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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON THE “SEPARATION OF POWERS
AND ADJUDICATION
IN THE 21ST CENTURY”
AND
PREPARATORY MEETING
FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

Seoul, Korea

1-4 September 2008

SYNOPSIS

The Venice Commission participated in the International Symposium on the “*Separation of Powers and Adjudication in the 21st Century*” held in Seoul (1-4 September 2008), on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea.

The participants included the presidents and judges from over 30 countries and 6 regional bodies uniting constitutional courts.

The Symposium consisted of sessions dealing with the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power. Discussions focused on the importance that these powers co-operate, but also the need for checks and balances, which ensure that no power becomes too strong and is tempted to infringe the field of other democratic institutions.

The presentations showed that constitutional courts have a key position in the settlement of conflicts of powers between state authorities. Their decisions settle disputes which hamper the smooth functioning of the relationship between the state powers.

Together with the Symposium, the Venice Commission held a preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Constitutional Justice (Cape Town, 23-24 January 2009), during which the draft programme of this event was discussed.