

Strasbourg, 29 October 1997
<s:\cdl\doc\97\cdl-ju\42.e>

Restricted
CDL-JU (97) 42
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

**Advertising campaign
for the Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law / CODICES**

* * *

Letter to legal journals indicated by Liaison Officers

JDemJu.*
s:\cdl\ju\lettre\revues.e

Strasbourg, *

Dear Sir/Madam,

The **Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law**, published by the Venice Commission, is well past the pilot stage and has found its cruising speed.

Three times a year the **Bulletin** presents a selection of the most important decisions of constitutional courts and equivalent jurisdictions of Greater Europe and of non-European countries, as well as decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice.

As you will see from the Bulletin issue I have enclosed, the presentation of these decisions has been given the utmost care with a view to allowing easy access by all those interested in constitutional case-law in Europe to the key elements of the decisions.

The Venice Commission has now launched a new database, **CODICES**, on CD-ROM.

CODICES is 10,000 pages of text: that is, all the issues of the Bulletin and, above all, the full texts of decisions of constitutional courts throughout Europe and the full texts of the Constitutions of these countries, as well as the statutes of their constitutional courts.

These Venice Commission publications are available in French and English, since our intention is also to make constitutional case-law accessible to the widest possible readership.

Please find enclosed a more detailed presentation of these two publications, which you may consider using to inform your readers of our work. The editorial team of the Venice Commission and I will, of course, be at your disposal for any further information you may require. At your request we would be pleased to give you a complimentary subscription to the **Bulletin** and to send you a sample of our **CD-ROM CODICES**.

Yours faithfully,

G. BUQUICCHIO
Secretary of the Commission

Enc.
Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law 1997/1
text.pub on paper and on diskette
Order form

CONSTITUTIONAL CASE-LAW

The **Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law** is a publication of the **European Commission for Democracy through Law**, also known as Venice Commission. Published in French and English, the Bulletin offers summaries of the most important decisions of constitutional courts and equivalent jurisdictions of Greater Europe and of several non-European countries, as well as decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice.

The novel concept and presentation of the Bulletin are aimed at quickly informing the reader of the key points of a decision. Following a brief presentation of the legal issues raised, the summary presents the case and the reasoning of the decision in its context. A systematic thesaurus especially developed by the Venice Commission and liaison officers of participating courts allows easy access to the information required.

The Bulletin thus offers a broad, periodic update on constitutional developments considered by around forty constitutional jurisdictions.

As the Venice Commission is eager to increase the distribution of case-law of constitutional courts and to provide a site for European constitutional case-law accessible to the widest possible readership, it edits a **CD-ROM CODICES**, which is a database of considerable proportions.

CODICES consists of all issues of the Bulletin and, most importantly, the full texts of decisions of constitutional courts throughout Europe and the full texts of the Constitutions of these countries, as well as the statutes of their constitutional courts.

CODICES corresponds to 10,000 pages of text, in which any kind of search is possible. Links have been established to allow the reader to jump from the summary of a decision to its corresponding full-text version or even directly to the relevant article of the constitution. For example, the user can quickly find the important European decisions relating to the freedom of the press, read certain full text versions of these decisions, refer to the relevant constitutional provisions and finally print the results of the search.

Constitutional issues affect all legal fields: the **Bulletin** and **CODICES** will be of interest to constitutional lawyers and all practitioners interested in the evolution of the law.

The Venice Commission was created in 1990 as a Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe. It consists of independent experts and its goal is to advise old and new democracies in the field of constitutional law.

Queries may be addressed to **Rudolf Dürr, Venice Commission**, Tel. +33388413908, Fax +33388413738, e-mail: <schnutz.durr@daj.coe.fr>.

Subscribe at **Council of Europe Publications**, F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex, Fax +33388412780, e-mail: <sophie.lobey@seddoc.coe.fr>. Special prices are available for subscribers in central and eastern Europe.