



Strasbourg, 23 March 2020

CDL-PL-PV(2020)001syn
Or. Engl

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

122nd PLENARY SESSION

SYNOPSIS

Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Commission could not hold its 122nd Plenary Session in Venice. The session was partly replaced by a written procedure.

The Commission:

- Adopted the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on draft Amendments to the Legislation concerning Political Parties in **Armenia**, following consultation of the Council for Democratic Elections;
- Adopted the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the Amendments to some Legislative Acts related to Sanctions for Violation of Electoral Legislation of **Kyrgyzstan**, following consultation of the Council for Democratic Elections;
- Adopted the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) on the draft law on amending and supplementing the Constitution with respect to the Superior Council of Magistracy of the **Republic of Moldova**;
- Adopted its **Annual Report of activities for 2019**;
- Postponed to the June Plenary Session consideration of the following opinions: draft Opinion on draft amendments to a law on the Audiovisual Media Service and draft Opinion on the appointment of judges of the Constitutional Court in **Albania**; draft opinion on recent amendments to legislation on education in minority languages in **Latvia**; draft Opinion on the draft Amendment to the Russian Constitution (as proposed by the President of the **Russian Federation** on 15 January 2020), relating to the implementation of decisions by international bodies; draft Opinion on the replacement of elected candidates and mayors in **Turkey**;
- Postponed to the June Plenary Session the endorsement of the urgent Joint Opinion with the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on the draft Law on amending the Law No. 947/1996 on Superior Council of Magistracy in the Republic of Moldova; and the urgent Joint Opinion with the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) of the Council of Europe on amendments to the Law on Common Courts, the Law on the Supreme Court and some other Laws of **Poland**;
- Was informed in writing on **follow up** to the:
 - 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 amendments to the Judicial Code and some other laws of Armenia;
 - Opinion on the Citizens' bill on the regulation of public participation, citizens' bills, referendums and popular initiatives and amendments to the Provincial Electoral Law of the Autonomous Province of Trento (**Italy**);
 - Joint Interim Opinion on the Draft Law amending the Law on Noncommercial Organisations and other Legislative Acts of Kyrgyzstan;
 - Opinion on the draft Law on Freedom of Religion or Beliefs and legal status of religious communities of **Montenegro**;
 - Opinion on linking constitutional amendments to the question of confidence in **Peru**;
 - *Amicus curiae* brief for the Constitutional Court of **Ukraine** on draft Law 1027 on the early termination of a Deputy's mandate;
 - Opinion on the amendments to the Legal framework in Ukraine governing the Supreme Court and judicial self-governing bodies;

- Report on the compliance with Council of Europe and other international standards of the **inclusion of a not internationally recognised territory into a nationwide constituency** for Parliamentary elections;
 - Parameters on the **Relationship between the Parliamentary Majority and the Opposition** in a Democracy: a checklist;
 - Principles on the protection and promotion of the Ombudsman institution (“**the Venice Principles**”);
- Was informed in writing on constitutional developments in **Georgia** and Ukraine.