



Strasbourg, 23 October 2006

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**in co-operation with**

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF MOLDOVA**

**CONFERENCE**

**on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
independence of the Republic of Moldova**

**SOVEREIGNTY AND STATE STRUCTURE  
OF PLURI-ETHNIC COUNTRIES**

22-23 September 2006  
Chisinau, Moldova

**PROGRAMME**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE****“SOVEREIGNTY AND STATE STRUCTURE IN PLURIETHNIC COUNTRIES”****DEVOTED TO 15 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA****KISHINEV, 22 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2006***REPUBLIC PALACE (2B, CONFERENCES HALL,  
NICOLAE IORGA STREET)***ORGANIZERS: JURISTS UNION OF MOLDOVA, THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR  
DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION)****WITH THE SUPPORT OF: THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY  
THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION) AND THE GERMAN FOUNDATION  
FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION (IRZ)**Thursday, 21 September 2006

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 13.00 – 19.00 | - <b>Arrival of foreign participants</b>    |
|               | - <b>Accommodation at the “Codru” Hotel</b> |
| 19.00 – 21.00 | - <b>Supper</b>                             |

Friday, 22 September 2006

09.00 – 09.30 Registration of participants

09.30 – 10.00 Opening speeches:

- Dr. Gheorghe Avornic, **Professor, Dean of Law Faculty of the State University of Moldova (sum), President of the Jurists Union of Moldova**
- Mr. Victor Puscas, **President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova**
- Mr. Thomas Markert, **Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe**
- **Mr. Wolfram Hertig**, *Project Assistant for Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Belarus, German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation(IRZ)*

10.00 – 11.30

First working session

*“Sovereignty concept and its prerogatives”*Moderator – Dr. Gheorghe Avornic, **Professor, Dean of Law Faculty of the State University of Moldova (sum), President of the Jurists Union of Moldova**

Presentations:

10.00 – 10.15

- Mr. Victor Puscas, **President of the Constitutional Court of Moldova, „Concept of sovereignty and its prerogatives”**

10.15 – 10.30

- Mr. Jean-Claude Colliard, **Professor, Member of the Constitutional Council of France, “Unity’s principle of the Republic and its organizing”**

- Mr. Victor Stepaniuc, **President of the Parliamentary Commission for**

- 10.30 – 10.45 ***culture, science, education, youth, sports and mass-media, “Moldovan state structure in the contemporary time”***
- Discussions
- 10.45 – 11.30  
- Coffee break
- 11.30 – 11.50  
2<sup>nd</sup> Working session
- 11.50 – 13.30 ***“Sovereignty and state structure in pluriethnic countries”***
- Moderator – Dr. Alexandru Burian, ***Professor, Director of the History, State and Law Institute, Academy of Science of Moldova***
- Presentations:
- 11.50 – 12.05 - Mr. Thomas Markert, *Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe*, „Practical aspects of the state structure interdependence with the pluriethnic nature of the state”
- 12.05 – 12.25 - Dr. Gertrude Lubbe-Wolff, ***Professor, Judge of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany***, „Integration function of the onstitutional law in multi-ethnic states”
- 12.25 – 12.40 - Mr. Josef Marko, ***Professor, University of Graz, Austria***, „Constitutional aspects of sovereignty and state structure in pluriethnic countries”
- 12.40 – 12.55 - Mr. Boris s. Ebzeev, ***Judge to the Constitutional Court of Russian Federation***, ”Sovereignty and state structure in pluriethnic countries”
- 12.55 – 13.30 - Discussions, conclusions
- 13.30 – 14.30 - Lunch
- 15.00 – 16.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> Working session
- “Legal background of the sovereignty in the Republic of Moldova in the light of the national and international law”***
- Moderator – Mr. Nicu Popescu, ***OI Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels***
- Presentations:
- 15.00 – 15.15 - Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, ***Romanian substitute Member of the Veuropean Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)***, „Ethnic groups and concept of national politics in the Republic of Moldova. The national identity and the European concept of nation”
- 15.15 – 15.30 - Dr. Alexandru Burian, ***Professor, Director of the History, State and Law Institute, Academy of Science of Moldova***, „Moldovan sovereignty in the contemporaneous geopolitical context”

15.30 – 16.00 - Discussions

16.00 – 16.20 - Coffee break

4<sup>th</sup> Working session

16.20 – 17.30 “Sovereignty exercise in the European doctrine and practice”

Moderator – mr. Victor Puscas, ***President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova***

Presentations:

16.20 – 16.35 - Mr. Volodya Hovhannisyan, ***Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia***, “**Protection of human rights within unrecognized states the European Convention on Human Rights (1950)**”

16.35 – 16.50 - Mr. Vytautas Sinkevicius, ***Judge to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania***, “**State language – a constitutional value in the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania**”

16.50 – 17.05

17.05 – 17.30 - Dr. Ion Guceac, ***Professor, State University of Moldova (sum)***, “**National sovereignty’s future in the context of European integration**”

- Discussions, conclusions

Saturday, 23 September 2006

10.00 – 13.00

5<sup>th</sup> Working session

”*Theoretical and practical issues of the sovereignty in the Republic of Moldova*”

Moderator – Mr. Thomas Markert, ***Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe***

Presentations:

10.00 – 10.15 - Mr. Bruno Coppieters, ***Professor of Political Science, Vrije Universiteit Brussels***, “**The future of the national sovereignty in the European integration context**”

10.15 – 10.30 - Mr. Oazu Nantoi, ***Programme Director, Institute for Public Policy from Moldova, Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Moldova***, “**Russian policies towards the conflicts in Moldova and/or Georgia**”

10.30 – 10.45 - Mr. Nicu Ppopescu, ***OSI Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels***, “**Democracy in secessionism: Abkhazia and Transnistria in a comparative perspective**”

10.45 – 12.00

Discussions, conclusions

12.00 – 13.00

- Closing speeches (Moderators: Dr. Gheorghe Avornic, Mr. Victor Puscas, , Dr. Alexandru Burian, Mr. Nicu Popescu, Mr. Thomas Markert)