



The Draft Recommendation - an introduction -

The final CAHDE meeting

Thomas M. Buchsbaum | Strasbourg, 13 November 2008



overview

- **CAHDE – beginning and initial approaches**
- **CAHDE – challenges**
- **CAHDE – developments**
- **The draft Recommendation – content**
- **The draft Recommendation – approaches**
- **The draft Recommendation – focus & added value**



as a start: a reminder

- **The CoE started work on developing standards on e-democracy a few years ago already**
- **... was and still is a forerunner amongst intergovernmental organisations**
- **... has become the *only* international institution addressing e-democracy *in its entirety*.**



the Council of Europe's
fields of activities on e-democracy

- **eElection (eVoting, eReferendum; eInitiative)**
- **eParliament - incl. eLegislation, ePetition**
- **eGovernance**
- **eJustice (eJudiciary)**
- **eInformation**
incl. e(public service)Media and the Internet
- **eParticipation - incl. eCampaigning**
- **eInclusion**
- **regulation [= a CoE key activity in general]**



the Council of Europe's *acquis* in this respect

Conventions, Recommendations and other documents on:

- human rights, fundamental freedoms, minorities
- democracy
- participation
- elections, media, etc.

The pillars, institutions, structures:

- the 4 "pillars" – and its commissions, (steering) committees
- the Venice Commission (CDL)
- the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)
- etc.

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thomas.buchsbaum@bmeia.gv.at

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our mandate

- to examine developments on e-democracy/e-participation at European and international level;
- to identify political, social, ethical, legislative and technological issues and their interdependence;
- to identify examples of emerging good practice which could be of interest to member states;
- to elaborate definitions of key terms;
- to consider in particular the issues of measuring the effectiveness and impact of e-democracy initiatives and devices, and their complementarity and interoperability with non-electronic forms of democratic engagement and participation;
- to prepare appropriate reports and documentation; and
- to make recommendations to the Committee of Ministers on possible further action in the field of e-democracy.

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initial approaches

- **necessary focus on deliverables**
- **high goals**
- **first: collect (little) available starting material**
- **and: *effectively* co-operate with other international and domestic actors**
- **always: ensure transparency of the process**
- **look for CoE specificities and for added value**
- ***politically* NEITHER favour NOR discourage e-democracy**
- **NOR a specific form of democracy**
- **BUT provide guidelines IN CASE that a country wishes to embark on or improve, her e-democracy**
- **include / convince politicians and their institutions**

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one challenge: a 'multi-culture democracy' in Europe

- **varied forms and traditions of democracy**
- **varied concepts of representation**
- **varied concepts of majority – minority**
- **different views on the state and fellow-citizens**
- **different legal systems**
- **different concepts of minorities (rights)**
- **differences in various other fields**

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another challenge: where did/do we want to go ?

"we ?" – "we here ?" – "we the MS ?" - "we ... who ?"

- towards more / a "better" democracy ?
- towards a different form of democracy ?
- towards more / a better government service ?
- towards different / changed citizens ?
- towards electronic enabling / easing of democratic processes ?
- towards which extent of change management ?

our own "guidelines"

inclusiveness - transparency - open results:

- experts (gov. reps) from 47 member states
- four own "pillars":
 - Committee of Ministers (inter-governmental)
 - Parliamentary Assembly (of *national* MPs)
 - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
 - INGO Conference (civil society)
- *involvement* of academia (incl. DEMONET), politicians and civil society (specialised NGOs)
- *involvement* of other interested international institutions (UN[DESA], EU [Council, EC, EP], OECD, OSCE)

our "work items" by mid-2007

- a) Elements, stakeholders and tools of E-Democracy (including mapping E- Democracy)
- b) A glossary on E-Democracy (*ref. mandate*)
- c) Goals and benefits, enablers, and challenges, barriers and dangers of E-Democracy (including linking C2C to government)
- d) Standard processes of democracy
- e) E-Democracy in different types of democracy, including a "roadmap towards E-Democracy"
- f) Shortfalls in democratic processes - and possible eSolutions
- g) Instruments and activities of the CoE and other international organisations on E-Democracy
- h) CAHDE's framework for reporting e-democracy initiatives
- i) (selected) E-Democracy initiatives of member states
- j) Generic good practices of E-Democracy
- k) A "roadmap" towards E-Democracy
- l) CAHDE's check-list for the introduction of E-Democracy tools
- m) Evaluating / measuring the quality of E-Democracy (tools) - including (*ref. mandate*) "effectiveness and impact" and "complementarity and interoperability with non-e-democracy tools"
- n) Elements, stakeholders and tools of eParliament - including *e.g.* eRepresentative / ePolitician, eLegislation / eLaw and ePetitioning
- o) Regulatory frameworks of E-Democracy
- p) Social and cultural, and ethical issues of E-Democracy (*ref. mandate*)
- q) Information / media and E-Democracy
- r) Other eSectors of government relevant to E-Democracy (including eJustice and eEnvironment)
- s) Technology aspects of E-Democracy
- t) Open questions, unaddressed areas, unsolved issues - and: gaps in (international) addressing of E-Democracy
- u) Proposals for the Madrid *Forum for the Future of Democracy* (October 2008)

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our timelines on e-democracy

- creation and mandate of 24 May 2006 to the *Ad-hoc committee on e-democracy (CAHDE)*
- public symposium on '*E-democracy: new opportunities for enhancing civic participation*', 23-24 April 2007, Strasbourg
- CAHDE expert workshops on *e-Parliament* (December 2007, Vienna), on *regulatory frameworks* (London, February 2008), and on *advice to policy making on e-democracy* (Vienna, 11 and 12 March 2008 - jointly with DEMO_NET; and at EDEM'08, Krems, 29 October 2008)
- the 2008 session of the CoE *Forum for the Future of Democracy on 'e-democracy'*, 15 to 17 October 2008, Madrid, including
 - a workshop discussion of the preliminary draft Recommendation, and
 - a workshop on 'e-democracy - the regulatory context'.
- end/2008: a draft Recommendation on e-democracy, for the endorsement by the Committee of Ministers

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The draft Recommendation: content

- **Introductory language**
- ***Recommendations to Member States*** – a kind of “executive summary”
- **tasks for the organisation’s secretariat**
- ***Principles of E-Democracy*** – *i.e.* facts, leading to:
- ***Guidelines on E-Democracy*** – recommendations to different stakeholders, including on:
 - E-democracy, stakeholders, goals
 - Technology
 - Introduction and implementation of e-democracy
 - Enablers, barriers, challenges & risks
 - Rules and regulatory frameworks

content / ctd.

- ***guides***
 - 1: generic tools and policies for an electronic democracy
 - 2: a roadmap approach towards e-democracy
 - 3: a checklist for the introduction of e-democracy tools
 - 4: a framework for reporting e-democracy initiatives
 - 5: dimensions and approaches for the evaluation of e-dem
- **a glossary**
- **an Explanatory Memorandum**

approaches

- **An INVITATION TO ANYBODY to use e-democracy – CAREFULLY;**
- **E-democracy is NOT A PANACEA to overcome all democracy deficits, but represents ADDED POSSIBILITIES;**
- **a BROAD, INCLUSIVE definition of e-democracy in respect to ALL ...**
 - **sectors of democracy** (legislature, executive, judiciary)
 - **democratic institutions** (public/private, formal/informal, etc.)
 - **levels of government** (local, regional, national, inter-/supranational)
 - **kinds of participants** (public auth./civ.soc., business, techn.providers)
 - **areas of expertise involved**
 - **levels of binding force of participation** ("campaigning to voting")

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approaches / cntd.

- **defining / describing the major e-terms;**
- **an integrated multi-stakeholder approach;**
- **a realistic approach (to benefits, challenges & risks, use & usability);**
- **human rights-based & social cohesion-oriented**
- **politicians- and media-inclusive ("intermediaries");**
- **inclusion-oriented**
- **sustainability- & evaluation-oriented;**
- **a comprehensive view on e-Parliament;**
- **initial thoughts on regulation (including security & standardisation): empowerment AND safeguards**

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focuses = added value

- **democracy-oriented**
 - technology as far as necessary
 - no purely (e-)administration/service aspects
- **a comprehensive approach** - issues
- **an inclusive approach** - sectors of society, regions
- **a multi-stakeholder approach** - recommendations
- **intermediary-conscientious** - e-Parliament, media
- **regulatory aspects** - a conceptual beginning

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your chair's concerns

- **is this, what states (can) expect ?**
- **is this, what other stakeholders can expect ?**
- **is this, what stakeholders would like to get ?**
- **is it at the current level of research ?**
- **is it in harmony with other international organisations ?**
- **is it comprehensive ?**
- **are there gaps ?**
- **anything wrong ?**
- **is it understandable to stakeholders?**

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Austrian Federal Ministry for
European and International Affairs

your chair's answer

after 10 meetings, 1 symposium and 6 workshops

we are arriving ...

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thomas.buchsbaum@bmeia.gv.at

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co-operating and support

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thomas.buchsbaum@bmeia.gv.at