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Monsieur Marcelino OREJA  
Président de la Commission  
institutionnelle  
Parlement Européen  
Bureau EPT 374

Strasbourg, 16 January 1992

My dear Marcelino,

I trust you have now received the formal letter of invitation to the next session of the Venice Commission (7-8 February 1992) sent to you on the 18 December last.

I am enclosing an agenda for that meeting and several documents that you might find useful. Our rather colourful brochure provides a schematic overview of the work of the Commission. This overview is given more depth in the document CDL (91)31, the Commission's contribution to the CSCE Seminar of experts on Democratic Institutions held in Oslo 4-5 November 1991. I think I do not need to re-iterate here the valuable contribution to the democratic ideal made by the Commission and by our working groups in the areas of Constitutional Justice and Reform, the Protection of Minorities, the Federal and Regional States and so on. All these elements of our work are well described in this document.

I would, however, wish to draw your attention to a new programme of action anticipated by the Commission and described in the documents CDL (91)39 titled Proposal and Sketch of Unidem Project.

I developed the idea for Unidem after much reflection on the work of the Commission in its assistance with the creation of democratic structures in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly in the area of the elaboration of Constitutional texts. I came to the conclusion that, after helping to create democratic forms, the next step in our programme must be to attempt to create democracy in substance.

The Unidem project is unquestionably ambitious but I think of overwhelming importance given the context of political extremism which undermines not only the stability of new but also that of old democracies.

I look forward to discussing the work of the Commission in more detail with you next month and of profiting from your wise reflections on the work that unites us both in common effort, the creation and defence of democracy. I look forward, also, to hearing your opinions on how the European Parliament and the Venice Commission may co-operate more closely in this great work.

Yours sincerely,

*In fronte abneg.**Antonio La Pergola*

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