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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON “CONSTITUTIONAL JUDICIARY IN THE VISHEGRAD
4 STATES”
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF
THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
Košice, Slovak Republic
3 April 2008

SYNOPSIS

Together with the Constitutional Court of Slovakia, the Venice Commission organised an international seminar on the “Constitutional judiciary in the Vishegrad 4 states” (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Court of Slovakia, in Kosice (3 April 2008).

The President of the Slovak Republic, Mr J. E. Ivan Gašparovič, made the opening speech. Participants included the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the presidents of the constitutional courts of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and of the European Court of Human Rights and the Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary.

An exchange of information and views between the Constitutional Courts of the four Vishegrad countries took place during this seminar. Discussions also highlighted the positive development of the Constitutional Court of Slovakia.

During the seminar, the key role of constitutional courts in modern democracies was discussed. It was pointed out that they do not only provide for the stability of the constitution and respect for the rule of law, but also have, beyond this classical approach, a distinctive role to play in furthering and strengthening the democratic process, in which the constitution serves as a main pillar.