council for Democratic Elections made a certain number of proposals for further amendment, which were mainly retained. It was emphasised that the code of good practice in electoral matters should be used by election observers of the Council of Europe.

**The Council adopted the explanatory report to the guidelines in electoral matters (CDL (2002) 139, pp. 12 ss) and decided to forward the code of good practice, when adopted by the Venice Commission (CDL-AD (2002) 23) to the Parliamentary Assembly.**

## **2. Integrated Project on Democratic Institutions**

Ms Guidikova informed the Council about the work of the Integrated Project on Democratic Institutions. She recalled that the Integrated Project had been set up for a three-year period and is aimed at consolidated standards on issues of democratic institutions by working transversely. The Integrated Project is prepared to participate in the distribution of the code of good practice in electoral matters. It welcomes the setting up of a database in electoral matters, more developed than that of OSCE/ODIHR in particular concerning indexing and consisting of – or containing links with – documents in electoral matters of the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe.

Following the meeting held on 1-2 July the Integrated Project will develop the question of e-voting, in co-operation with the Council for Democratic Elections. See document IP1 (2002) 17 rev. A first intergovernmental meeting will take place in November, to which will be invited, as well the observers from steering committees, the Council for Democratic Elections, the European Commission, the OSCE, non-governmental organisations. A draft recommendation should be prepared for the end of 2003 with a view to its forwarding to the Committee of Ministers. It is proposed that the Council for Democratic Elections be involved in the evaluation of the implementation of the recommendation.

**The Council for Democratic Elections declared itself ready to work on the question of e-voting.**

### **3. Future activities**

In conformity with items 1 and 2 above, the Council for Democratic Elections will follow the work of other bodies in electoral matters, in particular that of the Parliamentary Assembly; it supports the creation of a database in electoral matters; it will participate in the work on e-voting.

### **4. Other questions**

The Secretariat informed the Council about the Workshop on voting rights for voters with disabilities which took place in Sigtuna, Sweden, on 14-17 September 2002 and in which Mr Gaël Martin-Micallef from the Venice Commission Secretariat participated. The workshop led to the drawing up of a Charter on electoral rights for voters with disabilities. This international workshop was organised jointly by IFES, International IDEA and the Swedish International Development Co-operation Assistance (SIDA); it also had the support of the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations for disability, Mr Bengt Linqvist.

Ms Dezsö, representative of ACEEEO briefly presented the organisation. At its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Moscow, 26-28 September 2002), in which the Venice Commission Secretariat participated, the Association adopted a draft Convention on Elections. This text should be submitted to the Council of Europe for expertise and more specifically to the Council for Democratic Elections. Mr Clerfayt thanked ACEEEO for its contribution.

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### Venice Commission

Mr François Luchaire  
Mr Alain Lancelot

### Secretariat

Mr Gianni Buquicchio  
Mr Pierre Garrone

### Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Georges Clerfayt  
Mr György Frunda  
Ms Josette Durrieu

### Secretariat

Ms Catherine Entzminger  
Ms Claire Dossier

### CLRAE

Mr Ian Micallef  
Mr Owen Masters

Secretariat  
Mr Riccardo Priore

Integrated Project « Democratic Institutions in Action »  
Ms Irena Guidikova

OSCE/ODIHR  
Mr Nicolas Kaczorowski

ACEEEO  
Ms Marta Dezsö