

### **Concluding remarks by the chair**

Dear colleagues,

CAHDE is drawing to a close - and will soon be part of history.

I finished my introduction to the draft recommendation on e-democracy yesterday\* with statistics: we held 10 meetings, 1 symposium, 6 workshops - investing thousands of hours of human resources.

We have done good work - and I am proud of you, of us, of CAHDE. We achieved a great piece of work, a real "*grand œuvre*".

It is my opinion that we produced an extraordinary, an exemplary text.

- The text matches our initial high goals which were deemed by some as very ambitious. We achieved a result which is characterized by:
  - the comprehensiveness of the text,
  - the quality of the text, and
  - the transparency of the process.
- The text clearly reflects the wishes and expectations of the different stakeholders - including by politicians and civil society.
  - The text especially reflects the wishes and concerns of those who actively participated in CAHDE work. This shows that engagement in international organisations, in international processes (politically) "pays".
- The text puts the Council of Europe in one of its key domains, democracy, in the limelight of international interest.

Concluding, I would like to express my personal and all colleagues' gratefulness to:

- member states and their representatives, present and past;
- the other pillars of the Council of Europe and their representatives - PACE, Congress, INGO Conference - as well as the Venice Commission (CDL);
- the vast number of top-level academic experts, without whom this text would not have seen the light of the day, in particular of our privileged partner, DEMONET, the academic advisory board of CAHDE; and other contributors and commentators, in particular at the Madrid Forum for the Future of Democracy;
- the representatives of Council of Europe steering and other committees, including CDLR, CDMC, CDCJ and T-PD;
- the representatives of other international organisations whose liaison was essential to CAHDE;
- the host countries of CAHDE meetings and workshops: Bulgaria - and the Bulgarian Vice-Chair of CAHDE -, the UK and Austria;
- in particular the Secretary and his team, present and past; and
- the interpreters and translators of the Council of Europe as well as other host countries' staff.

The mandate is fulfilled, the meetings of CAHDE are closed.

---

\* available at [www.wahlinfo.aussenministerium.at](http://www.wahlinfo.aussenministerium.at) → E-Democracy → Council of Europe (CAHDE)