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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

74<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION  
(Venice, 14-15 March 2008)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- adopted the report on the democratic control of the **armed forces**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Bayramov, Adviser in the Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and adopted the interim joint Venice Commission/ODIHR opinion on the amendments to the electoral code of **Azerbaijan**;
- adopted the opinion on the law on the financing of political parties of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and postponed the examination of the law on conflict of interest in that country;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Miglena Tacheva, Minister of Justice of **Bulgaria**, and adopted the opinion on the Constitution of Bulgaria;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Tiina Astola, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of **Finland** and adopted the opinion on the Constitution of that country, subject to certain amendments;
- adopted the opinion on the law on State Secret of **Moldova**;
- adopted the opinion on the amendments to the State Prosecutors Act of **Montenegro**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Slobodan Holmen, deputy Minister of Justice of **Serbia**, and adopted the opinion on the draft law on the High Court Council of Serbia as well as the opinion on the draft laws on judges and on the organisation of courts of Serbia;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Marina Stavniychuk, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of **Ukraine** and Mr Mykhaylo Syrota, Deputy Head of the Committee on Judicial Policy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, on the possible contribution of the Commission to constitutional reform in that country;
- adopted its **annual report** of activities;

- was informed on follow-up to: the opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Law on Freedom of Assembly of Azerbaijan; the comments on the draft law on the Judicial Council of Montenegro; and the opinion on the Law on Disciplinary Responsibility and Disciplinary Prosecution of Judges of Common Courts of Georgia;
- held an exchange of views with Professor Musa Marofi, Ambassador of Afghanistan in Rome, and was informed on constitutional developments in **Afghanistan**;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Cholpon Baekova, Deputy Speaker, and Ms Svetlana Sydykova, President of the Constitutional Court of **Kyrgyzstan**, on recent constitutional developments in that country;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Ali Khashan, Minister of Justice of the **Palestinian National Authority**, on possible co-operation;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Manuel J. Cepeda, Judge and former President of the Constitutional Court of **Colombia**, on constitutional developments in that country;
- fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 13-14 June 2008; 17-18 October 2008; 12-13 December 2008.