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## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

(VENICE COMMISSION)

### **Seminar on “Electoral Disputes before the Constitutional Court” (Yerevan, 15-16 October 1998)**

## **S Y N O P S I S**

The European Commission for Democracy through Law organised, in co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Armenia, a seminar on “Electoral Disputes before the Constitutional Court” in Yerevan on 15-16 October 1998.

This seminar brought together around 50 participants (members of Constitutional Courts, University professors, and politicians).

The theme of electoral disputes was studied in a comparative manner. Emphasis was laid on procedural aspects, without at the same time neglecting questions of substance. A general report on electoral disputes in comparative law was presented by Mr Bernard Owen, of the Paris II-Assas University. The rest of the seminar was devoted to national reports and contributions, relating to both Western Europe as well to the new democracies. Interventions were made either by University professors - Mr Dominique Rousseau (France); Mr Etienne Grisel (Switzerland) - or by members or representatives of Constitutional Courts - Ms Margarita Zlatareva (Bulgaria); Mr Fayzulo Abduloev (Tadjikistan); Mr Karl-H. Zoll (Germany). Electoral disputes in Armenia were presented by two judges of the Constitutional Court, Ms Alvina Gyulumyan and Mr Felix Tokhian, member of the Court, who placed it within the framework of constitutional reform in Armenia. Mr Egidijus Bieliūnas, member of the European Court of Human Rights, gave a report on the case law of the organs of the European Court of Human Rights in the field of electoral disputes.

This seminar is part of a group of seminars and workshops organised since October 1996 by the Venice Commission in co-operation with the new Constitutional Courts (CoCoSem).