



Strasbourg, 3 March 2026

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(VENICE COMMISSION)

146th PLENARY SESSION
VENICE
Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista
Friday 6 March 2026 (9:30-18:00)
Saturday 7 March 2026 (9:30-13:00)

REVISED DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Friday 6 March 2026

9:30-11:00

*Adoption of the Agenda
Communications
Co-operation
Follow-up to earlier Venice Commission Opinions
Report of the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections
Electoral observation missions
Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries*

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Communication by the President

The President will present her recent activities ([CDL\(2026\)012](#)).

3. Communication from the Enlarged Bureau

The Commission will be informed on the discussions which took place at the meeting of the Enlarged Bureau on 5 March 2026.

4. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretary of the Commission will provide information on the session.

5. Co-operation with the Committee of Ministers

Within the framework of its co-operation with the Committee of Ministers, the Commission will hold an exchange of views with Ms Tanja Gonggrijp, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe.

6. Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, representative of the Assembly to the Venice Commission, and Lord Richard Keen, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly on co-operation with the Assembly.

The Urgent Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the draft law concerning the status of judges appointed or promoted between 2018 and 2025 and other related matters of Poland; the draft revised Report on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns and the draft Interim Report on the balance between fundamental rights and freedoms relevant to violent pornography in the case law of constitutional and supreme courts and international tribunals fall into the framework of co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly (see Items 14, 16 and 18).

7. Co-operation with the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Marc Cools, President of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe, on co-operation with the Congress.

8. Report of the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (5 March 2026)

Mr Pablo Hispán, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, will inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 5 March 2026.

The draft *amicus curiae* brief on the status of, and the measures concerning, successor parties of political parties declared unconstitutional of the Republic of Moldova, the draft Opinion on Law no. 100/2025 containing a set of legislative amendments aiming to combat electoral corruption of the Republic of Moldova; and the draft revised Report on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns are dealt under Items 15 and 16.

[Link to the annotated agenda](#)

9. Exchange of views with the Regione del Veneto

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Ms Annalisa Bisson, Director of International Relations of the Regione del Veneto.

10. Follow-up to earlier Venice Commission Opinions

The Commission will be informed on follow-up to its previous Opinions (see document [\(CDL\(2026\)008\)](#)):

- Republic of Moldova – Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) on the draft law on the Prosecution Office for Anticorruption and Combatting Organised Crime ([CDL-AD\(2025\)054](#));
- Slovak Republic – Opinion on Law No. 109/2025 amending the Law “on non-profit organisations providing services of general interest” and other related laws ([CDL-AD\(2025\)041](#)).

The Commission will be informed about follow-up activities held since the last session.

11. Electoral observation missions

The Commission will be informed about the participation of the Venice Commission in electoral observation missions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in the function of providing legal advice.

- Kosovo, early parliamentary elections, 28 December 2025
- Hungary, parliamentary elections, 12 April 2026

14. Poland

Urgent Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the draft law concerning the status of judges appointed or promoted between 2018 and 2025 and other related matters

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Advisor to the President, Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, and Ms Maria Ejchart, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Justice of Poland, and to endorse the Urgent Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe ([CDL-PI\(2026\)002](#)) (TP/as) on the draft law concerning the status of judges appointed or promoted between 2018 and 2025 and other related matters ([CDL-REF\(2026\)003](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Mr Kuijer, Ms Nussberger, Mr Tuori (Honorary President) and Mr Reissner (Expert, DGI). This Urgent Joint Opinion was requested by the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 6 March 2025. It was issued on 27 February 2026 in accordance with Article 14a of the Rules of Procedure and with the Protocol on the preparation of Venice Commission urgent opinions ([CDL-AD\(2018\)019](#)).

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries

13. Lithuania

Draft Opinion on draft and adopted amendments to the Law on the Lithuanian National Radio and Television

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Artūras Zuokas, Member of the Seimas and Ms Monika Garbačiauskaitė-Budrienė, Director General of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2026\)011](#)) (ML/DF/sm) on draft and adopted amendments to the Law on the Lithuanian National Radio and Television ([CDL-REF\(2025\)053](#)) drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Grabenwarter, Mr Kaye, Ms Matheson Mestad and Ms Kerševan (Expert). This Opinion was requested by the Director General of Lithuanian National Radio and Television on 3 and 11 December 2025. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

12. Finland

Draft Opinion on the proposed amendments to the Constitution of Finland regarding the independence of the judiciary

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Ms Johanna Suurpää, Director General, Ministry of Justice of Finland, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2026\)004](#)) (SGM/KG/TSM/ng) on the proposed amendments to the Constitution of Finland regarding the independence of the judiciary ([CDL-REF\(2026\)005](#)), drawn up by Mr Holmøyvik, Ms Kiener and Ms Nussberger. This Opinion was requested by the Minister of Justice of Finland on 20 October 2025. The Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

13:00-14:30

Lunch break

14:30-16:00

Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries

Amicus curiae briefs

Reports

15. Republic of Moldova

1. *Draft amicus curiae brief on the status of, and the measures concerning, successor parties of political parties declared unconstitutional*

The Commission is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft *amicus curiae* brief ([CDL\(2025\)059rev](#)) (ARP/PG/ak) on the status of, and the measures concerning, successor parties of political parties declared unconstitutional ([CDL-REF\(2025\)047](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Cartabia, Mr Darmanović and Mr Tuori (Honorary President). This *amicus curiae* brief was requested by the President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova on 12 September 2025. The Council for Democratic Elections will examine this draft *amicus curiae* brief at its meeting on 5 March 2026 and the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights will examine this draft *amicus curiae* brief at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

2. *Draft Opinion on Law no. 100/2025 containing a set of legislative amendments aiming to combat electoral corruption*

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Ms Veronica Mihailov-Moraru, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova on Justice and Mr Stanislav Secieru, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova on Defence and National Security, Secretary of the National Security Council, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2026\)013](#)) (MJ/PG/ak) on Law no. 100/2025 containing a set of legislative amendments aiming to combat electoral corruption ([CDL-REF\(2026\)032](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Bílková, Mr Darmanović, Ms Milašiūtė and Ms Otálora Malassis (Expert, former substitute member, Mexico). This Opinion was requested by the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 19 June 2025. The Council for Democratic Elections will examine this draft Opinion at its meeting on 5 March 2026 and the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

16. **Draft revised Report on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns**

The Commission is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft revised Report ([CDL\(2026\)063rev](#)) (MS/MJ/mg) on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Giovagnoli, Mr Kask, Ms Pabel and Ms Silva Gallinato. This report was requested by the then-President of the Parliamentary Assembly on 3 April 2024. The Council for Democratic Elections will examine this draft revised Report at its meeting on 5 March 2026 and the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights will examine this draft revised Report at their meeting on 5 March 2026.

16.00-16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30-18:00	<i>Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries Reports</i>

17. Peru

Draft Opinion on a set of constitutional and legislative reforms concerning the judiciary

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Manuel Estuardo Luján Túpez, Titular Supreme Judge and National Coordinator of the National Specialised Subsystem of the Judiciary on Asset Forfeiture, Supreme Court of Peru, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2026\)006](#)) (SGM/ARP/jk) on a set of constitutional and legislative reforms concerning the judiciary ([CDL-REF\(2026\)004](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Betetto, Mr Bustos Gisbert, Ms Deskoska and Mr Kuijer. This Opinion was requested by the President of the Judiciary and of the Supreme Court of Peru on 5 September 2025. The Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

18. **Draft Interim Report on the balance between fundamental rights and freedoms relevant to violent pornography in the case law of constitutional and supreme courts and international tribunals**

The Commission is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Interim Report ([CDL\(2026\)002](#)) (CSK/MS/mg) on the balance between fundamental rights and freedoms relevant to violent pornography in the case law of constitutional and supreme courts and international tribunals, drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Kjerulf Thorgeirsdóttir, Mr Mits, Mr Otty and Ms Soto Fregoso. This Interim Report was requested by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 3 December 2025.

19:30	<i>Official Dinner at the Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista</i>
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Saturday 7 March 2026

09:30-11:00	<i>Exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries and Reports</i>
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19. Exchange of views with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, will address and hold an exchange of views with the Commission.

20. Slovak Republic

Draft Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the draft legislative amendments regarding the criminal offence of abuse of law

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Milan Hodás, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe ([CDL\(2026\)005](#)) (TP/SL/ip) on the draft legislative amendments regarding the criminal offence of abuse of law ([CDL-REF\(2026\)002](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Betetto, Mr Sørensen, Ms Suchocka (Honorary President) and Mr Reissner (Expert, DGI). This joint Opinion was requested by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic on 22 October 2025. The Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

21. Draft Report on Foreign Influence and Foreign Interference

The Commission will be informed about the ongoing work on the draft Report on Foreign Influence and Foreign Interference ([CDL\(2026\)014](#) and [CDL\(2026\)015](#)), which will be drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Bílková, Mr Frendo, Mr Holmøyvik, Mr Kaye, Ms Kiener, Ms Nussberger and Ms Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir. This item will also be examined by the Sub-Commissions on Fundamental Rights and on Democratic Institutions at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026.

11.00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Reports Reports of the Sub Commission Meetings Information on Conferences and Seminars General matters

22. Recommendation 2301 (2026) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: elements for the reply by the Committee of Ministers

The Commission is invited to endorse the draft comments ([CDL\(2026\)010](#)) (TvD/es) prepared by the Secretariat on Recommendation 2301 (2026) ([Rec. 2301 - Recommendation - Adopted text](#)) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on “Elections in times of crisis”, to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers in view of the preparation of its reply to that Recommendation.

23. Annual Report of Activities 2025

The Commission is invited to take note of the information and statistics ([CDL\(2026\)016](#)) concerning the work in 2025, with a view to preparing the Annual Report of Activities.

24. Report of the Meeting of the Sub-Commission on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America (5 March 2026)

The Chair of the meeting might inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 5 March 2026.

[Link to the annotated agenda](#)

25. Report of the Joint Meeting of the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and Fundamental Rights (5 March 2026)

The Chair of the meeting might inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 5 March 2026.

[Link to the annotated agenda](#)

26. Information on Conferences and Seminars

The Commission will be informed on the results and conclusions of past conferences and seminars and informed about forthcoming ones ([CDL\(2026\)009](#)).

27. Other business**28. Dates of the next sessions**

147th plenary session	12-13 June 2026
148th plenary session	9-10 October 2026
149th plenary session	11-12 December 2026
150th plenary session	11-13 March 2027
151st plenary session	17-19 June 2027
152nd plenary session	7-9 October 2027
153rd plenary session	9-11 December 2027

Please note that Sub-Commission meetings as well as the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections will take place on the day before the Plenary Session.