



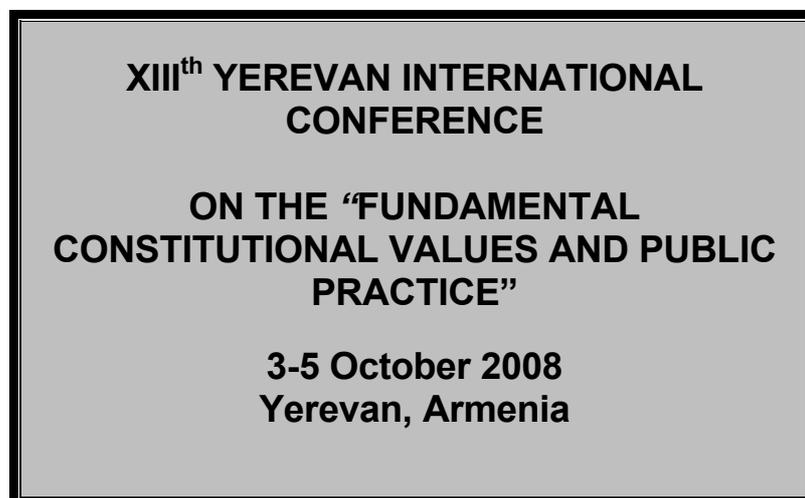
Strasbourg, 30 October 2008

**CDL-JU (2008)037syn**  
Engl. only

**CoCoSem 2008 / 010**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

in co-operation with  
the Constitutional Court of Armenia  
and  
the Conference of the Organs of Constitutional Controls of the Countries of Young  
Democracy



**SYNOPSIS**

The Constitutional Court of Armenia together with the Venice Commission and the conference of Constitutional Control Organs of Countries of Young Democracy (CCCOCYD) organised a conference on "Fundamental constitutional values and public practice", dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the „Constitutional Justice“ international bulletin of the CCCOCYD. This event took place in Yerevan on 3-5 October 2008.

Ms Tania Groppi (Italy) and Messrs James Hamilton (Ireland) and Evgeni Tanchev (Bulgaria) acted as rapporteurs for the Venice Commission. The purpose of this conference was to discuss and exchange information on how fundamental constitutional values are protected in different countries and how these are implemented by the courts (representatives from 20 countries/courts were present at this event).

The following participated in this conference (around 50 participants): President of the Republic of Armenia Mr Sargsyan, Presidents from the constitutional courts of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova and Poland; judge from the European Court of Human Rights; judges and members of the constitutional courts of Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine, the Ambassador of the OSCE in Armenia and presidents of the District Court of Nicosia and the Tribunal of Haarlem.

The conference considered the role of state policy and public practice to guarantee the implementation of fundamental constitutional values, discussing the importance of the rule of law, the role of civil society in the protection of these values, the social contradictions and conflicts that can arise and the role of the European Court of Human Rights and that of constitutional courts in various countries in the protection and the development of these values. Participants discussed, among others, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, the role of parliament with respect to the constitutional court and individual complaints. They then focused more particularly on property rights and the issue of the overburdening of constitutional courts with abstract revision cases and the trend in a number of countries that encourages ordinary courts to deal with constitutional issues themselves, without systematically turning to the constitutional court.

At this event, Mr Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission, was honoured with the medal of the Constitutional Court of Armenia for the good co-operation between this Court and the Venice Commission.

Mr Harutyunyan, the President of the Constitutional Court of Armenia, suggested that the proceedings of this conference be published by the end of this year and then distributed at the First World Conference on Constitutional Justice in Cape Town, South Africa, on 22-24 January 2008.