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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

75th PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 13-14 June 2008)

S Y N O P S I S

The Commission

- endorsed the joint Venice Commission – OSCE/ODIHR opinions on the amendments to the “law on rallies” of **Armenia**;
- adopted the opinion on the draft amendments to the criminal code of Armenia relating to the exercise of freedom of assembly;
- was informed on the adoption of the amendments to the law on freedom of assembly in **Azerbaijan**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Shahin Aliyev, Head of Department of Legislation and legal Expertise of the Office of the President of the Republic, and adopted the opinion on the Electoral Code of Azerbaijan subject to certain amendments;
- following an exchange of views with Ambassador Davidson, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH, and Mr Suad Arnautovic, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of BiH, adopted the opinion on the law on conflict of interest in governmental institutions of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** which was drawn up at their request;
- adopted the opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of the Republika Srpska;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Arnautovic and adopted the opinion on the amendments to the Electoral Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- examined the comments on the draft laws amending and supplementing the Law on constitutional proceedings and the Constitutional Court of **Kyrgyzstan** respectively, and requested the rapporteurs to prepare an opinion for the October 2008 Plenary Session;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Serbinov, Deputy Prosecutor General, and adopted the opinion on the draft law on the Public Prosecutor’s Service in **Moldova**;
- postponed the examination of the draft law on the Constitutional Court of **Montenegro** to its next Plenary Session, following the visit of a Commission delegation to that country;

- Adopted the opinion on the draft Constitution of **Ukraine** prepared by a group of experts headed by Mr Shapoval;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Stavnychuk, Secretary of the National Constitutional Council of Ukraine, on co-operation with that Council;
- held an exchange of views with **Mr Kubis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic**, on the results of the Slovak Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers;
- was informed by its President of his presentation of the Commission's Annual Report to the Committee of Ministers;
- held an exchange of views with **Mr Vollebaek, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities**;
- adopted the report on **dual voting rights for persons belonging to national minorities**;
- held an exchange of views with **Mr Strohal, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**;
- endorsed the **OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly**;
- held an exchange of views with **Ms Pavan-Woolfe, representative of the European Commission to the Council of Europe**, and concluded an exchange of letters on enhanced co-operation with the European Commission, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Gonzalez Oropeza on developments in electoral matters in **Mexico**;
- was informed on constitutional developments in **Albania, France and Turkey**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Ali Khashan, Minister of Justice of the **Palestinian National Authority**, on the modalities of co-operation;
- was informed on progress in the preparation of a Liber Amicorum in honour of the late President Mr La Pergola;
- fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 17-18 October 2008; 12-13 December 2008; 13-14 March 2009; 12-13 June 2009; 9-10 October 2009; 11-12 December 2009.