

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**19th Meeting of the
Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice
with the Liaison Officers from
Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Bodies
and
1st meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice

(Larnaca, 31 May 2002)**

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Opening speech by Mr G.M. PIKIS, President of the Supreme Court of Cyprus

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Revision of the Statute of the Venice Commission

According to the revised statute of the Venice Commission (CDL (2002) 27), the meetings of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice with the liaison officers will be replaced by those of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice. The liaison officers will be invited to elect a co-president of this body.

3. Communication by the Secretariat

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the training session for liaison officers held the previous day and about new appointments of liaison officers.

4. Updating of data on the participating courts

The liaison officers will be invited to inform the Secretariat of any changes to data contained in the list of constitutional courts (CDL-JU (2002) 3), the list of liaison officers (CDL-JU (2002) 4) and the list of web sites of constitutional courts and equivalent bodies (CDL-JU (2002) 5).

5. Co-operation of Constitutional Courts on the Internet: Venice Forum

The Secretariat will present the revised document CDL-JU (2002) 6 on requests via the Venice Forum and replies given by other liaison officers. The participants will be invited to approve document CDL-JU (2002) 7 on Guidelines for the use of the Venice Forum.

6. Co-operation activities
- 6.a Series of seminars with Constitutional Courts (CoCoSem)

The Secretariat will inform the participants about seminars held since the last meeting and about future seminar projects. The liaison officers will be invited to inform the Secretariat on further requests for CoCoSems. The participants will be invited to make suggestions for the further improvement of the organisation of CoCoSems (CDL-JU (2002) 9).

6.b Co-operation with the Association of Constitutional Courts using the French Language (ACCPUF)

Ms Pauti, the new Secretary General of ACCPUF, will be invited to inform the participants about the signature of the Protocol to the co-operation agreement between ACCPUF and the Venice Commission on 26-27 January 2002 in Djibouti and the development of the relations between the ACCPUF and the Commission.

6.c Co-operation with Constitutional Courts and equivalent bodies in Southern Africa

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the meeting of liaison officers from the Southern African region in Mangochi, Malawi on 14-15 November 2001 and the integration of the case-law of the participating courts into the CODICES database (CDL-JU (2001) 40).

6.d Co-operation with Latin American Courts

The participants will be invited to discuss the possibilities for co-operation with Latin American Courts (CDL-JU (2002) 10).

6.e Co-operation with the Conference of the Constitutional Courts of the New Democracies

Mr. Vahanian, liaison officers from Armenia, will inform the participants about the work of the Conference of the Constitutional Courts of the New Democracies to co-operate with the Venice Commission.

7. Publication of the Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law

7.a Publication of the regular Bulletin

Bulletin 2001/2 will be available to the participants. Bulletin 2001/3 will be under preparation. The liaison officers will be reminded that the date of the meeting coincides with the deadline for contributions to Bulletin 2002/1.

The participants will be reminded of the guidelines for the presentation of the *précis* (CDL-JU (2001) 5), which should be taken into account when preparing the *précis*. Document CDL-JU (2002) 22 contains revised instructions for the sending of contributions to the Secretariat by e-mail.

7.b Special Bulletin Basic Texts 6

Issue 6 of the series of Special Bulletin on Basic Texts will be presented. The participants will be invited to decide whether basic texts concerning courts which have not yet been published in issues 1 to 6 should figure in the regular Bulletins or in an issue 7 of this series.

7.c Special Bulletins Relations

Mme Rasson and Mr. Rykboer will be invited to inform the participants about the reactions of the Conference of the European Constitutional Courts (Brussels, 15-17 May 2002) to the working document on "The relations between the constitutional courts and the other national courts, including the interference in this area of the action of the European courts" - CDL-JU (2002) 11, which had been prepared upon request by the Court of Arbitration of Belgium holding the Presidency of the Conference. The Liaison officers will be invited to indicate whether they wish to make any further amendments to the document before the end of June 2002 before its final publication as a Special Bulletin in autumn.

7.d Special Bulletin Leading Cases

The Secretariat will report on the advancement of the inclusion of the leading cases of all participating courts into the database CODICES. The participants will be invited to decide whether these contributions should also be published in the form of Special Bulletins as had been proposed by Ms Alberini-Boillat from the Swiss Federal Tribunal at the last meeting. Following the example of the Basic Texts, each issue of such a series could contain contributions from several courts together (see document CDL-JU (2002) 12 as an example of such a Bulletin).

8. Publication of CODICES

8.a Presentation of a new version of CODICES

The Secretariat will present version 4.2 2001/2 of CODICES (<http://codices.coe.int> and CD-ROM CD-ROM Users guide (CDL-JU (2002) 13).

New elements of this version are:

- Merger of the English and French versions
- Inclusion of a book on the Alphabetical Index
- Inclusion of Cross-references within the Alphabetical Index and from there to the Systematic Thesaurus
- Searches according to the hierarchical level of elements within the keywords of the alphabetical index
- Inclusion of geographical groups (search by continent or international organisation)

- Improved query masks providing simplified access to the title of the decision, the geographical group, the number and text of the keyword chain of the indexation according to the Systematic Thesaurus.

8.b Inclusion of full texts of decisions into the CODICES database

The liaison officers will be invited to provide or to continue to provide full texts of decisions in electronic form (e-mail diskette). Document CDL-JU (2002) 14 shows updated statistics on the available full texts sorted by language and by country.

8.c Indexing of constitutions in CODICES

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the progress of the project of indexation of the constitutions article by article (see document CDL-JU (2002) 15).

8.d Updating of Constitutions, Laws on the Courts and Descriptions within CODICES

The liaison officers will be invited to inform the Secretariat of necessary changes in Constitutions, Laws on the Courts and Descriptions as compared to the texts contained in CODICES.

The Secretariat will update the participants about the project to publish constitutions in French and now also in English in co-operation with the publishers Documentation française and Kluwers respectively. The publication in French had already been discussed at the last meeting, whereas the project of publishing also in English had come up afterwards. Liaison officers had been invited to kindly review a short introduction to their country's constitution and to provide the latest amendments to it.

9. Data input mask

9.a CD-Rom input mask V1.6 T13

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the problems linked to Version 1.5T 13 of the Input Mask. Version 1.6 T13 will be made available to the liaison officers.

9.b Internet input mask

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the new data input mask available for the liaison officers on the restricted web site of the Venice Commission <http://venice.coe.int/ju>. This site already provides information about the current meeting, the list of courts and liaison officers and CDL-JU documents. Henceforth, the site will also allow for the on-line data entry for CODICES via an input mask. The liaison officers will receive individual passwords for access to the mask.

10. Amendments to version 13 of the Systematic Thesaurus

The participants will be invited to approve the proposals for version 14 of the Systematic Thesaurus (CDL-JU (2002) 16 prov., document to be produced after the meeting of the Working Group on 30 May) to be made by the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus which will have met the previous day in Larnaca (on the basis of a proposal in document CDL-JU (2002) 17).

The Secretariat will present the revised dictionaries of keywords of the Alphabetical Index including cross-references (CDL-JU (2002) 18 and 19).

11. Library of the Centre on Constitutional Justice

The participants will receive the updated list of documents available at the library of the Centre on Constitutional Justice (CDL-JU (2002) 20). This list is also available on the web sites of the Venice Commission (<http://venice.coe.int> and <http://venice.coe.int/ju>).

Liaison officers from Courts for which the Library does not yet contain the digest or other publication by the Courts (also in original language) will kindly be invited to assist the Secretariat in obtaining these resources for the benefit of the users of the library.

12. Other business

13. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice could take place in Spring 2003, possibly upon the invitation of one of the participating courts at the seat of the latter.

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF 2002 CDL-JU DOCUMENTS

CDL-JU (2002) 3:

List of Constitutional Courts

CDL-JU (2002) 4:

List of liaison officers

CDL-JU (2002) 5:

Websites of Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Bodies

CDL-JU (2002) 6:

Venice Forum requests

CDL-JU (2002) 7:

Guidelines for the use of the Venice Forum

CDL-JU (2002) 9:

Guidelines for the organisation of CoCoSems

CDL-JU (2002) 10:

Co-operation with Latin American Courts

CDL-JU (2002) 11:

Working document on The relations between the constitutional courts and the other national courts, including the interference in this area of the action of the European Courts

CDL-JU (2002) 12:

Example of Special Bulletin on Leading Cases

CDL-JU (2002) 13:

CODICES CD-Rom Users Guide Version 4.2

CDL-JU (2002) 14:

Updated statistics on available full texts of decisions in CODICES

CDL-JU (2002) 15:

Indexation of Constitutions article by article

CDL-JU (2002) 16 prov.:

Amendments to Version 13 of the Systematic Thesaurus Proposals by the Working Group in Lamaca

CDL-JU (2002) 17:

Amendments to Version 13 of the Systematic Thesaurus Proposals to the Working Group

CDL-JU (2002) 18:

Revised dictionary English-French of keywords of the Alphabetical Index including cross-references

CDL-JU (2002) 19:

Revised dictionary French-English of keywords of the Alphabetical Index including cross-references

CDL-JU (2002) 20:

List of documents available at the Library of the Centre on Constitutional Justice

CDL-JU (2002) 21:

List of publications quoted in the Bulletin

CDL-JU (2002) 22:

Revised instructions for sending contributions by e-mail

CDL (2002) 27

Resolution RES (2002) 3 adopting the Revised Statute of the European Commission for Democracy through Law

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTS

- Report of the 18th meeting of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice with the liaison officers (Koice) [CDL-JU-PV (2001) 18]
- Systematic Thesaurus version 13 [CDL-JU (2001) 26 rev.]
- Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law 2001/2
- CD-Rom 2001/2
- CDL-JU (2001) 4 Functions of liaison officers
- Special Bulletin Basic Texts 6

- Synopsis First meeting of Liaison officers from Constitutional Courts and equivalent bodies from the Southern African Region (SADC), Mangochi, Malawi, 5-6 November 2001 (CDL-JU (2001) 40).

- Djibouti Protocol to the Vaduz Agreement between ACCPUF and the Venice Commission [F/E]