



Strasbourg, 15 December 2025

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Or. Engl.

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

**145<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

**Venice, 12-13 December 2025**

**SYNOPSIS**

## The Venice Commission:

- Held an exchange of views with Ms Inese Lībiņa-Egnere, Minister of Justice of **Latvia**, and adopted the Opinion on the draft law of Latvia on the withdrawal from the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), previously examined by the Sub-Commission on International Law at its meeting on 11 December 2025;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Igor Chiriac, Vice President of the Legal Commission for Nominations and Immunities from the Parliament of the **Republic of Moldova**, 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 law of the Republic of Moldova on the Prosecution Office for Anticorruption and Combatting Organised Crime;
- Postponed the examination of the amicus curiae brief for the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova on the status of, and the measures concerning, successor parties of political parties declared unconstitutional;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Momo Koprivica, Deputy Prime Minister for Political System, Judiciary, and Anti-Corruption of **Montenegro**, and adopted the Follow-Up Opinion to the Opinion on some questions relating to the procedure of early termination of the mandate of Constitutional Court judges of Montenegro due to age limits;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Arben Fetaj, Deputy Prime Minister of the **Republic of North Macedonia**, and adopted the Opinion on the draft law of North Macedonia on adequate and fair representation, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on National Minorities at its meeting on 11 December 2025;
- Adopted the Opinion on the draft amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine regarding the improvement of the competitive selection process for the position of judge of the Constitutional Court of **Ukraine**;
- Adopted the *amicus curiae* brief for the **European Court of Human Rights in the case of Kuijt v. the Netherlands on participation of additional judges in supreme court deliberations**, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary and on the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 11 December 2025;
- Adopted the **Updated Rule of Law Checklist**, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary and the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 11 December 2025;
- Adopted the **report on the status of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in the domestic legal order of Council of Europe member States**, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on International Law at its meeting on 11 December 2025;
- Endorsed the **compilation on parliamentary autonomy** (Inquiry Committees and Immunities) and was informed of updates of the compilations relating to qualified majorities and anti-deadlock mechanisms and to Judicial Councils;
- Postponed consideration of the report on freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns;
- Was informed on the follow-up to the Opinion on amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Code and to some normative acts including the ban on symbols associated with and used in military aggression actions and to the Opinion on the legislative reforms on mass media regulation: the draft law on mass media, the draft law amending the Audiovisual Media

Services Code, and the draft law amending the Law on Advertising of the Republic of Moldova; to the Brief to the Constitution Committee of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom in relation to its inquiry into the Rule of Law; to the **Report on a rule of law and human rights compliant regulation of spyware**; and to the Report on Term Limits - Part I – Presidents;

- Was informed of the results and conclusions of the meeting of the **Council for Democratic Elections** on 11 December 2025;
- Was informed on the participation of the Venice Commission as legal advisor in the **electoral observation missions** of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and of the Organization of American States, and international visitors programmes for elections;
- Authorised the preparation of an urgent opinion on recently adopted and pending amendments to the legislation on the National Radio and Television of **Lithuania**, at the request of the latter;
- Decided not to pursue its work on the preparation of a report on democratic governance of the European Union;
- was informed on constitutional developments in **Japan**;
- following the proposals made by the Committee of Wise Persons, **elected for a term of two years**:

M. Cartabia (Italy) as President;

R. Deskoska (North Macedonia), E. Holmøyvik (Norway) and T. Otty (United Kingdom) as Vice-Presidents;

N. Alivizatos (Greece), N. Bernoussi (Morocco), R. Kiener (Switzerland) and M. Kuijer (Netherlands) as members of the Bureau;

The **Chairs of the Sub Commissions** (with right of participation in the Enlarged Bureau) as follows:

Rule of Law: Serhiy Holovaty

Working methods: Michael Frendo

Democratic Institutions: Christoph Grabenwarter

Protection of National Minorities: Laura-Iuliana Scânteî

Scientific Council: Qerim Qerimi

Federal and Regional State: Jan Velaers

Fundamental Rights: Angelika Nußberger

Non-discrimination: Tuomas Ojanen

International Law: Iain Cameron

Latin America: Rafael Bustos Gisbert

Mediterranean Basin: Bertrand Mathieu

Judiciary: Zlatko Knežević

Constitutional Justice: Irëna Kucina

Ombudsman institutions: Vladan Petrov

The **Vice-Chairs of the Sub Commissions** as follows:

Rule of Law: David Kaye

Working methods: Pere Vilanova Trias

Democratic Institutions: Nina Betetto

Protection of National Minorities: Srdjan Darmanović

Scientific Council : Peter Bußjäger  
Federal and Regional State: Herdis Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir  
Fundamental Rights: Carmen Lucia Antunes Rocha  
Non-discrimination: Hyungdu Kim  
International Law: Vladimir Vardanyan  
Latin America: María Pía Silva Gallinato  
Mediterranean Basin: Yavuz Atar  
Judiciary: Antonio Gaspar  
Constitutional Justice: Elvira Azimova  
Ombudsman institutions: Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso

and appointed for a term of two years the **members and substitute members of the Council for Democratic Elections** as follows:

Members:

Mr S. Darmanović (Montenegro), Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections (with right of participation in the Enlarged Bureau), María Pía Silva Gallinato, Mónica Aralí Soto Fregoso, Pere Vilanova Trias;

Substitute members:

Oliver Kask, Inga Milašiūtė, Katharina Pabel and Saša Zagorc

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, **President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**;
- was informed that the annual meeting between the Commission's Enlarged Bureau and the **Presidential Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly** of the Council of Europe would be held on 13 December 2025;
- Held an exchange of views with representatives of the **Parliamentary Assembly** and the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**;
- was informed of the meeting of the **Association of Former Members of the Venice Commission**;
- Confirmed the dates of the next Plenary Sessions as follows: 6-7 March 2026; 12-13 June 2026; 9-10 October 2026; 11-12 December 2026.

*The Follow-Up Opinion to the Opinion on some questions relating to the procedure of early termination of the mandate of Constitutional Court judges due to age limits of Montenegro and the Opinion on the draft law on adequate and fair representation of North Macedonia were prepared under the Expertise Co-operation Mechanism in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Türkiye, co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. 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 law on the Prosecution Office for anticorruption and combatting organised crime for the Republic of Moldova was prepared under the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme Partnership for Good Governance, co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.*