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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**2nd meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice
of the Venice Commission
(Oslo, 9 May 2003)**

Synopsis

The Venice Commission held the 2nd meeting of its Joint Council on Constitutional Justice on 9 May 2003 in Oslo upon the kind invitation of the Supreme Court of Norway. The Chief Justice of Norway, Mr. Tore Schei opened the meeting in which about 40 liaison officers and members of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice participated. The previous day, the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus had held its meeting followed by a training session for the liaison officers on CODICES and the CODICES entry masks.

The Joint Council on Constitutional Justice:

- invited the liaison officers to inform the Secretariat of any changes to data contained in the list of constitutional courts, the list of liaison officers, the list of web sites of the courts, constitutions, laws on the courts and court descriptions as compared to the information contained on the Commission's web-site and CODICES respectively;
- took note of the requests and replies exchanged between the participating courts via the Venice Forum;
- took note of the seminars held in co-operation with constitutional courts (CoCoSems) held since the last meeting and the programme of seminars for 2003;

- took note of the development of the relations between the Association of Constitutional Courts using the French Language (ACCPUF) and the Venice Commission;
- was informed about the programme of co-operation between the Venice Commission and constitutional and supreme courts of the Southern African Region;
- took note of the draft co-operation agreement with the Conference of the Constitutional Control Organs of the Countries of Young Democracy (CCCOCYD);
- decided that information on the case-law of the Constitutional Court of Belarus is to be presented to the Conference of the European Constitutional Courts as a special working document and that its publication in the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law* should depend on the results of the Preparatory Meeting of the Conference to be held in October 2003 in Nicosia, Cyprus;
- took note of the organisation of a seminar with the Constitutional Court of Belarus dealing with the separation of powers and the possible introduction of an individual appeal to the Court (Minsk, June 2003) in the light of the request for co-operation between the Court and the Venice Commission expressed by the Conference of the European Constitutional Courts;
- took note of the advancement of the publication of the regular and special issues of the *Bulletin*;
- invited the Secretariat to produce intermediary versions of the CODICES CD-ROM for the liaison officers reflecting the state of the *Bulletin* in production before contributions are being sent to translation;
- took note of a preliminary version of CODICES running under the LivePublish software;
- invited the Secretariat to make version 1.8 T14 of the CODICES CD-ROM input mask available for download without the runtime system on the restricted web site of the Commission for liaison officers;
- approved amendments to version 14 of the Systematic Thesaurus;
- invited the participating courts to provide or to continue to provide digests and other publications by the Courts for the benefit of the library of the Centre on Constitutional Justice and
- decided to hold its next meeting in mid-March 2004 in Venice.