



Strasbourg, 14 December 2020

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

125th PLENARY SESSION

Strasbourg | Kudo (online)

11-12 December 2020

SYNOPSIS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 125th Plenary Session was held online.

The Commission:

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Ilir Meta, President of **Albania**, and Mrs Klotilda Bushka, member of parliament, and adopted the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on the Electoral Law of Albania (amendments to the Constitution of 30 July 2020 and to the Electoral Code of 5 October 2020);
- Endorsed the Urgent Interim Opinion on the draft new Constitution of **Bulgaria** and was informed on recent developments in that country;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Besnik Tahiri, Deputy Prime Minister of **Kosovo**, and with Mr Mentor Borovci, Director of legal affairs, Office of the Prime Minister, and adopted the Opinion on the draft Law on the Government of the Republic of Kosovo;
- Endorsed the Urgent *amicus curiae* Brief relating to postponement of elections motivated by constitutional reform of the **Kyrgyz Republic**; was informed on recent developments in that country; held an exchange of views with Mr Tokon Mamytov, Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan; and accepted the proposal by OSCE/ODIHR to prepare jointly an opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, following the request which ODIHR received from the Ombudsman;
- Endorsed the Urgent Joint *amicus curiae* brief by the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI) on specific legal questions concerning the mandate of members of constitutional bodies of the **Republic of Moldova**; was informed on recent developments in that country;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of **Ukraine**, on the current situation in the country and on future co-operation, and endorsed:
 - o the Urgent Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law on the legislative situation regarding **anti-corruption mechanisms** in Ukraine following judgment no. 13-r/2020 of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine of 27 October 2020; and
 - o the Urgent Opinion on the **reform of the Constitutional Court** of Ukraine;
- Adopted the **Principles for a fundamental rights-compliant use of digital technologies in electoral processes**;
- Adopted the Revised **Joint Guidelines on Political Party Regulation** (2nd Edition) of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR;
- Adopted the revised **Report on Individual access to constitutional justice** and invited all members to provide additional relevant information relating to their country before 4 January 2021;
- Endorsed the **compilation** of Venice Commission opinions and reports **on the stability of electoral law**;
- Was informed on **follow-up** to:
 - the Opinion on the Draft Law on the Transparency of Organisations receiving support from abroad of **Hungary**;
 - the Opinion on the Draft Code of Administrative Procedures of **Kazakhstan**;
 - the **Principles on the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution** ("The Venice Principles");

- Was informed on constitutional developments in **Japan**;
- Was informed on recent developments in **Chile**, in **Italy**, in **Peru** and in the **USA**;
- Following the proposals made by the Committee of Wise Persons, **elected for a term expiring in December 2021**:
 - o Ms L. Err (Luxembourg) as Chair of the **Sub-Commission on Gender Equality**
 - o Mr M. Nicolatos (Cyprus) as Vice-Chair of the Sub-Commission on Gender Equality (without representation on the Enlarged Bureau);
- Was informed on the results and conclusions of the online meeting of the **Council for Democratic Elections** held on 10 December 2020;
- Decided, upon proposal by the Enlarged Bureau, to hold the **126th Plenary Session exclusively online**, due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Was informed of the dates of the next Plenary Sessions as follows:

126th Plenary Session	19-20 March 2021(exclusively online);
127th Plenary Session	18-19 June 2021;
128th Plenary Session	15-16 October 2021;
129th Plenary Session	10-11 December 2021.