

Strasbourg, 19 January 1993  
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CDL-JU (93) 3

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

**POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL  
DOCUMENTATION CENTRE ON  
CONSTITUTIONAL CASE-LAW**

**SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS**

1. The Secretariat is fully aware of the importance that the functioning of such a Centre has for certain States participating in the Commission, especially for those of Central and Eastern Europe, in the launching stage of their democratic institutions.
2. However, at this stage, the Commission does not dispose of either budgetary or/and human resources to set up the Centre following the terms and conditions agreed upon in the previous meetings.
3. For example, it is impossible, within the existing administrative framework, for the Commission to undertake the translation expenses of the decisions of the constitutional courts and other equivalent bodies.
4. Furthermore, no resources are available at the moment for the information processing procedure of the Centre, which is however necessary and should operational from the setting up of the Centre.
5. Finally, it is currently impossible to physically stock all the old decisions of the courts and equivalent bodies which should be collected in the Centre.
6. Future discussions should take into account the above-mentioned elements and suitable financial means should be looked for.
7. In order to give as soon as possible a partial answer to the queries from the States concerned, the Secretariat suggests taking a decision on the functioning of the Centre, on an experimental basis, for a period to be determined according to the terms and conditions to be established on the basis of the following proposal :
  - a. Liaison officers will be asked to send to the Centre 3 or 4 times a year, written contributions in English or French, concerning their jurisdictional activities i.e. :
    - number of decisions taken
    - subject matter of important decisions
    - other information.
  - b. In the case of important decisions made during the period concerned, liaison officers will be asked to transmit the following :
    - the full original text, including the decision
    - any available translations in English and/or French
    - a summary in English and/or French.
  - c. The Secretariat will take on the preparation and distribution of a Bulletin containing the summaries and different information concerning the courts.
  - d. The full text of decisions and any translations will be available, on request, from the Secretariat.

- e. Moreover, liaison officers are invited to send immediately to the Centre all decisions which they consider important for other jurisdictions. The Centre will send copies to the other liaison officers.
- f. As far as possible, the above-mentioned documents should circulate in computer diskette format.