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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**SYNOPTIC TABLE
ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND SECESSION
IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

This table refers to the provisions in matters of self-determination and secession made by the constitutions of the Council of Europe member states together with the Venice Commission's associate members and South Africa.

Column A: State concerned.

Columns B-E: Territorial integrity.

Column B: Provisions mentioning indivisibility or unity of the state, subject to the specific clauses in Column D.

Column C: Provisions mentioning territorial integrity, also subject to column D.

Column D: Provisions concerning restrictions to fundamental rights on grounds of the state's territorial integrity, indivisibility or unity, and material limits to revision of the Constitution.

Column E: Provisions on alterations to external boundaries.

Columns F-G: Right to external self-determination/secession = external aspect of self-determination = right of peoples freely to determine their place in the international community of states.

Column F: Right to self-determination in general.

Column G: Right to secede.

Columns H-I: Right to self-determination/autonomy within the state = aspects of self-determination not entailing secession.

Column H: Any reference to self-determination not involving external self-determination.

Column I: Rules on alteration of boundaries between federated states, regions or other intra-state territorial entities.

Column J: Other references to self-determination which, in the texts studied, concern only foreign policy.