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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

72<sup>nd</sup> PLENARY SESSION  
(Venice, 19-20 October 2007)

S Y N O P S I S

The Commission

- Paid a tribute to the memory of its late president Antonio La Pergola;
- Decided to publish a volume of essays in honour of Antonio La Pergola;
- Agreed on the procedure which will be followed for the election of a new president at its next session;
- Held an exchange of views with the **Union of Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils** (UACCC) on the topic "Limits of Constitutional Control";
- Adopted the joint opinion on Amendments to the Electoral Code of the Republic of **Albania**;
- Adopted the opinion on the draft amendments to the Law on the Constitutional Court, the Civil Procedural Code and the Criminal Procedural Code of **Azerbaijan**;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Boris Veltchev, Prosecutor General and with Mr Evgueni Tanchev, Judge of the Constitutional Court of **Bulgaria**, examined the preliminary comments of the rapporteurs on the Constitution of Bulgaria, and asked them to finalise the draft opinion after their upcoming visit to Bulgaria;
- Was informed on progress of work on the evaluation of the Constitution of **Finland**;
- Endorsed the rapporteurs' comments on the conformity of certain provisions of the Statute of the International Criminal Court with the Constitution of **Moldova** and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a follow-up report to its study of 2001 on these matters;
- Adopted the opinion on the law of the Gagauz autonomous territorial unit on the election of the governor of Gagauzia (Moldova);
- Was informed of the adoption of the Constitution in **Montenegro** and decided to adopt its opinion thereon at its next Plenary Session;

- Was informed on the visit of a Commission delegation to **Serbia** on the implementation of the new Constitution of Serbia, and endorsed the comments on the draft law on the Constitutional Court of Serbia;
- Adopted the opinion on the draft amendments to the law on the status of People's deputy in **Ukraine**;
- Adopted the report on the **secrecy of the vote** in the context of the elections by Parliament;
- Adopted the report on **choosing the date of an election** and took note of the relevant reference documents;
- Was informed on follow-up to its opinion on the Draft Law on the Legal Status of a Church, Religious Community and a Religious Group of "**the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**";
- Was informed on the results of the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections and of the Joint meeting of CED with the Sub-Commission on the protection of minorities;
- Was informed on constitutional developments in **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, and Turkey**;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Jean-Louis Debré, President of the Constitutional Council of **France**, on constitutional developments in that country;
- Held an exchange of views with Mr Ernst Hirsch Ballin, Minister of Justice of **the Netherlands**, on constitutional developments in that country;
- Took note of the elements submitted to the Committee of Ministers in reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendations 1791 on the state of Human Rights and Democracy in Europe and 1801 on Secret detentions and illegal transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states;
- Took note of Mr van Dijk's comments on the Accession of the European Union/European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 14-15 December 2007, 14-15 March 2008; 13-14 June 2008; 17-18 October 2008; 12-13 December 2008.