

Press Release

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Venice Commission to deal with the limits to freedom of expression during its 76th plenary session

Strasbourg, 14.10.2008 – The Council of Europe's European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") will be meeting in Venice on 17 and 18 October 2008 (*Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista*).

The Commission will adopt a report on blasphemy, religious insult and incitement to religious hatred. In the report the Commission will take a position on whether criminal sanctions are necessary to protect the right of certain persons to respect for their religious beliefs or whether there exist other ways of doing so without unduly restricting freedom of expression.

At the request of the Parliamentary Assembly the Commission will start to examine recently adopted constitutional amendments in Albania and the Turkish rules on the prohibition of political parties. The respective opinions will be adopted at the next session of the Commission in December.

Other points submitted for adoption include:

- the *amicus curiae* brief for the European Court of Human Rights on the compatibility of certain provisions of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the European Convention of Human Rights;
- opinions on electoral legislation of Armenia and Moldova;
- joint opinions with OSCE-ODIHR on freedom of assembly and freedom of religion in Kyrgyzstan;
- the opinion on the draft law on the Constitutional Court of Montenegro;
- the report on constitutional issues related to the ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- the report on legislative initiative.

On the margins of the meeting a ceremony will be held to launch the publication of the *Liber Amicorum* for Antonio La Pergola, the late President of the Commission

[For more information on the Venice Commission](#)

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