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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**17th Meeting of the
Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice
with the Liaison Officers from
Constitutional Courts and other equivalent bodies**

(Venise, 29 March 2000)

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda**2. Communication by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the new web site of the Venice Commission.

The liaison officers will be invited to inform the Secretariat of any changes to data contained in the list of constitutional courts and the list of liaison officers (CDL (2000) 1 and 2).

The participants will be invited to approve the revised model letter to new liaison officers, which summarises their tasks (CDL-JU (2000) 16).

3. Publication of the Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law**3.a. Publication of the regular Bulletin**

Bulletin 1999/2 will be available to the participants. Bulletin 1993/3 is being prepared.

The Secretariat will present document CDL (2000) 4 and 4add, which contains revised guidelines for the presentation of the précis to be published in the Bulletin. Document CDL (2000) 12prov is a special guide to the indexing of précis according to the Systematic Thesaurus and the Alphabetical Index (see also guide for the sending of contributions by e-mail CDL-JU (2000) 5). The participants will be invited to approve these documents.

The participants will be informed about the reply from the Publishing Department of the Council of Europe concerning the request at the last meeting for reduced rates for universities (CDL-JU (2000) 17).

3.b. Special Bulletins

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the courts for which extracts of the Constitution and the law on the court are to be presented in issue 6 of the series of Special Bulletins on Basic Texts, which is to be produced in 2000.

Mr Singer will inform the participants about the progress of the Special Bulletin on the Leading Cases of the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

Document CDL-JU (2000) 18, which will be presented by the Secretariat contains a preliminary version of the Russian translation of the Special Bulletin on the leading cases of the European Court of Human Rights.

In October 2000, the Conference of the European Constitutional Courts will choose a topic for its Conference to be held in Brussels. The Secretariat will propose to dedicate an issue of the series of Bulletins on Leading Cases on this topic.

Ms Plak will inform the participants about the project of the Constitutional Tribunal of Poland to edit a series of publications on the leading case-law of constitutional courts.

3.c. Use of the data input mask

The Secretariat will present version 1.3 of the data input mask, which supports cross-references within the Alphabetical Index and from the latter to the Systematic Thesaurus. This mask including version 12 of the Systematic Thesaurus is to be distributed to the liaison officers on the next CODICES CD-ROM (1999/3). See also conversion tables for certain special characters to be used in the mask: CDL-JU (2000) 14.

The liaison officers will be asked whether they are interested in the use of a data input mask on the web-site of the Venice Commission as an alternative to the existing data input mask.

4. Publication of CODICES

4.a. Presentation of a new version of CODICES

The Secretariat will present version 3.1 1999/2 of CODICES which enables searching in indexed constitutions according to the Systematic Thesaurus (revised User's Guide CDL-JU (2000) 20).

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the new server for CODICES on the Internet.

The participants will be informed on how to open CODICES without access restrictions.

4.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 (2000) 19 shows some statistics on the available full texts sorted by language and by country.

4.c. Indexing of constitutions in CODICES

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the progress of the indexation of the constitutions article by article (see document CDL-JU (2000) 11rev).

4.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.

4.e. Proposals for the further development of CODICES

The Secretariat will suggest the following improvements to CODICES:

- Links from referenced articles of the Constitutions back to the précis where they are cited (thus providing the case-law concerning a certain article of a constitution)
- Links from précis which have been published later to all those précis where they have been referred to (thus providing the evolution of case-law on a certain issue)
- The merger of the French and English versions of CODICES in order to allow for comparative searches in the two linguistic versions.

5. Co-operation of Constitutional Courts on the Internet

The liaison officers will be invited to inform the Secretariat about any necessary changes to the list of web-sites of constitutional courts and equivalent bodies (CDL-JU (2000) 3).

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the use of the “Venice Forum” for request by liaison officers.

6. Amendments to version 11 of the Systematic Thesaurus

The participants will be invited to approve the proposals for version 12 of the Thesaurus to be made by the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus, which is to meet in Venice on 28 March (CDL-JU (2000) 23 prov. to be produced during the meeting).

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 (CDL-JU (99) 23, 25, 30, 32 and CDL-JU (2000) 13, 22) and about future seminar projects.

The participants will be invited to approve document CDL-JU (2000) 9, which contains guidelines for the organisation of CoCoSems.

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

Ms Remy-Granger, the Secretary General of ACCPUF will inform the participants about the activities of the ACCPUF since the last meeting, and especially on regional seminars held on the indexing according to the Systematic Thesaurus of the Commission.

7.c. Possible Co-operation with Constitutional Courts in Southern Africa

The Secretariat will inform the participants about a seminar for Constitutional and Supreme Courts of the Southern African Region co-organised by the Venice Commission in Siavonga (Zambia) (CDL-JU (2000) 22), where these courts decided to make available their case-law on the Internet, possibly requesting the use of the Systematic Thesaurus for indexing at a later stage.

8. Centre on Constitutional Justice

The participants will be informed about the reorganisation of the Centre on Constitutional Justice and the project of including references to the resources of the Centre in the web-page of the Central library of the Council of Europe with a view to make the Centre better known to the public.

The liaison officers will be invited to inform the persons responsible for publications in their courts about the constant interest of the Centre to include official digests of the Courts and any other material published by the Courts (for a list of available documents, for which the Commission is most grateful to the donors, see CDL-JU (2000) 6)

9. Other business

10. Date and place of the next meeting

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