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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

**Workshop on the "functioning of the
Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia"
Riga, Latvia
3-4 July 1997**

S Y N O P S I S

Together with the Latvian Constitutional Court, the Venice Commission organised a workshop on the "Functioning of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia" on 3-4 July 97 in Riga. This workshop was the third in a series of seminars organised in co-operation with newly established Constitutional Courts. The first two seminars were held in October 1996 in Yerevan and in December 1996 in Tbilissi. The workshop in Riga is the first in this series in which the Venice Commission co-operated with the United States governmental body USAID (United States Agency for International Development). This co-operation enabled the invitation of participants from the Armenian and Georgian Constitutional Courts.

The workshop was well attended by about 60 persons (see list of participants in appendix II) including the Latvian Minister of Justice. It had two main thrusts (programme in appendix I): the first one was to discuss the individual complaint to the Constitutional Court and the other one, more practically orientated, was case management.

The international rapporteurs came from the Constitutional Courts of Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. USAID enabled the participation of an expert on case management from the US Supreme Court. The meeting led to a very fruitful exchange of experience between settled and more recently established Constitutional Courts, but, very importantly, also between the newer Courts.

This series of workshops is to continue with another seminar in Yerevan on "Constitutional Control and the protection of Human Rights" (22-24 October 1997) and in Tbilissi on "The Enforcement of decisions by Constitutional Control Bodies" (16-19 November 1997).

G. Buquicchio

Distribution

Members, Associate members and Observers
Permanent Representations
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A P P E N D I X I

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

Workshop on the "functioning of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia" Riga, Latvia, House of Journalists 3-4 July 1997

organised in co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Latvia and USAID

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P R O G R A M M E

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Thursday, 3 July 1997

Morning session, presided by Mr Aivars Endzi_š, Judge, Acting Chairman, Constitutional Court, Riga, Latvia

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|-------------|--|
| 10.00-10.30 | Opening speeches
Mr Aivars ENDZI_Š, Judge, Acting Chairman, Constitutional Court, Riga, Latvia
Mr. Gianni BUQUICCHIO, Secretary of the Venice Commission |
| 10.30-11.00 | The Constitutional complaint in Europe and the World
Mr Arne MAV_I_, Constitutional Court, Ljubljana, Slovenia |
| 11.00-11.20 | Discussion |
| 11.20-11.40 | Coffee break |
| 11.40-12.10 | The constitutional complaint: A model for Latvia ?
Mr Rom_ns AP_TIS, Judge, Constitutional Court, Riga, Latvia |
| 12.10-13.00 | Discussion (including Armenian and Georgian perspective) |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch |

Afternoon session, presided by Mr K_stutis LAPINSKAS, Judge, Constitutional Court, Vilnius, Lithuania

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| 14.30-15.00 | Suitable rights for constitutional complaint
Mr Jan KLU_KA, Judge, Constitutional Court, Košice, Slovakia |
| 15.00-15.30 | Discussion |
| 15.30-15.50 | Coffee break |
| 15.50-16.10 | The constitutional complaint: avoiding excessive case-load
Ms Carola VON PACZENSKY, Judge, Administrative Court, Hamburg, Legal Clerk, Constitutional Court, Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 16.10 | Discussion |
| 19.00 | Reception at the Constitutional Court |

Friday, 4 July 1997

**Morning session presided by Mr Jan KLUKA,
Judge, Constitutional Court, Košice, Slovakia**

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| 10.00-10.30 | Establishing procedures and practice: Latvian requirements
Mr. Aivars ENDZIŠ, Judge, Acting Chairman, Constitutional Court, Riga, Latvia |
| 10.30-11.00 | Discussion (including Armenian and Georgian perspective) |
| 11.00-11.30 | The "life cycle" of a case before the Constitutional Court
Ms Britta WAGNER, Secretary General, Constitutional Court, Vienna, Austria |
| 11.30-11.50 | Discussion |
| 11.50-12.10 | Coffee break |
| 12.10-12.40 | The role of documentation and international comparative studies
Ms Halina PLAK, Head of the Library and Documentation Centre, Constitutional Tribunal, Warszawa, Poland |
| 12.40-13.00 | Discussion |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch |

**Afternoon session presided by
Mr Andrejs LEPE, Judge, Constitutional Court,
President of the Latvian Association of Judges, Riga, Latvia**

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|-------------|---|
| 14.30-15.00 | The effects of decisions by the Constitutional Court
Mr Kestutis LAPINSKAS, Judge, Constitutional Court, Vilnius, Lithuania |
| 15.00-15.20 | Discussion |
| 15.20-15.40 | Coffee break |
| 15.40-16.30 | General discussion |
| 16.30 | Closure
Mr Aivars ENDZIŠ, Judge, Acting Chairman, Constitutional Court, Riga, Latvia
Mr. Gianni BUQUICCHIO, Secretary of the Venice Commission |

APPENDIX II

