Strasbourg, 12 October 2026

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

(VENICE COMMISSION)

148th PLENARY SESSION

Venice, 9-10 October 2026

SYNOPSIS

The Venice Commission:

- Adopted the Opinion on the amendments of 16 October 2025 to the Organic Law on political associations of citizens, article 381 of the criminal code and related legislation (legal consequences for persons associated with prohibited political parties) of **Georgia** (on the legal consequences for persons associated with prohibited political parties), previously examined by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Adopted the Opinion on the amendments of 4 March 2026 to the Law on grants, the Organic Law on political associations of citizens, the criminal code and related legislation of Georgia, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Fundamental Rights and on the Protection of National Minorities at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Held an exchange of views with Ms Sevi Voloudaki, Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum of **Greece** and endorsed the Urgent Opinion on the 2026 legislative amendments concerning the Registry of non-governmental organisations, the Registry of NGO members and the criminal liability of registered NGO members, which had been 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;

- Endorsed the Urgent Opinion on the draft amendment to the Administrative Justice Act of **Malta,** which had been 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;

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Igor Talmazan, Secretary of the Legal Committee on Appointments and Immunities of the Parliament of the **Republic of Moldova** and Ms Ana Calinici, Deputy Chair of the Committee for European Integration of the Parliament, and adopted:
  - the Opinion on the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, and;
  - the Opinion on the draft Law on the Status, Conduct, and Ethics of Members of Parliament previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Fatmir Gjeka, Minister of Human and Minority Rights of **Montenegro** and adopted the Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity of the Council of Europe on the draft amendments to the Law on minority rights and freedoms, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Fundamental Rights and on the Protection of National Minorities at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Held an exchange of views with Mr Dariusz Dudek, Advisor to the President, Chancellery of the President of the Republic of **Poland** and adopted the Opinion on the powers of the President of Poland in the context of the oath-taking of the judges of the Constitutional Tribunal and of other judicial appointments, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Endorsed the Urgent Follow-up Opinion to previous Opinions on the draft Law on the Judicial Academy of **Serbia,** which had been 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;

- Endorsed the Urgent Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe on the draft Law on amendments to the Law of **Ukraine** '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, which had been 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;

- Adopted the **Updated Report on legal frameworks and procedures for criminal prosecution of Members of Government in Venice Commission Member States**, previously examined by the Sub-Commissions on Democratic Institutions, on Constitutional Justice and on the Rule of Law at their joint meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Adopted the **Updated Report on Out-of-Country Voting** previously examined by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Endorsed the **compilation relating to Political Parties,** previously approved by the Council for Democratic Elections at its meeting on 8 October 2026;

- Held an exchange of views with the **President of the European Court of Human Rights**;

- Was informed on the follow-up to: the *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; to the 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; to the *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; to the 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;

- Following the expiry of the terms of office of certain members holding official positions within the Commission, and following the proposals made by the Enlarged Bureau, **elected for a mandate expiring in December 2027**:

  The **Chairs of the Sub Commissions** (with right of participation in the Enlarged Bureau) as follows:

  Scientific Council: François Séners
  Federal and Regional State: Herdis Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir
  Latin America: Cármen Lúcia Antunes Rocha

  The **Vice-Chairs of the Sub Commissions** as follows:

  Protection of National Minorities: Fabio Giovagnoli
  Scientific Council: Leila Aslaoui
  Federal and Regional State: Hoi Kong
  Fundamental Rights: Peter Bussjäger
  Latin America: Itziar Gómez Fernández

and **appointed until the end of 2027 the members and the substitute member of the Council for Democratic Elections** as follows:

Members:
Herdis Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir
Vladimir Vardanyan,

Substitute member:
Monique Jametti Greiner

- Was informed of the results and conclusions of the meeting of the **Council for Democratic Elections** on 8 October 2026:

- Designated Mr Pere Vilanova Trias, member in respect of Andorra, as **candidate for the position of Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Elections;**

- Was informed on the participation of the Venice Commission as legal advisor in the **electoral observation missions** of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;

- Was informed about the results and conclusions of the conferences held since the last Plenary Session;

- Held an exchange of views with representatives of the **Committee of Ministers,** the **Parliamentary Assembly,** and the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**;

- Held an exchange of views with a representative of the **Regione del Veneto**;

- Confirmed the dates of the next Plenary Sessions as follows: 11-12 December 2026; and 12-13 March 2027; 18-19 June 2027; 8-9 October 2027 and 10-11 December 2027.

The Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity of the Council of Europe on the draft amendments to the Law on minority rights and freedoms in Montenegro and the Urgent Follow-up Opinion to previous Opinions on the draft Law on the Judicial Academy of Serbia, were prepared under the Expertise Co-operation Mechanism (ECM) in the framework of the EU/CoE joint programme Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Türkiye, co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The Opinion on the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Opinion on the draft Law on the Status, Conduct, and Ethics of Members of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova were prepared under the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM) 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.