

Press Release

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Future cooperation with Montenegro, participation of women in elections, Venice Commission meets in plenary

Strasbourg, 09.06.2006 - Future cooperation with Montenegro, restitution of property to the victims of Georgian-Ossetian conflict, and the participation of women in elections are on the agenda of the Council of Europe Venice Commission's 67th plenary session (9-10 June, Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice).

The Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament Ranko Krivokapich will attend the plenary and will inform the Commission on possible future cooperation on the **new Constitution for Montenegro** following the referendum on independence.

The Commission will hold an exchange of views with the Georgian authorities on the draft law on compensation and restitution of property of victims of the **conflict in the former autonomous region of South Ossetia**. It is due to adopt an opinion on the latest version of the draft law.

The **draft legislation on churches and religious communities in Serbia** will also be discussed during the session.

Following the November 2005 revision of the **Armenian** Constitution, introducing individual complaints with the constitutional court, the Commission is due to adopt an opinion on the amendments to the law on the **Constitutional Court**. The Commission will also discuss and adopt an opinion on possible constitutional and legislative improvements to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the **Constitutional Court of Ukraine**. The lack of nominations produced an incomplete composition of this Court, preventing it from sitting.

A study on remedies for **excessive length of proceedings before national** courts is also on the agenda. The study is part of discussions on principles of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and takes into account relevant work by the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

The Commission will also adopt:

- **Guidelines on referenda**, defining European standard on the matter;
- A declaration on **women's participation in elections**, stressing on the equality principle;
- A report on **electoral law and administration in Europe**, aiming at identifying weaknesses and new challenges;
- joint Venice Commission–OSCE/ODHIR opinions on the **electoral legislation of Armenia and Georgia**.

The Venice Commission is the Council of Europe's independent advisory body on the constitutional issues. All adopted opinions of the Commission become public after the session and will be available on the website of the Commission: www.venice.coe.int.

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