

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL OF ALGERIA

COLLOQUIUM ON

**THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS
AND PARLIAMENTS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL OF ALGERIA**

Algiers, Algeria, 30 October 1st November 2009

SYNOPSIS

The Constitutional Council of Algeria, the Union of Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils and the Venice Commission organised an international colloquium on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Constitutional Council of Algeria on The Relations between Constitutional Courts and Parliaments on 30 October 1 November 2009 in Algiers.

The delegation of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe consisted of Mr U. Mifsud Bonnici, President emeritus, member for Malta; Mr E. Tanchev, professor, judge at the Constitutional Court, member for Bulgaria, Mr Gianni Buquicchio, Secretary of the Commission and Ms Tatiana Mychelova, External Relations Officer.

The aim of the Venice Commissions participation in this event was twofold:

1. to provide for intercultural exchange between Arab and European experts on the topic.
2. to discuss the draft statute of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice (WCCJ) with the members of the Union of Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils (UACCC) prior to the WCCJ Bureau meeting in Venice on 12 December 2009 (at the occasion of the 81st plenary session of the Commission).

The following local participants took part in the colloquium: members and the registry of the Constitutional Council of Algeria, members of the Algerian parliament, law professors and students. Also amongst the participants were representatives of European and African Constitutional Courts and Councils, including courts members of the UACCC as well as the President of ACCPUF Mr R.

Dossou, President of the Constitutional Court of Benin.

The colloquium was opened by the President of the Republic, which showed the importance he attaches to the Constitutional Council. Reports and discussions covered the following issues:

- tensions between the state powers in general;
- the character of the relations between courts and parliaments: complementarity, interdependence, contradictions and tensions;
- non execution of the decisions of the Courts by the parliaments;
- the legitimacy of the Courts and Councils,
- the current situation in Algeria.

The Constitutional Council of Algeria decided to translate after the colloquium the reports delivered by the Venice Commission members into Arabic and distributed them to the participants of the conference.

The discussions at the UACCC meeting on the Draft Statute of the WCCJ concentrated on the composition of the Bureau and its powers, financial contributions to the WCCJ and possible amendments to the Statute.