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Strasbourg, 09.02.2010

President of the Venice Commission to visit Moldova following the request for assistance on the constitutional reform

Dates: 9-10 February 2010

Location: Chisinau (Moldova)

Description: The President of the Council of Europe Venice Commission, Gianni Buquicchio and its Acting Secretary, Thomas Markert, will visit Moldova following a recent request for assistance to constitutional reform addressed to the Venice Commission by the Acting President of the Republic of Moldova, Mihai Ghimpu. The purpose of the visit is to discuss the procedural aspects of the constitutional reform.

The Delegation, including the SRSG in Moldova, Berute Abraitiene, and representatives of the European Union, have scheduled meetings with President a.i. Mihai Ghimpu, Prime Minister Vlad Filat, First Deputy Chairman of the Parliament Serafim Urechean, Head of the Democratic Faction of the Parliament Marian Lupu, Head of the Communist Faction of the Parliament Maria Postoico together with Mark Tkaciuc.

This visit will be followed by a working group field mission to Chisinau on 24 to 26 February to discuss the draft Constitution with the Constitutional Commission.

Venice Commission and the President a.i. of the Republic of Moldova, Mihai Ghimpu will hold a **press briefing on Wednesday 10 February 2010 from 4.00 pm to 4.25 pm** at the Residence of President of Republic of Moldova.

For more information: www.venice.coe.int

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Note to editors:

The European Commission for Democracy through Law, better known as the Venice Commission, is the Council of Europe's independent advisory body on constitutional matters. Established in 1990, the commission has played a leading role in the adoption of constitutions that conform to the standards of Europe's constitutional heritage.

The Venice Commission gives legal advice to its member states and provides "constitutional first-aid" to individual states and statutory organs of the Council of Europe. It contributes to the dissemination of the European constitutional heritage, based on the continent's fundamental legal values. The Commission also plays a unique and unrivalled role in crisis management and conflict prevention through constitution building and advice.

With the accession of Mexico on 3 February 2010, the Venice Commission counts 57 full member states.

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