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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

UNIDEM SEMINAR

**“EUROPEAN STANDARDS OF ELECTORAL LAW IN
THE CONTEMPORARY CONSTITUTIONALISM”**

SHERATON SOFIA HOTEL BALKAN
Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia, 5, Sveta Nedelya Square
TEL.: + 359 2 981 65 41 / FAX: + 359 2 980 64 64

on 28-29 May 2004

PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME**Friday, 28 May 2004****09:30 – 10.00 Opening of the Conference**

- Welcome addresses
by **Mr Nedelcho Beronov**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria
and
by **Mr Gianni Buquicchio**, Secretary General of the Venice Commission.

10.00 – 15.00 First working session:**European Heritage in Electoral Law and Election Systems.**

Chaired by **Mr Nedelcho Beronov**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria

- 10.00 – 10.15 “*European Heritage in Electoral Law*”. Report by **Prof. Evgeni Tanchev**, Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria
- 10.15 – 10.30 “*The European electoral heritage and the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters*”. Report by **Mr Georges Clerfayt**, former Deputy (Belgium), former Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, former President of the Council for Democratic Elections
- 10.30 – 11.15 Questions and discussion
- 11.15 – 11.45 Coffee break
- 11.45 – 12.00 “*Residence and voting rights for nationals of the Republic of Macedonia*”. Report by **Mrs Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska**, Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia”
- 12.00 – 12.15 “*European Standards and Election Systems*”. Report by **Prof. Emilia Droumeva**, Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria.
- 12.15 – 13.00 Questions and discussion
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 – 14.45 “*The reform of the Russian Electoral System and the Election Commissions: new trends and perspective*”. Report by **Mr Vladimir Lysenko**, Member of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

14.45 – 18.30 Second working session:
Constitutional justice and elections.

Chaired by **Mr Nedelcho Beronov**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria

14.45 – 15.00 “*The powers of the French Constitutional Council in the field of elections*”. Report by **Mr Richard Ghevontian**, Professor, University Paul Cezanne of Aix-Marseille III, Director of research at the G.E.R.J.C., Director of the Institute of French studies for foreign students (France)

15.00 – 16.00 Questions and discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 16.45 “*The Spanish system of proportional representation and its limits, according to the Constitutional Court*”. Report by **Mr J. Ángel Sánchez Navarro**, Deputy Director, Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, Professor of Constitutional Law, Complutense University, Madrid (Spain).

16.45 – 17.00 “*The electoral system and the electoral disagreement in Switzerland*”. Report by **Mr Etienne Grisel**, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Lausanne, Institute of Public Law (Switzerland).

17.00 – 17.45 Questions and discussion

17.30 – 18.00 Conclusions of the first day of work

Saturday, 29 May 2004

10.00 – 13.30 Third working session:
Elections in the context of the European Union.

10.00 – 10.15 “*Constitutional control of European elections*”. Report by **Mr Francis Jacobs**, Advocate General, Court of Justice of the European Communities (Luxembourg).

10.15 – 10.30 “*From Election System Referendum to Constitutional Changes in Slovenia (1996 – 2000)*”. Report by **Prof. Ciril Ribičič**, Judge, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, Professor of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law of Ljubljana (Slovenia).

10.30 – 11.15 Questions and discussion

11.15 – 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 – 12.30 Discussion on the role played by the constitutional justice in electoral process.

12.30 – 13.00 Conclusions of the conference