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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

**International seminar on Constitutional Control
and the protection of Human Rights**

Yerevan, Armenia, 22 - 24 October 1997

organised by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia,
and the Venice Commission
in co-operation with USAID and COLPI

S Y N O P S I S

Together with the Armenian Constitutional Court, the Venice Commission organised a seminar on "Constitutional Control and the protection of Human Rights". In this seminar, the Venice Commission co-operated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNDP and the Constitutional and Legislative Policy Institute in Budapest (COLPI). This co-operation enabled the invitation of speakers and participants from several other Constitutional Courts.

On the sidelines of the seminar, the participants were received by the President of the Republic Mr Levon Ter Petrossian who expressed his appreciation of the work done.

A major part of the discussion was devoted to the possibility of introducing an individual complaint to the Armenian Constitutional Court which is not foreseen in the Constitution and the Law on the Constitutional Court.

International rapporteurs who presented papers came from Belgium, France, Latvia, Italy, Poland and the USA. They focused *inter alia* on the individual complaint to the Constitutional Court, social and economic rights and the Office of the Ombudsman. The meeting led to a very useful exchange of experience between the Constitutional Courts present.

At the end of the seminar and upon a proposal by the Armenian Constitutional Court, the participants adopted a resolution expressing their appreciation of the role of the Venice Commission in the organisation of such seminars.

On the sidelines of this seminar, the Constitutional Courts of Armenia, Belarus (invited by the Armenian Court), Kazakstan (Constitutional Council), Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tadjikistan founded a permanent Conference of Constitutional Courts and invited organs of constitutional control from other new democracies to join in this Conference.

Further seminars in this series of workshops in 1997 are in Tbilissi on "The Enforcement of decisions by Constitutional Control Bodies" (16-19 November 1997) and Baku on "Essential Elements of a Constitutional Court" (4-5 December 1997).

G. BUQUICCHIO

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