



Strasbourg, 9 March 2026

CDL-PL-PV(2026)001syn
Or. Engl.

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

146th PLENARY SESSION

Venice, 6-7 March 2026

SYNOPSIS

The Venice Commission:

- Held an exchange of views with the **Secretary General of the Council of Europe**;
- Held an exchange of views with Ms Johanna Suurpää, Director General, Ministry of Justice of **Finland**, and adopted the Opinion on the proposed amendments to the Constitution of Finland regarding the independence of the judiciary, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Artūras Zuokas, Member of the Seimas of **Lithuania** and Ms Monika Garbačiauskaitė-Budrienė, Director General of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television, and adopted the Opinion on draft and adopted amendments to the Law on the Lithuanian National Radio and Television, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;
- Authorised the preparation of the opinion on the Draft Law No. XVP-1247(2) amending the Law on the Lithuanian National Radio and Television of Lithuania, requested by the Director General of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television on 3 March 2026, through the urgent procedure;
- Held 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 adopted the Opinion on Law no. 100/2025 of the Republic of Moldova containing a set of legislative amendments aiming to combat electoral corruption, previously examined by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting on 5 March 2026, and by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;
- Adopted 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, previously examined by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting on 5 March 2026, and by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions on Fundamental Rights at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;
- Held 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 adopted the Opinion on a set of constitutional and legislative reforms concerning the judiciary of Peru, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Maciej Tomczykiewicz, member of the Sejm, Mr Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland, and Ms Maria Ejchart, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Justice of **Poland**, and endorsed the Urgent 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 Poland concerning the status of judges appointed or promoted between 2018 and 2025 and other related matters, which had been 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;
- Held an exchange of views Mr Milan Hodás, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the **Slovak Republic**, 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 legislative

amendments of the Slovak Republic regarding the criminal offence of abuse of law, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on the Judiciary, on the Rule of Law and on Latin America at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;

- Adopted the Report on **freedom of expression, prohibition of hate speech and promotion of pluralism in the context of electoral campaigns**, previously examined by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting on 5 March 2026, and by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights at their joint meeting on 5 March 2026;
- Adopted the 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;
- Endorsed the comments prepared by the Secretariat on **Recommendation 2301 (2026)** of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on “**Elections in times of crisis**”;
- Endorsed the information and statistics concerning the **annual report of activities 2025**;
- Was informed about progress in the preparation of the mapping of the legislation of the Venice Commission member states relating to foreign interference;
- Was informed on the **follow-up** to the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) on the draft law of the Republic of Moldova on the Prosecution Office for Anticorruption and Combatting Organised Crime; to Opinion on Law No. 109/2025 amending the Law “on non-profit organisations providing services of general interest” and other related laws of the Slovak Republic; and to the 2012 Report on Democracy, Limitation of Mandates and Incompatibility of Political Functions;
- Was informed that, consequent to the letter of 13 February 2026 announcing to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe its withdrawal from the Enlarged Agreement, **the United States of America** will cease being a member of the Venice Commission as of 1 January 2027;
- Was informed of the results and conclusions of the meeting of the **Council for Democratic Elections** on 5 March 2026;
- 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;
- Was informed about constitutional developments in **Kazakhstan**;
- Decided that, pursuant to Articles 3a and 13 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, members, substitute members, Honorary Presidents and experts may not be present during the discussion of items related to the countries in respect of which they have been elected or of which they have the nationality, with immediate effect;
- Expressed its thanks to the former President of the Venice Commission, Ms Claire Bazy-Malaurie;
- Was informed about the results and conclusions of the following conferences: Serenissima Republic and modern state: Conversations about rights and democracy, held in Venice, Italy on 4 March 2026; Post-Election analysis conference “Parliamentary Election in the Republic of Moldova, 28 September 2025: Electoral Integrity and Perspectives for Democratic Consolidation”, held in Chişinău on 19 and 20 February 2026.

- Held an exchange of views with representatives of the **Parliamentary Assembly**, the **Committee of Ministers** and the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**;
- Held an exchange of views with a representative of the **Regione del Veneto**;
- Confirmed the dates of the next Plenary Sessions as follows: 12-13 June 2026; 9-10 October 2026; 11-12 December 2026; and 12-13 March 2027; 18-19 June 2027; 8-9 October 2027 and 10-11 December 2027.