

THE QUICK RESPONSE MECHANISM AN OVERVIEW

Partnership for Good Governance

ქონს Східне партнерство Eastern Partnership აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Pa
ქონს Partenariat Oriental არსეუას ღირბრსეუიქონს Східне партнерство Easte
ქონს პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic თაფდასიქონს Partenariat Oriental არსეუას ღირ
ქონს აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic ზარქ თაფდასიქონს Partenariat Orien
ქონს Східне партнерство Eastern Partnership აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Pa
ქონს Partenariat Oriental არსეუას ღირბრსეუიქონს Східне партнерство Eastern Pa
ქონს პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic ზარქ თაფდასიქონს Partenariat Oriental არსეუა
ქონს რტხო Eastern Partnership აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic თაფ
ქონს არსეუას ღირბრსეუიქონს Східне партнерство Eastern Partnership აღმოსავლეთ
ქონს Estic ზარქ თაფდასიქონს Partenariat Oriental არსეუას ღირბრსეუიქონს Східне p
ქონს rship აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic თაფდასიქონს Partenariat Or

<http://partnership-governance2-eu.coe.int>

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe



The Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) is the host programme of the Quick Response Mechanism. It is a co-operation programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe for the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus). It aims to strengthen the region's stabilisation and resilience, and, more specifically, to achieve the 2020 targets of the Eastern Partnership deliverables and support further respect of the countries' commitments to the Council of Europe. This is achieved in particular through the improved alignment of the national legislation and practice in the concerned countries with European standards. The Partnership for Good Governance covers the fields of fight against corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing, judicial reforms, combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and minorities.

The PGG follows a two-fold approach in providing support:

- ▶ Technical assistance for achieving an increased compliance with European standards.
- ▶ Legal advice linked to priority reforms through the Council of Europe Quick Response Mechanism (QRM).

THE QUICK RESPONSE MECHANISM (QRM)

— The QRM is a Partnership for Good Governance tool, by which the European Commission for Democracy through Law (better known as the Venice Commission) may provide ad-hoc legal advice to respond to requests for legislative analysis and related assistance from the concerned countries or the European Union.



The Venice Commission

The European Commission for Democracy through Law is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters. Its role is to provide legal advice to its member states and, in particular, to help states wishing to bring their legal and institutional structures into line with European standards and international experience in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

www.venice.coe.int

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF QRM?

Geographically, the QRM covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. Its scope of work includes all the issues falling within the area of competence of the Venice Commission, in particular:

- ▶ democratic institutions and fundamental rights;
- ▶ elections, referendums and political parties;
- ▶ constitutional and ordinary justice.

WHO CAN SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE VENICE COMMISSION?

Heads of State, speakers of parliament, ministers and other members of government from the concerned countries can make a request for an expert opinion. The European Union as well as Council of Europe organs (i.e. the Secretary General, the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities) can also submit requests for expertise. Requests for *amicus curiae* opinions by the Venice Commission can also be made by constitutional courts.



WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR GRANTING A REQUEST?

■ In addition to being submitted by a qualified authority, QRM requests must meet all the following criteria:

- ▶ Fall within an area of expertise of the Venice Commission, including democratic institutions and fundamental rights; elections, referendums and political parties; and constitutional and ordinary justice;
- ▶ Respond to a concrete need identified in the relevant country;
- ▶ Relate to a key policy aspect of strategic importance;
- ▶ Not overlap with any other support already provided by the Council of Europe or the European Commission.

HOW TO FORMULATE A REQUEST AND HOW IS IT PROCESSED?

■ Requests must be written and addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or to the President of the Venice Commission. Requests should contain as many details as possible, including the name and type of legislation on which expertise is being sought, the reasons for seeking expertise or for amending legislation and the planned timeline for adopting the new legislation (or amendments to existing legislation) following the provision of this expertise.

■ Once received, the requests will be processed, and the authorities will be informed of the timetable. The expertise will be provided as soon as possible.

WHERE TO ADDRESS A REQUEST?

Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Tel: + 33 3 88 41 20 00
Fax: + 33 3 88 41 27 99

Gianni BUQUICCHIO
President of the Venice Commission
Council of Europe
67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
E-mail: venice@coe.int
Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 38

QUESTIONS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO:

Office of the Directorate General of Programmes
Council of Europe
Partnership for Good Governance
Strasbourg Cedex 67075 FRANCE
E-mail: odgp_pgg@coe.int
Fax: +33 3 90 21 46 31

MORE INFORMATION

 @partnershipgovernance

 @CoeEapPCF

odgp_pgg@coe.int

<http://partnership-governance2-eu.coe.int>

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

www.coe.int

The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

www.europa.eu

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

ENG