



Strasbourg, 12 March 2024

CDL-PL-OJ(2024)001ann-rev
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

138th PLENARY SESSION
VENICE
Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista

Friday 15 March 2024 (9:30-18:00)
Saturday 16 March 2024 (9:30-12:30)

REVISED DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Friday 15 March 2024

09:30-11:00

*Adoption of the Agenda
Communications
Co-operation
Follow-up to earlier Venice Commission Opinions
Exchange of views*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Communication by the President**
- 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 14 March 2024.

- 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 Mr Panayiotis Beglitis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe and Ms Svetlana Geleva, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

- 6. Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly**

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, Representative of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on co-operation with the Assembly.

The draft Opinion on the rule of law requirements of amnesties, with particular reference to the parliamentary bill of Spain “on the organic law on amnesty for the institutional, political and social normalisation of Catalonia” of Spain and the draft Opinion on the Act LXXXVIII of 2023 on the Protection of National Sovereignty of Hungary fall into the framework of co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly (see Items 12 and 15).

- 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 Thibaut Guignard, Chair of the Monitoring Committee, on co-operation with the Congress.

- 8. Exchange of views with the Regione del Veneto**

The Commission may be invited to hold an exchange of views with a representative of the Regione del Veneto (tbc).

9. Follow-up to earlier Venice Commission Opinions

The Commission will be informed on follow-up to its previous Opinions (see document [\(CDL\(2024\)009-rev\)](#)):

- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Opinion on the draft Law on amendments to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council ([CDL-AD\(2021\)015](#)).
- Opinions on de-oligarchisation: Ukraine - Opinion on the Law on the prevention of threats to national security, associated with excessive influence of persons having significant economic or political weight in public life (oligarchs) ([CDL-AD\(2023\)018](#)), Georgia – Final Opinion on the draft law on de-oligarchisation ([CDL-AD\(2023\)017](#)), and the Republic of Moldova - Final Opinion on limiting excessive economic and political influence in public life (de-oligarchisation) ([CDL-AD\(2023\)019](#))

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

10. 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.

- Republic of North Macedonia, presidential and the parliamentary elections, 24 April and 8 May 2024

11. Exchange of views with the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Poland

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Adam Bodnar, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Poland, on the rule of law in Poland.

11.00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries

12. Spain

Draft Opinion on the rule of law requirements of amnesties, with particular reference to the parliamentary bill of Spain “on the organic law on amnesty for the institutional, political and social normalisation of Catalonia”

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Pedro Rollán Ojeda, President of the Spanish Senate and Ms Isaura Leal Fernández, Second Secretary of the Bureau of the Congress of Deputies to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)011](#)) (SGM/PG/sd) on the rule of law requirements of amnesties, with particular reference to the parliamentary bill of Spain “on the organic law on amnesty for the institutional, political and social normalisation of Catalonia” ([CDL-REF\(2024\)002](#); see also [CDL-PI\(2024\)002](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Cartabia, Mr Dimitrov, Ms Kiener, Mr Kuijer and Mr Vargas Valdez. This Opinion was prepared in response to a request of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 8 December 2023 as well as to a request by the President of the Senate of Spain on 13 December 2023. The Sub-Commissions on the Rule of Law and on Constitutional Justice will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024.

13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:45	Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries

13. Bulgaria

Draft 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 Code of Ethical Conduct for Bulgarian Judges

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Emil Dechev, Deputy Minister of Justice of Bulgaria, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe ([CDL\(2024\)004](#)) (TP/gb) on the Code of Ethical Conduct for Bulgarian Judges ([CDL-REF\(2024\)004](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Mälksoo, Mr Sørensen, Mr James Hamilton (former Member for Ireland, Expert) and Mr Gerhard Reissner (DGI Expert). This opinion was requested by the Minister of Justice of Bulgaria on 3 January 2024.

Draft 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 Code of Ethical conduct for Bulgarian Prosecutors and Investigators

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Emil Dechev, Deputy Minister of Justice of Bulgaria, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe ([CDL\(2024\)005](#)) (TP/gb) on the Code of Ethical conduct for Bulgarian Prosecutors and Investigators ([CDL-REF\(2024\)005](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Mälksoo, Mr Sørensen, Mr James Hamilton (former Member for Ireland, Expert) and Mr Gerhard Reissner (DGI Expert). This opinion was requested by the Minister of Justice of Bulgaria on 3 January 2024.

14. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Draft Opinion on certain questions relating to the functioning of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Commission may be invited to hold an exchange of views with a representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)010](#)) (TvD/DV/sb) on certain questions relating to the functioning of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Baricová, Mr Grabenwarter, Ms Hanna Suchocka (Honorary President, Expert), Mr Kaarlo Tuori (Honorary President, Expert) and Mr Paolo Carozza (former Member for the United States of America, Expert). This Opinion was requested by the President of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 19 January 2024. The Sub-Commissions on the Rule of Law and on Constitutional Justice will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024.

This Opinion was prepared under the [Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism](#) in the framework of the joint European Union and Council of Europe programme “[Horizontal Facility](#) for the Western Balkans and Türkiye”.

15. Hungary

Draft Opinion on the Act LXXXVIII of 2023 on the Protection of National Sovereignty

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Balázs Orbán, Political Director of the Office of the Prime Minister of Hungary and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion ([CDL\(2024\)002](#)) (MJ/es) on the Act LXXXVIII of 2023 on the Protection of National Sovereignty of Hungary ([CDL-REF\(2024\)006](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Barrett, Ms Bílková, Mr Frendo, Mr Kask and Ms Pabel. This Opinion was requested by the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 11 December 2023. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and Federal and Regional State will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024.

15.45-16:15	Coffee break
16:15-18:00	Reports

16. Report on Bicameralism

The Commission is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the Report on Bicameralism ([CDL\(2023\)028](#)) (MS/ms), see also the questionnaire and its replies ([CDL-PI\(2023\)009](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Bernoussi, Mr Bustos Gisbert, Mr Langášek, Ms Otálora Malassis, Mr Newman, Ms Nussberger and Mr Zoltán Szente (Expert). The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and Federal and Regional State will examine this report at their joint meeting on 14 March 2024.

19:30	Official Dinner at la Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista
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Saturday 16 March

9:30-11:00	Discussion and adoption of Opinions on individual countries Reports and compilations
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17. Lebanon

Draft opinion on the draft law on the Administrative Judiciary

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Henri Khoury, Minister of Justice of Lebanon and with Mr Georges Okais, Chair of the Parliamentary Sub-Commission on Administration and Justice, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft opinion ([CDL\(2024\)008](#)) (ML/MS/ld) on the draft law on the Administrative Judiciary of Lebanon ([CDL-REF\(2024\)003](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Banić, Mr Grabenwarter, Mr Kuijer and Mr Mathieu. This opinion was requested by the Minister of Justice of the Lebanon on 23 June 2023.

18. Report on Rationalised Parliamentarism and Questions of Confidence

The Commission will be informed on progress on the preparation of the Report on Rationalised Parliamentarism and Questions of Confidence.

19. Adoption of the Annual Report of Activities 2023

The Commission is invited to examine with a view to adoption the draft Annual Report of Activities 2023 ([CDL-RA\(2023\)001](#)).

20. Compilations of Venice Commission opinions and reports

The Commission is invited to endorse the draft Compilation of Venice Commission Opinions and Reports concerning Electoral Training ([CDL\(2024\)003](#)) (PG/gb) and the draft Compilation of Venice Commission Opinions and Reports on Central Electoral Management Bodies ([CDL\(2024\)001](#)) (MJ/gb).

11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30-12:30	<i>World Conference on Constitutional Justice Reports of the Sub Commission Meetings Information on Conferences and Seminars General matters</i>

21. World Conference on Constitutional Justice

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Members of the Bureau of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice, which will hold their annual meeting in Venice in the afternoon of Saturday 16 March 2024.

22. Report of the Joint Meeting of the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and the Federal and Regional State (14 March 2024)

The Chair of the meeting might inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 14 March 2024.

[Link to the annotated agenda](#)

23. Report of the Joint Meeting of the Sub-Commissions on the Rule of Law and on Constitutional Justice (14 March 2024)

The Chair of the meeting might inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 14 March 2024.

[Link to the annotated agenda](#)

24. Information on Conferences and Seminars

The Commission will be informed on the results and conclusions of our conferences and seminars.

25. Other business

26. Dates of the next sessions

139th plenary session	21-22 June 2024
140th plenary session	11-12 October 2024
141st plenary session	6-7 December 2024

Please note that Sub-Commission meetings will take place on the day before the Plenary Sessions.