



Strasbourg, 28 September 2026

CDL-PL-OJ(2026)003ann

Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**148th PLENARY SESSION
VENICE**

Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista

Friday 9 October 2026 (9:30-18:00)

Saturday 10 October 2026 (9:30-13:00)

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Friday 9 October 2026

9:30-11:00	<i>Adoption of the Agenda Communications Elections Institutional co-operation Special guest</i>
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1. Adoption of the Agenda**2. Communication by the President**

The President will present her recent activities (CDL(2026)036).

3. Communication from the Enlarged Bureau

The Commission will be informed on the discussions which took place at the meeting of the Enlarged Bureau on 8 October 2026.

4. Elections to vacant positions

The Commission is invited to elect the vacant Chairs and Vice-Chairs of its Sub-Commissions as well as the vacant Members and Substitute Member of the Council for Democratic Elections for a mandate expiring in December 2027.

5. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretary of the Commission will provide information on the session.

6. Follow-up to earlier Venice Commission Opinions

The Commission will be informed on follow-up to its previous Opinions (see document (CDL(2026)042):

- *Amicus curiae* brief for the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Shevchuk v. Ukraine on standards on the disciplinary rules concerning presidents and judges of constitutional courts ([CDL-AD\(2024\)038](#))
- Urgent *amicus curiae* brief for the European Court of Human Rights in Grande Oriente d'Italia v. Italy on procedural guarantees in the exercise of powers by Parliamentary Inquiry Committees ([CDL-AD\(2025\)033](#))
- *Amicus curiae* brief for the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Kuijt v. the Netherlands on participation of additional judges in Supreme Court deliberations ([CDL-AD\(2025\)047](#))
- Report on the balance between fundamental rights and freedoms relevant to violent pornography in the case-law of constitutional and supreme courts and international tribunals ([CDL-AD\(2026\)005](#))

The Urgent Follow-up Opinion to previous Opinions on the Draft Law on the Judicial Academy of Serbia will be endorsed under Item 23.

7. Co-operation with the Committee of Ministers

Within the framework of its co-operation with the Committee of Ministers, the Commission will hold an exchange of views with Mr Gabriel Revel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe.

8. Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, former President of the Parliamentary Assembly, representative of the Assembly to the Venice Commission; Mr Titus Corlăţean, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Mr Piero Fassino, Member of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), on co-operation with the Assembly.

The draft Updated Report on the Relationship between Political and Criminal Ministerial Responsibility - Legal Frameworks and Procedures for Criminal Prosecution of Members of Government in Venice Commission Member States; the draft Opinion on the powers of the President in the context of the oath-taking of the judges of the Constitutional Tribunal and of other judicial appointments (Poland); the draft Opinion on the amendments of 16 October 2025 to the Organic law of Georgia “On Political Associations of Citizens”, to Article 381 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and to other related laws (legal consequences for persons associated with prohibited political parties); the draft Opinion on the amendments to the Law on Grants, the Organic Law on the Political Associations of Citizens and the Criminal Code, as well as related legislation, as adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 4 March 2026; the Urgent Opinion on 2026 legislative amendments concerning the registry of non-governmental organisations, the registry of NGO members and the criminal liability of registered NGO members (Greece); and the electoral observation missions fall into the framework of co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly (see Items 13, 16, 20.1, 20.2, 18, 17).

9. Co-operation with the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Kristoffer Tamsons, Chair of the Monitoring committee of the Congress, on co-operation with the Congress.

10. Report of the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections (8 October 2026)

Mr Pablo Hispán, President of the Council for Democratic Elections, will inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 8 October 2026.

The Draft Opinion on the amendments of 16 October 2025 to the Organic law of Georgia “On Political Associations of Citizens”, to Article 381 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and to other related laws (legal consequences for persons associated with prohibited political parties); the draft Updated Report on Out-of-Country Voting; and the draft Compilation of Venice Commission Opinions and Reports concerning Political Parties are dealt under Items 20.1, 21 and 24 respectively.

Draft annotated agenda (CDE-OJ(2026)003ann)

11. Exchange of views with the Regione del Veneto

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Ms Annalisa Bisson, Director of International Relations, Regione del Veneto.

12. Exchange of views with the President of the European Court of Human Rights

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with Mr Mattias Guyomar, President of the European Court of Human Rights.

11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Reports
	Opinions on individual countries

13. Draft Updated Report on the Relationship between Political and Criminal Ministerial Responsibility - Legal Frameworks and Procedures for Criminal Prosecution of Members of Government in Venice Commission Member States

The Commission is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Updated Report ([CDL\(2026\)029](#)) (CMG/GR/jk) on legal frameworks and procedures for criminal prosecution of Members of Government in Venice Commission Member States, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Ojanen, Ms Bazy Malaurie (expert, former member) and Ms Biglino Campos (expert, former member). This report was requested by the then-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 14 January 2026. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law will examine this draft Updated Report at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026.

14. Republic of Moldova

1. *Draft Opinion on the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova*

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from the Republic of Moldova, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion (CDL(2026)031) (ARP/TvD/sm/mg) on the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament ([CDL-REF\(2026\)024](#) and [CDL-REF\(2026\)034](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Bustos, Ms Gjonaj and Mr Vardanyan. This Opinion was requested by the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 20 May 2026. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026.

This Opinion is prepared under the [Quick Response Mechanism](#) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme [Partnership for Good Governance](#), co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

2. *Draft Opinion on the draft Law on the Status, Conduct, and Ethics of Members of Parliament*

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from the Republic of Moldova and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion (CDL(2026)041) (KG/ARP/ip) on the draft law on the status, conduct, and ethics of Members of Parliament ([CDL-REF\(2026\)042](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Bustos, Ms Gjonaj and Mr Vardanyan. This Opinion was requested by the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 18 August 2026. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026.

This Opinion is prepared under the [Quick Response Mechanism](#) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme [Partnership for Good Governance](#), co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:00	Opinions on individual countries Electoral observation missions

15. Montenegro

Draft Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII) of the Council of Europe on the draft amendments to the law on minority rights and freedoms

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from Montenegro and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Joint Opinion ([CDL\(2026\)032](#)) (MS/KG/jk) on the draft amendments to the law on minority rights and freedoms ([CDL-REF\(2026\)023](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Matheson Mestad, Mr Paulus, Ms Romainville and Mr Hofmann (DGII expert). This Opinion was requested by the Minister of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro on 14 May 2026. The Sub-Commissions on Fundamental Rights and on the Protection of National Minorities will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026.

This opinion is prepared under the [Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism](#) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme [Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Türkiye](#), co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

16. Poland

Draft Opinion on the powers of the President in the context of the oath-taking of the judges of the Constitutional Tribunal and of other judicial appointments

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from Poland, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion (CDL(2026)033) (VD/BSB/tp) on the powers of the President in the context of the oath-taking of the judges of the Constitutional Tribunal and of other judicial appointments ([CDL-REF\(2026\)022rev](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Grabenwarter, Mr Kuijer, Ms Nussberger, Mr Barrett (expert, former member) and Mr Tuori (Honorary President). This Opinion was requested by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) on 29 June 2026. The Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026.

17. Electoral observation missions

The Commission will be informed about the participation of the Venice Commission in electoral observation missions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in the function of providing legal advice.

- Morocco, parliamentary elections, 23 September 2026;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, general elections, 4 October 2026.

16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	Opinions on individual countries

18. Greece

Urgent Opinion on 2026 legislative amendments concerning the registry of non-governmental organisations, the registry of NGO members and the criminal liability of registered NGO members

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from Greece, and to endorse the Urgent Opinion ([CDL-PI\(2026\)014](#)) (TSM/TvD/ak) on 2026 legislative amendments concerning the registry of non-governmental organisations, the registry of NGO members and the criminal liability of registered NGO members ([CDL-REF\(2026\)038](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Kuijer, Mr Mälksoo and Ms O'Toole. This Urgent Opinion was requested by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) on 29 June 2026. It was issued on 28 September 2026 pursuant to Article 14a of the Venice Commission's Revised Rules of Procedure and the Protocol on the preparation of Urgent Opinions ([CDL-AD\(2018\)019](#)).

19. Ukraine

Urgent Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and DGI on the draft law “On Amendments to the Law ‘On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges’ and certain other laws concerning the selection procedures for members of the High Qualification Commission of Judges and the High Council of Justice”

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from Ukraine, and to endorse the Urgent Joint Opinion ([CDL-PI\(2026\)015](#)) (ML/SL/ng) on the draft law “On Amendments to the Law ‘On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges’ and certain other laws concerning the selection procedures for members of the High Qualification Commission of Judges and the High Council of Justice” ([CDL-REF\(2026\)035](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Gaspar, Mr Kuijer, Mr Sørensen, Mr Dimitrov (expert, former member) and Mr Reissner (DGI expert). This Urgent Joint Opinion was requested by the then Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine on 10 July 2026. It was issued on 25 September 2026 pursuant to Article 14a of the Venice Commission's Revised Rules of Procedure and the Protocol on the preparation of Urgent Opinions ([CDL-AD\(2018\)019](#)).

19:30

Official Dinner

Saturday 10 October 2026

09:30-11:00

*Opinions on individual countries
Reports*

20. Georgia

1. *Draft Opinion on the amendments of 16 October 2025 to the Organic law of Georgia “On Political Associations of Citizens”, to Article 381 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and to other related laws (legal consequences for persons associated with prohibited political parties)*

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from Georgia, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion (CDL(2026)001) (MJ/DV/es) on the amendments of 16 October 2025 to the Organic law of Georgia “On Political Associations of

Citizens”, to Article 381 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, and to other related laws (legal consequences for persons associated with prohibited political parties) ([CDL-REF\(2026\)001](#), [CDL-REF\(2026\)027](#), [CDL-REF\(2026\)028](#) and [CDL-REF\(2026\)029](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Bílková, Mr Darmanović (expert, former member), and Mr Tuori (Honorary President). This Opinion was requested by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) on 19 December 2025. The Council for Democratic Elections will examine this draft Opinion at its meeting on 8 October 2026.

2. Draft Opinion on the amendments to the Law on Grants, the Organic Law on the Political Associations of Citizens and the Criminal Code, as well as related legislation, as adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 4 March 2026

The Commission is invited to hold an exchange of views with representative(s) from Georgia, and to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Opinion (CDL(2026)030) (CMG/MJ/es) on the amendments to the Law on Grants, the Organic Law on the Political Associations of Citizens and the Criminal Code, as well as related legislation, as adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 4 March 2026 ([CDL-REF\(2026\)037](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir, Mr Knežević and Mr Sénér. This Opinion was requested by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) on 23 March 2026. The Sub-Commissions on Fundamental Rights and on the Protection of National Minorities will examine this draft Opinion at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026.

21. Draft Updated Report on Out-of-Country Voting

The Commission is invited to examine, with a view to adoption, the draft Updated Report (CDL(2026)035) (DV/CSK/ip) on Out-of-Country Voting, drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr de la Mata Pizaña, Ms Kiener, Mr Zagorc and Mr Žalimas (expert, former member). This report was requested by the Council for Democratic Elections. The Council for Democratic Elections will examine this draft Updated Report at its meeting on 8 October 2026.

22. Malta

Urgent Opinion on the Draft Amendment to the Administrative Justice Act

The Commission is invited to endorse the Urgent Opinion ([CDL-PI\(2026\)012](#)) (SL/BSB/sm) on the Draft Amendment to the Administrative Justice Act ([CDL-REF\(2026\)026](#) and [CDL-REF\(2026\)036](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Mr Cameron, Ms Gómez Fernández and Mr Barrett (expert, former member). This Urgent Opinion was requested by the Minister for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector of Malta on 12 May 2026. The Urgent Opinion was issued on 23 July 2026 pursuant to Article 14a of the Venice Commission’s Revised Rules of Procedure and the Protocol on the preparation of Urgent Opinions ([CDL-AD\(2018\)019](#)).

23. Serbia

Urgent Follow-up Opinion to previous Opinions on the Draft Law on the Judicial Academy

The Commission is invited to endorse the Urgent Follow-up Opinion ([CDL-PI\(2026\)013](#)) (CSK/TP/mg) to previous opinions on the draft law on the Judicial Academy ([CDL-AD\(2024\)036](#) and [CDL-AD\(2026\)019](#)), drawn up on the basis of comments by Ms Kiener, Ms Suchocka (Honorary President) and Mr Tuori (Honorary President). This Urgent Follow-up Opinion was requested by the Minister of Justice of Serbia on 15 June 2026. It was issued on 16 July 2026 pursuant to Article 14a of the Venice Commission’s Revised Rules of Procedure and the Protocol on the preparation of Urgent Opinions ([CDL-AD\(2018\)019](#)).

This Urgent Follow-up Opinion is prepared under the [Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism](#) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme [Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Türkiye](#), co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

11.00-11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30-13:00	<i>Compilations</i>
	<i>Reports of the Sub Commissions Meetings</i>
	<i>Information on Conferences and Seminars</i>
	<i>General matters</i>

24. Compilations of Venice Commission opinions and reports

The Commission is invited to endorse the Updated Compilation (CDL(2026)003rev) of Venice Commission Opinions and Reports concerning Political Parties (ARP/SK/tp). The Council for Democratic Elections will examine this draft Compilation at its meeting on 8 October 2026.

25. Report of the Meeting of the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law (8 October 2026)

The Chair of the meeting might inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 8 October 2026.

Draft annotated agenda (CDL-OJ(2026)005ann)

26. Report of the Meeting of the Sub-Commissions on Fundamental Rights and on the Protection of National Minorities (8 October 2026)

The Chair of the meeting might inform the Commission on the results and conclusions of the meeting held on 8 October 2026.

Draft annotated agenda (CDL-OJ(2026)004ann)

27. Information on Conferences and Seminars

The Commission will be informed on the results and conclusions of past conferences and seminars and informed about forthcoming ones (CDL(2026)040).

28. Other business

29. Dates of the next sessions

149th plenary session	11-12 December 2026
150th plenary session	12-13 March 2027
151st plenary session	18-19 June 2027
152nd plenary session	08-09 October 2027
153rd plenary session	10-11 December 2027

Please note that Sub-Commission meetings as well as the meeting of the Council for Democratic Elections will take place on the day before the Plenary Session.