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24.11.2010

Venice Commission's delegation in Turkey to prepare an opinion on the draft Law on the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors

Dates: 25 and 26 November 2010

Place: Ankara, Turkey

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

Description: Within the context of the constitutional reform in Turkey which came into force with the referendum of 12 September 2010, the Venice Commission was requested to prepare opinions on draft laws that are part of the implementation of the constitutional amendments package. The first of these is the draft Law on the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors.

The opinion on the draft Law on the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors will be discussed and should be adopted by the Venice Commission at its plenary session on 17 and 18 December 2010.

In order to obtain more background information on this draft Law and on the other draft laws, a delegation of the Venice Commission will go to Ankara to meet with major stakeholders in the country.

The Venice Commission delegation is composed of:

- Thomas Markert, Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission,
- Sergio Bartole, Italian substitute member,
- Harry Gstöhl, Liechtenstein member,
- Wolfgang Hoffmann-Riem, German member,
- Fredrik Sejersted, Norwegian substitute member,
- Bert Maan, expert for the Legal and Human Rights Capacity Building Department of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe
- Tanja Gerwien, legal officer of the Venice Commission.

Meetings are planned with the Ministry of Justice, the Court of Cassation, the President of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Council of State, the President of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors and representatives of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations. Meetings will also be organised with political parties.

Background: A request for opinion was made to the Venice Commission on 27 September 2010 by the Minister of Justice of Turkey, Sadullah Ergin. There are four draft laws: on the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors, on the Organisation of the Ministry of Justice, on the Organisation of the Constitutional Court and on Judges and Prosecutors.

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