



Strasbourg, 26 April 2007

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**6th meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional
Justice**

**Venice, 29 May 2007, 2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
30 May 2007, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
(Training session for Liaison Officers on the use of
CODICES on Tuesday, 29 May
from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)**

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

**This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue. Unless the Venice Commission decides otherwise, it will be declassified a year after its issue according to the rules set up in Resolution CM/Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.*

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

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

3. 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(2007)005), the list of liaison officers (CDL-JU(2007)006) and the list of web sites of constitutional courts and equivalent bodies (CDL-JU(2007)007).

4. Venice Forum – Classic (e-mail based) and Newsgroup

The Secretariat will report on the exchanges having taken place via the 'classic' Venice Forum (available via the restricted web-site for the replies to the e-mail Venice Forum (www.venice.coe.int/ju/VeniceForum)).

The Secretariat will report on the opening of the Forum Newsgroup (www.team10.coe.int/veniceforum/Lists/Newsgroup/AllItems.aspx) - user guide CDL-JU(2006)010) to the liaison officers of courts co-operating with the Venice Commission on a regional basis (courts referred to under item 6 below).

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the new accounts (usernames and passwords), which will allow the participants to access both the restricted web-site of the Venice Commission for liaison officers (www.venice.coe.int/JU) and the Venice Forum Newsgroup.

The liaison officers are invited to comment on their experiences with the classic Forum and the Newsgroup.

5. Opinions of the Venice Commission

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.

The Secretariat will present the Commission's *vademecum* on constitutional justice (CDL-JU(2007)012), which gives an overview of the Commission's opinion in this field (citations of key elements of the opinions).

6. Co-operation activities**6.a Co-operation with the Conference of European Constitutional Courts**

The Secretariat will report on co-operation with the Conference of European Constitutional Courts (see also point 9.b below).

6.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.

6.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 government.

6.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.

6.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.

6.f Co-operation with the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice

The Secretariat will inform the participants about possible co-operation with the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice.

6.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.

6.h World Conference of Constitutional Justice

The Secretariat will inform the participants about the organisation of a World Conference on Constitutional Justice in early 2009, which is to bring together the all courts co-operating directly with the Venice Commission or via a regional body.

7. 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.

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

8.a Regular issues of the *Bulletin*

Bulletin 2006/2 will be presented to the participants.

8.b Special *Bulletins*

The Secretariat will inform the participants on the progress of the special *Bulletins* on “Leading Cases 2”, “Basic Texts 7” and on “Problems of Legislative Omission in Constitutional Case-Law”, prepared for the Conference of European Constitutional Courts.

9. CODICES database

9.a Presentation of a new version of CODICES

The Secretariat will present version 5.2 2006/2 of CODICES.

9.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 indexing of the constitutions and laws on the courts article by article (see also state of updating in document (CDL-JU(2007)008).

9.c Data input mask

The liaison officers will be reminded to use input masks for their contributions (for off-line version Microsoft Access required, mask available on CD-ROM and downloadable at www.venice.coe.int/ju/mask1_8.mdb and the Internet mask at www.venice.coe.int/ju/codices).

10. Documentation Centre on Constitutional Justice / Library

The Secretariat will inform the liaison officers about the availability of a special room for the library in the new premises of the Commission's Secretariat. The Secretariat will express its gratitude to the participating courts for providing their publications to the the Documentation Centre. The updated list of documents remains available at www.venice.coe.int/site/dynamics/N_cocentre_ef.asp.

11. Version 19 of the Systematic Thesaurus

The participants will be invited to approve the proposals by the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus for version 19 of the Systematic Thesaurus (CDL-JU(2007)009 - document to be produced after the meeting of the Working Group on 29 May 2007) on the basis of proposals in document CDL-JU(2007)010).

12. Other business

13. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice could take place in May or June 2008 upon the kind invitation of a participating court. The participating courts are invited to consider hosting the Commission and to make a proposal for future venues.

**'Mini-conference'
on the Principle of Proportionality
Venice, 30 May 2007, 2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

Opening

3 introductory presentations (15 minutes max.)

Discussion

Closure