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

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

**SYNOPSIS**

The Joint Council on Constitutional Justice of the Venice Commission held its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 10 March 2004 at the seat of the Commission in Venice. About 45 liaison officers and members of the Sub-Commission on Constitutional Justice participated at the meeting. The previous day, the Working Group on the Systematic Thesaurus had held its meeting followed by a training session for the liaison officers on drafting contributions to the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law* and the database CODICES.

The Joint Council on Constitutional Justice:

- elected Ms Reinhild Huppmann, liaison officer for the Constitutional Court of Austria, as co-chairman of the Joint Council in respect of the liaison officers;
- invited the liaison officers to inform the Secretariat of any changes to data contained in the list of constitutional courts, the list of liaison officers, the list of web sites of the courts, constitutions, laws on the courts and court descriptions as compared to the information contained on the Commission's web-site and CODICES respectively;
- took note of the requests and replies exchanged between the participating courts via the confidential Venice Forum and invited requesting courts to communicate to the Secretariat the decision, which was at the origin of the requests once it was adopted;
- invited the liaison officers to inform the presidents of their courts that the Venice Commission was available upon request to provide *amicus curiae* opinions to the courts;
- took note of the conferences and seminars held in co-operation with constitutional courts held since the last meeting and the programme of seminars for 2004 and 2005;
- took note of the development of the relations between the Venice Commission on the one hand and the Association of Constitutional Courts using the French Language (ACCPUF), the Southern African Judge's Commission (SAJC) and the Conference of Constitutional Control Organs of Countries of Young Democracy (CCCOCYD) on the other hand;
- decided that a document on the case-law of the Constitutional Court of Belarus since 1997 is to be sent to the readers of the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law* together with a note on the co-operation with the Court;
- decided, upon request by the Cyprus Presidency of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts to prepare a working document for the Conference on the Criteria of the Limitation of Human Rights and that this working document is to be published as a special bulletin following the Conference in May 2005;
- took note of the advancement of the preparation of the regular issues of the *Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law* and special issues on Leading Cases, Basic Texts and the Status and Functions of Secretaries General;
- invited the Secretariat to produce documents reflecting the state of the *Bulletin* in production before contributions are being sent to translation;
- took note of a preliminary Internet version of CODICES using the NXT4 software;
- approved amendments to version 15 of the Systematic Thesaurus;
- invited the participating courts to provide or to continue to provide digests and other publications by the Courts for the benefit of the library of the Centre on Constitutional Justice and
- decided to hold its next meeting in mid-May 2005 in Baku, Azerbaijan.