

**CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

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No. 540

14 May 2020

**Mr Gianni Buquicchio**

**President**

**European Commission for Democracy through Law  
– Venice Commission of the Council of Europe**

Dear Mr President!

Please accept sincere congratulations from me and my colleagues on the occasion of 30 years anniversary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law. During the past three decades the Venice Commission has proved compelling need of professional unbiased expertise of national normative provisions, as well as the effectiveness of its work. The Commission gained worldwide recognition as an independent forum for exchange of ideas in constitutional law. Having earned indisputable authority, the Venice Commission became a conductor of high principles of democracy, protection of human rights and the rule of law. This is confirmed also by its active participation in international events outside Europe.

I have warm memories of my own participation in the Commission hearings and our joint hard work. It should be specially mentioned that even though from time to time we have different views, the relations between the Venice Commission and the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation were always marked by mutual respect, readiness to hear each other and find mutually acceptable solutions through dialogue.

Mr President, please allow me to wish you and all the members of the Venice Commission further successful work on spreading and rooting constitutional values. It is my hope that our relations will continue to develop in the spirit of fruitful cooperation.

(Signed)

**Valery D. Zorkin**  
**President**