



Strasbourg, 24 September 2012

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

IN CO-OPERATION WITH

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

CONFERENCE ON

**“POLITICAL PARTIES IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY:
LEGAL BASIS OF ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES”**

on the premises of the Constitutional Court

1, Senatskaya pl., St Petersburg, Russia,

27 – 28 September 2012

PROGRAMME

Thursday 27 September 2012

09.30-10.00

Registration of participants

10.00-10.10

Opening remarks

Chair: Mr Valery Zorkin, President of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Member of the Venice Commission

Mr Jan Helgesen, First Vice-President of the Venice Commission, Professor, University of Oslo, Norway

Mr Valery Zorkin, President of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Member of the Venice Commission

10.10-11.10

Introductory session:

The European standards on political parties: building a common European heritage

10.10-10.30

The Council of Europe's, including the Venice Commission's standards

Mr Jan Helgesen, First Vice-President of the Venice Commission, Professor, University of Oslo, Norway

10.30-10.50

The recent case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on political parties

Mr Luis Maria Lopez Guerra, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights

10.50-11.10

Legal basis of the Russian multi-political systems and the practice of the Constitutional Court of Russia

Mr Valery Zorkin, President of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Member of the Venice Commission

11.10-11.40

Coffee break

11.40-13.30

Session I: The action of political parties in public life

Chair: Mr Jean-Claude Colliard, President of PREF-HESAM (Hautes Etudes Sorbonne-Arts et Métiers), University of Paris-Panthéon Sorbonne, France, Member of the Venice Commission

Panel:

11.40-12.00

The role of political parties inside and outside Parliament

Mr Robert Walter, Deputy, House of Commons, United Kingdom, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

12.00-12.20

European standards of participation of political parties in elections (in the light of the Venice Commission's recommendations)

Ms Maryna Stavniychuk, Advisor to the President of Ukraine, Member of the Venice Commission

12.20-12.40

Normative and legal regulation of the creation and operation of political parties

Mr Vladimir Pligin, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on constitutional legislation and State building, MP "United Russia"

12.40-13.00

Development of Russian political party system (legal regulations)

Mr Yaroslav Nilov, Chairman of the State Duma Committee for public and religious organizations, MP Liberal-Democratic party

13.00-13.20

Proposals of "Just Russia" for improvement of the electoral legislation in the framework of political party creation in Russia

Mr Alexander Ageev, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on constitutional legislation and state building, MP "Just Russia"

13.20-14.30

Lunch

14.30-14.50

Influence of political parties on legislative process in the Russian Parliament

Mr Yuriy Sinelschikov, MP of the State Duma, Communist Party

15.10-15.40

Criteria for the restriction of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to create a political party (in the framework of the European standards of the rule of law)

Ms Valentina Lapaeva, Chief research associate at the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Law

15.10-15.40

Discussion

15.40-16.10

Coffee-break

16.10-17.50

Session II: Political parties: balancing external and internal regulations

Chair: Mr Jean-Claude Scholsem, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Liege, Belgium, Substitute member of the Venice Commission

Panel:

16.10-16.30

Internal functioning of political parties: the issue of internal democracy

Mr Evgeni Tanchev, President of the Constitutional Court of Bulgaria, Member of the Venice Commission

16.30-16.50

Political parties and gender equality

Ms Lydie Err, Ombudsman of Luxembourg, former member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of the Venice Commission

16.50-17.10

Application of the Federal Law on political parties as amended by the Federal law of 02.04.2012 № 28-FZ of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and its regional institutions. First results

Mr Vladimir Titov, Head of Department for non-governmental organizations matters, Ministry of Justice

17.10-17.30

Constitutional limits of co-operation between political parties and the State

Mr Alexander Postnikov, Researcher, Doctor of law, Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law

17.30-17.50

Multi-political party system of 90s. The Parliament. The Constitutional Court.

Mr Sergei Shakhrai, Head of Staff, Court of Accounts of the Russian Federation, Professor at the Moscow International Relations Institute

18.15-18.30

Group photo

18.30-20.00

Official dinner

Friday 28 September 2012

10.00-11.20

Session II: Political parties: balancing external and internal regulations

Chair: Mr Jean-Claude Scholsem, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Liege, Belgium, Substitute member of the Venice Commission

Panel:

10.00-10.20

Area of operation of political parties unsettled by the State and the margin of acceptable interventions of the State

Ms Svetlana Vasilieva, Researcher of the Institute of researches, Higher School of Economics

10.20-10.40

Problems of legislation on participation of political parties in elections

Mr Arkady Lyubarev, expert of the Committee of Civil Initiatives

10.40-11.20

Discussion

11.20-11.50

Coffee break

11.50-13.20

Session III: Financing political parties

Chair: Mr Boris Ebzeev, member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

11.50-12.10

Campaign funding of political parties

Mr Peter Paczolay, President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary, Member of the Venice Commission

12.10-12.30

Standards on party-funding in Council of Europe member states

Mr Yves-Marie Doublet, GRECO Evaluator, Deputy Director of the Trading and Markets Division at the National Assembly of France

12.30-12.50

Financing political parties; financing electoral campaigns

Mr Vladimir Churov, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

12.50-13.20

Discussions

13.20-13.40

Conclusions:

New challenges faced by political parties

Mr Jean-Claude Colliard, President of PREF-HESAM (Hautes Etudes Sorbonne-Arts et Métiers), University of Paris-Pantheon Sorbonne, France, Member of the Venice Commission

13.40-14.00

Closing speech:

Mr Valery Zorkin, President of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation,
Member of the Venice Commission

14.00-15.00

Lunch

15.00-16.00

Guided tour of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation