



Strasbourg, 16 June 2003

Restricted  
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Or. Fr.

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

**5<sup>th</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**  
**(Venice, 12 June 2003)**

**MEETING REPORT**

## **1. Election evaluation guide**

Mr Casagrande presented the revised version of the election evaluation guide, which took account of Council members' comments (CDL-EL (2003) 1 rev). He also proposed a number of amendments based on the comments made by the CLRAE observers during the local elections in Moldova on 25 May 2003.

**The Council for Democratic Elections adopted the election evaluation guide, including the amendments proposed by Mr Casagrande, and agreed to forward it to the Venice Commission.**

Mr Bruce said that the ODIHR was in the process of preparing a new guide for observers, which would take account of the election evaluation guide.

## **2. Information document for voters**

Mr Casagrande presented the information document for voters, which took account of Council members' comments (CDL-EL (2003) 2).

A number of points were amended. In particular, the text would be called "Elements for information documents for voters", and it would be made clear that it was a general framework that would be adapted to the particular situation in each state.

**The Council for Democratic Elections adopted the Elements for information documents for voters and agreed to forward the text to the Venice Commission.**

## **3. Database**

Mr Garrone said that the work on developing an electoral database should begin shortly. He presented the draft systematic thesaurus of the database (CDL-EL (2003) 4), which took account of the thesaurus in the ODIHR's "Legislationline" database. The development of the database and, in particular, the collection of the relevant legislation would be carried out in liaison with the ODIHR.

**The systematic thesaurus was approved with some amendments (CDL-EL (2003) 4 rev).**

#### **4. E-voting**

Mr Grabenwarter reported on the first meeting of the Group of Specialists on legal and operational standards for e-enabled voting (EE-S-LOS) (Strasbourg, 10-11 April 2003) (see document IP1 (2003) 24). Mr Grabenwarter and Mr Micallef confirmed that they would attend the Group's next meeting (Strasbourg, 2-3 July 2003) and the second meeting of the Group of Specialists on legal, operational and technical standards for e-enabled voting (IP1-S-EE) (Strasbourg, 18-19 September 2003). Mr Clerfayt said he would try to attend.

#### **5. Electoral training**

Mr Casagrande reported on the seminar that had taken place in Armenia from 5 to 8 May 2003 (CDL-EL (2003) 3syn). He regretted the lack of co-operation on the part of the Armenian authorities. The Secretariat indicated that electoral training seminars were due to be held in September in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Albania (the latter essentially being for judges).

#### **6. Conclusions to be drawn from the observation reports**

- Georgia

The Council examined the comments on the electoral code and electoral administration in Georgia drawn up by Mr Krennerich (expert, Germany) (CDL-EL (2003) 5). The document took account of the Commission's opinion on the electoral code and of the Parliamentary Assembly and CLRAE observation reports (see CDL-AD (2002) 9, Parliamentary Assembly Docs 8605, 8742, Resolution 1257 (2001) and Recommendation 1533 (2001) and CG/Bur (9) 17). It was the first time that the Council for Democratic Elections had been asked to consider the follow-up to the reports by the Parliamentary Assembly and the CLRAE.

The Council underlined the quality of the expert's work and approved his conclusions.

**The Council agreed to forward the comments on the electoral code and electoral administration in Georgia (CDL-EL (2003) 5) to the Georgian authorities, the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly, the CLRAE, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the ODIHR with a view to the preparation of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia.**

The Council proposed that similar documents concerning Armenia and Moldova be prepared for its October meeting on the basis of the observation reports on the presidential and parliamentary elections held in the former and the local elections held in the latter in spring 2003.

#### **7. Future activities**

Mr Lancelot said that he would prepare general reflections on electoral systems for the next meeting in co-operation with Mr Broquet.

The Council agreed to study the question of sanctions in cases of electoral fraud.

**8. Other business**

It was announced that documents for the Council for Democratic Elections would henceforth always be sent out by e-mail and would no longer be available in meetings. The Council for Democratic Elections agreed to this procedure.

**9. Date of the next meeting**

It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 16 October from 9 am to 12.30 pm.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Venice Commission

Mr François Luchaire

Mr Alain Lancelot

Mr Christoph Grabenwarter

Secretariat

Mr Gianni Buquicchio

Mr Thomas Markert

Mr Pierre Garrone

Ms Julia Raue

Parliamentary Assembly

Mr Georges Clerfayt

Mr Erik Jurgens

CLRAE

Mr Ian Micallef

Mr Owen Masters

Mr Claude Casagrande

Secretariat

Mr Riccardo Priore

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Ms Márta Dezsö