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10.09.2010

State forfeiture of criminal assets in Bulgaria – visit by the Venice Commission

Dates: 13-14 September 2010

Place: Sofia, Bulgaria

Organised by the Venice Commission, the Council of Europe's advisory body of independent legal experts.

Background

The new law of Bulgaria on forfeiture in favor of the State of criminal assets is intended to be a major tool in the fight against corruption and organised crime in Bulgaria.

Bulgarian authorities have asked the Venice Commission for opinion on the first draft law on 19 November 2009. This draft has been revised by the authorities further to the recommendations by the Commission given in the first and second interim opinions. The Commission now is preparing its final opinion (on the latest draft law) to be adopted by the October 2010 plenary session of the Venice Commission (Venice, 15-16 October 2010).

Description: A delegation of the Venice Commission will exchange views with major national stakeholders in the country on this issue. The delegation is composed of Mr Johan Hirschfeldt, Swedish substitute member, Mr Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Commission and Mrs Dubravka Bojic-Bultrini, legal officer.

Bulgarian Minister of Justice Margarita Popova, representatives of Ministries of Interior, Finance, National Revenue Agency, State Agency for National Security, members of Parliament, Commission for Establishing Property Acquired through Criminal Activity and local NGOs will meet with the Venice Commission's representatives.

A press conference will take place at the Ministry of Justice on Monday 13 September, at approximately 12h00. Press briefings can also be organised during the meetings.

[Interim opinion \(April 2010\)](#)

[Second interim opinion \(June 2010\)](#)

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