



COUNCIL OF EUROPE      CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 29 March 2006

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CDL-JU-OJ(2006)001ann  
Or. Engl.

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

**5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice**

**(Budapest, 15 June 2006, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
16 June 2006, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.)**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Election of a liaison officer as Co-President of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice**

The liaison officers are kindly requested to indicate nominations for the co-presidency to the Secretariat before the meeting.

- 3. Communication by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about new appointments of liaison officers and current activities of the Venice Commission.

The participants will be informed that, due to significant reductions in the budget of the Venice Commission, documents will be sent only electronically following the present meeting. All

liaison officers who have not yet done so will be invited to provide an e-mail address in order to continue to receive CDL-JU documents.

#### **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(2006)007), the list of liaison officers (CDL-JU(2006)008) and the list of web sites of constitutional courts and equivalent bodies (CDL-JU(2006)009).

#### **5. Venice Forum – e-mail based and Newsgroup**

The participants will be asked to discuss their experience with the new restricted web-site for the replies to the e-mail Venice Forum ([www.venice.coe.int/ju/VeniceForum](http://www.venice.coe.int/ju/VeniceForum)) and the new Venice Forum Newsgroup ([www.team10.coe.int/veniceforum/Lists/Newsgroup/AllItems.aspx](http://www.team10.coe.int/veniceforum/Lists/Newsgroup/AllItems.aspx) - user guide CDL-JU(2006)010).

The liaison officers will be asked whether they agree to be included in a wider setup of the e-mail Venice Forum (not the Newsgroup) including courts with which there is only regional co-operation (e.g. like ACCPUF courts) or whether they wish to continue to participate only in a Forum as currently limited to the courts in member and observer countries of the Venice Commission.

The participants will be asked whether they are interested in a restricted web-page with news on constitutional courts (fed via RFE/RL news), example:  
[http://www.venice.coe.int/ju/veniceforum/obs/obs\\_2006\\_02.htm](http://www.venice.coe.int/ju/veniceforum/obs/obs_2006_02.htm)

#### **6. Opinions of the Venice Commission on constitutional court legislation and *amicus curiae* opinions for Constitutional Courts**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about opinions of the Venice Commission on laws on constitutional courts and *amicus curiae* opinions given since the last meeting of the Joint Council.

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

##### **7.a Co-operation with the Conference of European Constitutional Courts**

The Secretariat will report on possibilities for enhanced co-operation with the Conference of European Constitutional Courts.

##### **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 ACCPUF and the Venice Commission.

##### **7.c Co-operation with Constitutional Courts and the Southern African Judges Commission**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the programme of co-operation between the Southern African Judges Commission and the Venice Commission funded by the Irish and Italian governments.

**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 the Conference of the Constitutional Control Organs of the Countries of Young Democracy and the Venice Commission.

**7.e Co-operation with the Network of Constitutional Courts of Asia**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about co-operation with the network of Constitutional Courts of Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand) and the Venice Commission.

**7.f Co-operation with the Conference of Constitutional Courts of Latin America, Spain and Portugal**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about possible co-operation with the Conference of Constitutional Courts of Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

**7.g Co-operation with the Union of Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about possible co-operation with the Union of Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils.

**8. Series of seminars with Constitutional Courts (CoCoSem)**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about seminars held since the last meeting and the programme of future CoCoSem seminars (Synopsis CDL-JU(2005)030syn. / CDL-JU(2005)031syn. / CDL-JU(2005)047syn. / CDL-JU(2005)058syn. / CDL-JU(2005)063syn. and CDL-JU(2005)064syn. / CDL-JU(2006)018syn. / CDL-JU(2006)019syn. / CDL-JU(2006)021syn.].

**9. Publication of the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law***

**9.a Regular issues of the *Bulletin***

*Bulletin* 2005/2 will be presented to the participants.

The Secretariat will report on the replies to the questionnaire on the *Bulletin* (CDL-JU(2006)017).

The Secretariat will report on measures taken to reduce the time needed for the publication of the *Bulletin*. The liaison officers will be invited to approve reducing the deadline for their contributions to two weeks after the end of the reference period.

Due to budgetary restrictions, the Secretariat will also discuss with the liaison officers the need to reduce the maximum number of Bulletins which each court can receive free of charge from 10 to 5 copies.

### **9.b Special Bulletins**

The Secretariat will inform the participants on the progress of the special Bulletins on limitations to human rights, requested by the Cypriot Presidency of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts, the special Bulletin on the “Status and Functions of the Secretary General”, “Leading Cases 2” and “Basic Texts 7”.

The participants will be invited to approve the production of a special Bulletin on a topic to be decided by the Preparatory meeting of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts (Vilnius, 7-9 September 2006).

## **10. CODICES database**

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

The Secretariat will present version 5.0 2005/1 of CODICES.

### **10.b Updating and indexing of constitutions and laws in 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 inform the participants about the progress of the project of indexation of the constitutions and laws on the courts article by article (see also state of updating in document (CDL-JU(2006)012).

### **10.c Data input mask**

The liaison officers will be invited to inform the Secretariat about their experience in the use of the internet input masks (for off-line version Microsoft Access required, mask available on CD-ROM and downloadable at [www.venice.coe.int/ju/mask1\\_8.mdb](http://www.venice.coe.int/ju/mask1_8.mdb) and the Internet mask at [www.venice.coe.int/ju/codices](http://www.venice.coe.int/ju/codices)).

## **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. The list of documents is available at [www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N\\_cocentre\\_ef.asp](http://www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_cocentre_ef.asp).

## **12. Version 18 of the Systematic Thesaurus**

The participants will be invited to approve the proposals by the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus for version 18 of the Systematic Thesaurus (CDL-JU(2006)013 - document to be produced after the meeting of the Working Group on 16 June 2006) on the basis of proposals in document CDL-JU(2006)014).

**13. Other business**

**14. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice could take place in May or June 2007 in Venice or upon the kind invitation of a participating court.

**‘Mini-conference’  
on Gender Equality  
Budapest 16 June 2006, 2.30 p.m. -6 p.m.**

**Opening**

**Introductory presentations (15 minutes max.)**

1. Ms C. Ostensen Noss, Deputy Head of the Juridical Secretariat, Supreme Court of Norway
2. Mr Ph. Singer, Head of Division, Court of Justice of the European Communities
3. Mr A. Mavcic, Head of the Analysis and International Co-operation Department, Constitutional Court of Slovenia (CDL-JU(2006)020)

**Discussion**

**Closure**