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Or. Engl

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

102nd PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 20-21 March 2015)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- Observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the deadly attack committed in Tunis on 18 March and expressed the firmest condemnation of all acts of violence and extremism as well as its sympathy for the families of the victims and for the Tunisian people;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Vladimir Grosu, Minister of Justice, Ms Liliana Palihovici, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and with Mr Corneliu Gurin, Prosecutor General of the **Republic of Moldova**, and adopted the draft joint opinion by the Venice Commission, the Directorate of Human Rights and the OSCE/ODIHR on the Draft Law on the Prosecution Service of the Republic of Moldova, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on the Judiciary on 19 March 2015;
- Endorsed the final opinions: on the revised draft Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office and on the revised draft Law on the Special Public Prosecutor's Office of **Montenegro**, previously sent to the Montenegrin authorities;
- Adopted the opinion on draft amendments to the Law on Media of Montenegro, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights on 19 March 2015;
- Held an exchange of views with Ms Oksana Syroyid, Vice-Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and with Mr Oleksiy Filatov, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of **Ukraine**, and adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the Directorate of Human Rights on the Law on the Judiciary and the Status of Judges and amendments to the Law on the High Council of Justice of Ukraine, previously examined by the Sub-Commission on the judiciary on 19 March 2015;
- Took note of the preliminary opinion on the draft Law on the Judiciary and the Status of Judges, previously sent to the Ukrainian authorities;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Pavlo Petrenko, Minister of Justice of Ukraine, on progress in the preparation of amendments to the Lustration Law of Ukraine, and authorized the rapporteurs to send to the Ukrainian authorities, if possible, the final opinion on the revised amendments to the Lustration Law prior to the Plenary Session of June 2015;
- Held a preliminary exchange of views with Ms Syroyid and Mr Filatov on the constitutional amendments with respect to the immunity of members of parliament and judges in Ukraine, on which the Venice Commission has been asked to prepare an opinion for the June Plenary Session;
- Held a preliminary exchange of views with Mr Filatov on progress of work on reform of the constitution and of the electoral legislation of Ukraine;
- Adopted the update of the 2007 **Report on the Democratic Oversight of the Security Services** and **Report on the Democratic Oversight of Signals Intelligence Agencies (SIGINT)**, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions and on Fundamental Rights on 19 March 2015;
- Held an exchange of views with a representative of the **EU Fundamental Rights Agency** on its project on « National Intelligence authorities and surveillance in the EU- Fundamental rights safeguards and Remedies »;

- Adopted the report on **Proportional Electoral Systems: the allocation of seats inside the lists** (Open/Closed Lists), previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections on 19 March 2015;
- Adopted the **annual report of activities for 2014**;
- Endorsed the **compilation** of Venice Commission opinions and reports concerning **courts and judges**, submitted by the Scientific Council;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Mohamed Moubdi, Minister responsible for the civil service and for the modernisation of the Administration of **Morocco**, on the UniDem Campus Programme for the regional training of senior civil servants in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, which is part of a larger Human Rights training programme within the South Programme of the Council of Europe;
- Was informed on progress on constitutional reform in **Georgia**;
- Was informed on co-operation with **Albania** and **Tunisia**;
- Was informed on constitutional developments in **Kazakhstan** and in **Spain**;
- Was informed on **follow up** to: the opinion on the seven amendments to the constitution of « **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** » concerning in particular the Judicial Council, the competence of the Constitutional Court and special financial zone; the joint opinion on draft amendments to Legislation on the Election of People's Deputies of **Ukraine**; to the Joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate of Human Rights on the draft law on making changes to the Law on Disciplinary Liability and Disciplinary Proceedings of Judges of General Courts of **Georgia**; the opinion on the Draft Constitutional Law on the Constitutional Court of **Tajikistan**; and the report on the Role of Extra-institutional Actors in the Democratic System (**Lobbying**);
- Was informed on progress on the preparation of the **Rule of Law Checklist**;
- Was informed by Ms Anne Brasseur, President of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and by the President of the Venice Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting of the Enlarged Bureau with the **Presidential Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly**, held on 21 March 2015;
- Was informed of the election of Mr Jos Wielen, representative of the Congress of Local and Regional authorities of the Council of Europe, as new **Chair of the Council for Democratic Elections** and on the results and conclusions of the meetings of the Council for Democratic Elections on 13 December 2014 and on 19 March 2015;
- Was informed on the results and conclusions of the meeting of the **Sub-Commission on the Mediterranean Basin**;
- Was informed on the meeting of the Bureau of the **World Conference on Constitutional Justice** (21 March 2015);
- Held an exchange of views with representatives of the **Committee of Ministers**, of the **Parliamentary Assembly** and of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe;
- Confirmed the dates of the **next Plenary Sessions** as follows: 19-20 June 2015; 23-24 October 2015; 18-19 December 2015.