



Strasbourg, 27 January 2004

Restricted  
**CDL-JU-OJ (2004) 001ann-e**  
**Or. Engl.**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice**  
**(Venice, 10 March 2004)**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**2. Election of the Co-chair in respect of the liaison officers**

The liaison officers are invited to make known to the Secretariat candidates for the co-chair of the Joint Council in respect of the liaison officers. The mandate of the co-chair in respect of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice, the President of which is elected by the Plenary Session of the Commission, continues until March 2005.

**3. Communication by the Secretariat**

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

**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 (2004) 6), the list of liaison officers (CDL-JU (2004) 7) and the list of web sites of constitutional courts and equivalent bodies (CDL-JU (2004) 8).

## **5. Co-operation between Constitutional Courts on the Internet: Venice Forum**

The Secretariat will present the confidential document CDL-JU (2004) 9 on requests via the Venice Forum and replies given by other liaison officers.

## **6. Availability of the Venice Commission to act as *amicus curiae* for Constitutional Courts**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the possibility for constitutional courts and equivalent bodies to request studies in comparative constitutional law from the Venice Commission relating to cases before them. In such studies, the Venice Commission would not embark upon the question before the Court, e.g. whether a particular law is in conformity with the national constitution or not but would only provide information on aspects of comparative law.

## **7. Co-operation activities**

### **7.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 (CDL-JU (2004) 10) and the programme of CoCoSems for 2004.

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

The Secretariat of ACCPUF will be invited to inform the participants about the development of the relations between the ACCPUF and the Commission.

### **7.c Co-operation with Constitutional Courts and equivalent bodies in Southern Africa**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the programme of co-operation between the Venice Commission and constitutional and supreme courts of the Southern African Region funded by the Norwegian and Swiss governments and, in particular about the integration of the case-law of these courts into the CODICES database.

### **7.d Co-operation with the Conference of the Constitutional Control Organs of the Countries of Young Democracy (CCCOCYD)**

The Secretariat will inform the participants on the progress of co-operation with Conference of the Constitutional Control Organs of the Countries of Young Democracy and the Venice Commission.

### **7.e Co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Belarus**

The Secretariat will inform the participants on co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Belarus.

#### **7.f Co-operation with the Conference of Constitutional Justice of Ibero-America, Spain and Portugal**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about prospects of co-operation with the Conference of Constitutional Justice of Ibero-America, Spain and Portugal.

### **8. Paper publications**

#### **8.a Regular issues of the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law***

*Bulletin* 2003/1 will be presented to the participants. *Bulletins* 2003/2 and 2003/3 will be under preparation.

#### **8.b Special *Bulletins***

The Cypriot Presidency of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts has asked the Venice Commission to produce a special *Bulletin* on the topic of the XIII<sup>th</sup> Conference to be held in Cyprus in May 2005 on limitations to human rights. The liaison officers from all participating courts will be asked to review existing case-law in CODICES and, if appropriate, to provide further case-law for such a *Bulletin*.

The Secretariat will invite liaison officers from older courts to contribute to the special *Bulletin* on "Leading Cases 2".

Following the Meeting of Secretaries General in Madrid in 2003, the Secretariat will inform the participants on the progress of a Special *Bulletin* on the Role of the Secretaries General.

#### **8.c New series of books on case-law of constitutional courts**

The Secretariat will inform the participants on a project by Council of Europe Publications to edit a series of books on various topics on the basis of case-law to be found in CODICES.

### **9. Electronic publication**

#### **9.a Presentation of a new version of CODICES**

The Secretariat will present the intermediary and final versions 4.3 2003/1 of CODICES and inform the participants about the future version 5.0 of CODICES on the basis of the NXT4 software which is to replace the Folio siteDirector and LivePublish software.

#### **9.b Inclusion of full texts of decisions into the CODICES database**

Document CDL-JU (2004) 11 shows updated statistics on available full texts in CODICES sorted by language and by country. The liaison officers will be invited to contribute missing full texts in electronic form on the basis of lists sent to them ahead of the meeting.

**9.c Updating of the 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 (document CDL-JU (2004) 12).

**9.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.

**9.e Data input mask**

The Secretariat will recall the advantages of using the CD-ROM and Internet input masks. The liaison officers will be invited to comment on the use of these masks.

**10. Revised web-site of the Venice Commission and restricted web-site for liaison officers**

Following a short presentation, the participants will be invited to comment on the revised web-site of the Commission and its restricted part for liaison officers.

The liaison officers will be invited to ask the web-masters of their courts establish links to the web-site of the Commission <http://venice.coe.int> (revised site will have same address).

**11. Documentation Centre on Constitutional Justice / Library**

The liaison officers will be invited to assist the Secretariat in obtaining digests or other publications published by the Courts for the Documentation Centre of the Commission (also in original language) for the benefit of the users of the library. The list of documents is available in document CDL-JU (2004) 15 and via the public and restricted web sites of the Venice Commission (<http://venice.coe.int> and <http://venice.coe.int/ju>).

**12. Amendments to version 15 of the Systematic Thesaurus**

The participants will be invited to approve the proposals by the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus for version 16 of the Systematic Thesaurus (CDL-JU (2004) 13 prov. - document to be produced after the meeting of the Working Group on 8 March on the basis of proposals in document CDL-JU (2004) 14).

**13. Other business****14. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice could take place in Spring 2005 upon invitation by a participating court kindly offering to host the meeting. Liaison officers from courts wishing to do so are invited to inform the Secretariat before the meeting.