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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF
A VENICE-MONNET WEB-FORUM**

The “Classic” Venice Forum (for the guidelines, see [CDL-JU\(2008\)001rev](#)) and the Venice Forum Newsgroup (see <https://cwsn.coe.int/team21/veniceforum> with password) give the liaison officers at constitutional courts and equivalent bodies the opportunity to exchange information on their courts’ work and to request information from one another on relevant issues. The Classic Forum (via e-mail) is available to courts in member and observer states of the Venice Commission, the web-based Newsgroup is also available to courts, which are a part of a regional co-operation (e.g. ACCPUF, SACJF, etc.).

In practice, the Classic Forum is used mostly to request case-law on specific topics and the Newsgroup is used to post information about appointments or recent court decisions. However, there is very little academic exchange in both forums.

In order to promote such academic discussion, the Secretariat of the Venice Commission and Mr Rainer Arnold, Jean Monnet Professor of Constitutional Law in Regensburg, Germany, would like to propose the creation of a new web-forum, which would be open to:

1. Constitutional Courts and equivalent bodies through their liaison officers or, on request, to other persons at the courts;
2. members of the Venice Commission and
3. researchers proposed by these groups of users as well as by Professor Arnold and the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL).

The subjects discussed should relate to constitutional law, including human rights law, with a focus on constitutional justice. The Forum should not be used to denounce individual cases of human rights violations, but remain on the level of constitutional law.

While the Venice Commission would maintain the web-site of the Forum (accounts etc.), the Forum itself would be moderated by Professor Arnold and his team in Regensburg. This moderation would comprise – to the extent possible – some simplified indexing of contributions in order to facilitate retrieval and – if ever necessary – the removal of libellous messages. Discussion and academic criticism of case-law should of course be encouraged.

The Venice Commission will not intervene in the moderation and declines any responsibility for the contents and the moderation, but reserves the right to terminate its co-operation if it was dissatisfied with the persistent use of the Forum or its moderation after a three-months' notice period.

On a technical basis, the Forum (using the MS-SharePoint software) would allow for contributions – posts – and replies to these posts, replies to the replies etc. to be made. The Forum would also provide for documents to be uploaded and provide a calendar on upcoming events.