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

**in co-operation with**  
**Constitutional Court of Serbia**

**CONFERENCE**

**“CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS  
ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION”**

**BELGRADE, SERBIA, 2 JUNE 2009**

**SYNOPSIS**

The Conference on the “Constitutional restrictions on the freedom of association” was organised by the Constitutional Court of Serbia in co-operation with the Venice Commission in Belgrade on 2 June 2009.

The Conference gathered together around 40 participants: presidents of the constitutional courts of Serbia and Montenegro, Serbian judges, the Minister of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia, the Minister of Public Administration and Local Self Government of Serbia, the Ombudsman of Serbia, law professors and other legal professionals.

The aim of the Conference was to discuss acceptable limitations to the freedom of association and the role of the constitutional court and other institutions in protecting this freedom.

Serbia’s Parliament should be adopting a law on associations very soon. Several bills on associations had been prepared over the past 9 years, which were never adopted by Parliament – and it looked as if this new bill was going to finally be adopted.

The Conference also discussed the problem of whether or not to prohibit the illegal activities of unregistered associations and if so, how. Note was however taken that in those countries in Europe that have laws regulating the prohibition of associations/political parties, there was a general reluctance to apply them.