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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**Under the aegis of
the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation**

**and in co-operation with
The Institute of Law and Public Policy
The St Petersburg State University**

**XIIIth INTERNATIONAL FORUM
ON CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE**

ON

**“THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN THE XXIst
CENTURY:
PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION”**

**18-20.11.2010, ST. PETERSBURG
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

SYNOPSIS

The Institute of Law and Public Policy and the Saint Petersburg State University with the Venice Commission and under the aegis of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, organised the XIII International Forum on Constitutional Justice in St Petersburg, on 18-20 November 2010.

The conference brought together the members of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the President and other judges of the European Court of Human Rights, Venice Commission members, judges from national Constitutional and Supreme Courts as well as experts from different countries.

The discussions were lively and constructive. The initial discussions addressed the impact which the ECHR has had in and outside Europe, and in particular the different forms of interaction with the national constitutions.

The effectiveness of the mechanism of the ECHR was subsequently examined, notably the principle of subsidiarity and the manners of implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. The issue of the reform of the Court was also raised. In this context, particular attention was devoted to the nature of the relations between the Strasbourg Court and the national constitutional courts and their respective roles under the subsidiarity principle.

Finally, issues of implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights were analysed, in particular with reference to particular circumstances such as antiterrorism and security measures, migrants and asylum-seekers status, political and economic reforms.

The conference proved very useful, *in primis* because of the high quality of the reports and the subsequent interventions. In addition, the participants discussed in a frank and direct manner the actual problems which national courts encounter in the application and implementation of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The presence of the President and some judges of the Strasbourg Court allowed for a constructive exchange of views on this very topical issue. In conclusion, the fundamental role of the European Court of Human Rights in the architecture of today's Europe was reiterated and underlined, together with the crucial role of constitutional and domestic courts to promote and protect the European Convention on Human Rights.