



Strasbourg, 14 October 2024

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

140th PLENARY SESSION

Venice, 11-12 October 2024

SYNOPSIS

The Venice Commission:

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Karen Karapetyan, Deputy Minister of Justice of **Armenia**, and adopted:
 - The 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 amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code concerning the collection of evidence without consent in criminal investigations in Armenia”;
 - The Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII) of the Council of Europe on “the draft laws amending and supplementing the Law on Mass Media and the Civil Code of Armenia”; and
 - The 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 amendments to the Judicial Code of Armenia (regarding judicial evaluations)”;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Aiaz Baetov, Minister of Justice of **Kyrgyzstan**, and adopted:
 - the Opinion on “Law No. 72 of 2 April 2024 amending the Law on Non-profit Organisations in Kyrgyzstan”; and
 - the Opinion on “the draft amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code concerning bail and videoconferencing in criminal proceedings in Kyrgyzstan”;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Adam Bodnar, Minister of Justice of **Poland**, and adopted:
 - The Opinion on “the draft amendments to the Law on the Public Prosecutor’s Office in Poland”, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary and on the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 10 October 2024;
 - The Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on “European standards regulating the status of judges in Poland”, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary and on the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 10 October 2024;
- Endorsed the Compilation concerning the **Principle of Legality**;
- Was informed on progress in the preparation of the **Interpretative declaration to the Code of good practice in electoral matters on digital technologies and artificial intelligence**, and its explanatory report;
- Was informed on progress in the preparation of the **Update of the Commission’s Rule of Law Checklist**;
- Was informed on **follow up**: to the Opinion on the draft law on the prevention of conflicts of interest in the institutions of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**; to the Opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of **Bulgaria**; to the Opinion on the provisions of the Law on the Fight against Corruption concerning the Anti-Corruption Bureau of **Georgia**; to the Opinion on the draft constitutional law on Protecting Family Values and Minors in Georgia; to the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the amendments of the Federal Election Act of **Germany**; to the Urgent Follow-up Opinion on the revised draft amendments to the Law on the Judicial Council and Judges of **Montenegro**; to the Urgent Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe on the draft law amending the Law on the National Council of the Judiciary of Poland;
- Was informed on **follow-up activities** concerning opinions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, **the Russian Federation, Ukraine**;
- Was informed on upcoming participation in the **electoral observation missions** of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in the **Republic of Moldova**, presidential elections and constitutional referendum, 20 October 2024; Georgia, parliamentary elections, 26 October 2024; and Bulgaria, early parliamentary elections, 27 October 2024;
- Was informed on the presidential elections held in **Tunisia** on 6 October 2024;
- Held an exchange of views with Ms Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso, President of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of **Mexico**;

- was informed on co-operation with the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico and developments in the country since the participation of a delegation of the Commission in the programme of foreign visitors organised in the framework of the June 2024 federal electoral process;
- Elected Mr Rafael Bustos Gisbert (Spain) as **Chair of the Sub-Commission on Latin America** until December 2025;
- Was informed about the forthcoming **conferences** on: Joint Council on Constitutional Justice (JCCJ) meeting and international conference on "Respect for the Judgments of Constitutional Courts" (Yerevan, 14-15 November 2024); "The Rule of Law and private power" (Madrid, week of 25 November 2024); "Lessons Learned and Learning Lessons: The Venice Commission's Experience in Elaborating Transnationally Valid Constitutional Standards" (Venice, 12 March 2025); "The Venice Commission 1990-2025. Taking stock of 35 years for democracy through law" (Milan, 10-11 April 2025);
- held an exchange of views with representatives of the **Committee of Ministers and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Stewart Dickson, President of the Council for Democratic Elections and member of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe on co-operation with the Congress and was informed on the Report on Local and Regional Authorities as Actors and Guarantors of the Rule of Law;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Gianluca Esposito, **Director General**, Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Council of Europe;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Annalisa Bisson, Director, Directorate for International Relations of the **Regione Veneto**;
- confirmed the dates of the next Plenary Sessions as follows: 6-7 December 2024; 14-15 March 2025; 13-14 June 2025; 10-11 October 2025; 12-13 December 2025.
- Was informed that the **celebration of the Commission's 35th Anniversary** will take place on 11 October 2025; a ceremony will also take place in principle in Strasbourg on 4 June 2025.

The opinions on "the draft amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code concerning the collection of evidence without consent in criminal investigations in Armenia" and on the "draft amendments to the Judicial Code of Armenia (regarding judicial evaluations)" were prepared under the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM) in the framework of the European Union and the Council of Europe joint programme Partnership for Good Governance, co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.