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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

87th PLENARY SESSION
(Venice, 17-18 June 2011)

SYNOPSIS

The Commission

- held an exchange of views with Mr Davit Harutyunyan, Chairman of the Standing Committee on State and legal affairs of **Armenia**, and endorsed the joint interim opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft electoral code of Armenia, previously endorsed by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- adopted the opinion on making a supplement to the penitentiary code of Armenia;
- was informed on follow up to the Interim joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law on assemblies of the Republic of Armenia;
- adopted the opinion on the compatibility with universal Human Rights standards of an official warning addressed by the Ministry of Justice of **Belarus** to the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, but decided not to release it pending the exhaustion of domestic remedies;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Margarita Popova, Minister of Justice of **Bulgaria**, and adopted the opinion on the 6th revised version of the draft law on forfeiture of assets acquired through criminal activity and administrative violation of Bulgaria;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the Unified Electoral code of Bulgaria, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- was informed on follow up to the Interim Opinion on the Draft Amendments to the Law on Assembly and Manifestations of **Georgia**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Jozsef Szàjer, MEP, and adopted the opinion on the new Constitution of **Hungary**;
- adopted the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the constitutional Law on the Judicial System and Status of Judges of **Kazakhstan**;
- held an exchange of views with Ms Galina Skripkina and with other members of the delegation from the Parliament of **Kyrgyzstan** and adopted:
 - the opinion on the draft law on the constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan;
 - the opinion on the draft law on the introduction of changes to the constitutional law on the status of judges of Kyrgyzstan;
 - the opinion on the draft law on the Council on Selection of judges of Kyrgyzstan; and
 - the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law on Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, on the draft law on Electoral Commissions as well as on the draft law on elections to local governments of Kyrgyzstan, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- adopted the *amicus curiae* brief on three questions related to Article 78 of the Constitution of **Moldova**;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Ranko Krivokapić, Speaker of the parliament of **Montenegro**, and

adopted the opinion on the draft amendments to the Constitution of Montenegro relating to the reform of the judiciary and the prosecutors, and

endorsed the joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft amendments to the draft electoral legislation of Montenegro, previously endorsed by the Council for Democratic Elections;

- endorsed without debate the interim opinion on the draft decisions of the High Judicial Council and of the State Prosecutorial Council on the implementation of the laws on the amendments to the laws on judges and on the public prosecution of **Serbia**;
- was informed on follow up to the Joint Opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the revised draft law on financing political activities of Serbia and to the Joint opinion by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the draft law on altering and amending the law on election of members of Parliament of Serbia;
- was informed by Mr Farouk Ahmed Sultan, President of the Supreme Constitutional Court of **Egypt**, on the reform process taking place in that country;
- held an exchange of views with Mr R. Ben Achour, State Minister in the Prime Minister's office and newly appointed substitute member in respect of **Tunisia**, on recent constitutional developments in Tunisia, and was informed on recent and planned activities with regard to that country;
- adopted the opinion on the need for a **code of good practice in the field of funding of electoral campaigns**, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- adopted the report on **out-of-country voting**, previously adopted by the Council for Democratic Elections;
- held an exchange of views with Mr Oliver Lewis, Executive Director of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre and decided to postpone consideration of the revision of the interpretative declaration on the Code of good practice in electoral matters on the **participation of people with disabilities in elections**;
- took note of the **compilations** of Venice Commission opinions and reports on the protection of minorities and on constitutional justice;
- decided to re-establish the **Sub-commission on Latin America**;
- held an exchange of views with representatives of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- fixed the dates of the next sessions as follows: 14-15 October 2011 and 16-17 December 2011; 16-17 March 2012; 15-16 June 2012; 12-13 October 2012 and 14-15 December 2012.