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## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

(VENICE COMMISSION)

## Systematic Thesaurus /

## CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

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E.g. State Counsel, prosecutors etc.

Constitutional Court or equivalent body (constitutional tribunal or council, supreme court etc).

E.g. Rules of procedure.

Including the conditions and manner of such appointment (election, nomination etc).

Including the conditions and manner of such appointment (election, nomination etc).

Vice-presidents, presidents of chambers or of sections etc.

Registrars, assistants, auditors, general secretaries, researchers etc.

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E.g. assessors, office members. Registrars, assistants, auditors, general secretaries, researchers etc.

Including questions on the interim exercise of the functions of the Head of State.

Referrals of preliminary questions in particular.

Enactment required by law to be reviewed by the Court. Review ultra petita. Horizontal distribution of powers.

		entities <sup>15</sup>				
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		1.3.5.11.2 Sectoral decentralisation <sup>24</sup>				

Vertical distribution of powers, particularly in respect of states of a federal or regionalised nature.

Decentralised authorities (municipalities, provinces etc).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> This keyword concerns decisions on the procedure and results of referenda and other consultations.

This keyword concerns decisions preceding the referendum including its admissibility.

Examination of procedural and formal aspects of laws and regulations, particularly in respect of the composition of parliaments, the validity of votes, the competence of law-making authorities etc (questions relating to the distribution of powers as between the State and federal or regional entities are the subject of another keyword 1.3.4.3.

As understood in private international law.

Including constitutional laws.

For example organic laws.

Local authorities, municipalities, provinces, departments etc.

Or: functional decentralisation (public bodies exercising delegated powers).

1.4

	1.3.5.12	Court decisions
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1.4.10		ory proceedings
	1.4.10.1	Intervention

Political questions.

Unconstitutionality by omission.
For the withdrawal of proceedings, see also 1.4.10.4.
Pleadings, final submissions, notes etc.
May be used in combination with Chapter 1.2 Types of claim.

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               1.4.10.3
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                          Discontinuance of proceedings<sup>30</sup>
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                          Challenging of a judge
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                          Chair
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                          Publication
                           1.5.6.4.1
                                       Publication in the official journal/gazette
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For the withdrawal of the originating document, see also 1.4.5.

Comprises court fees, postage costs, advance of expenses and lawyers' fees.

For questions of constitutionality dependent on a specified interpretation, use 2.3.2.

			1.5.6.4.2 1.5.6.4.3	Publication in an official collection Private publication		
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#### 2 SOURCES OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

# <u>Categories</u> 2.1.1 Written rules

2.1

1.1	** 1111	CIIIu	1103
	2 1 1	1	NT-4!1

2.1.1.1	National ru	les
	2.1.1.1.1	Constitution
	2.1.1.1.2	Quasi-constitutional enactments <sup>33</sup>
2.1.1.2	Foreign rul	es
2.1.1.3	Community	y law
2.1.1.4	Internation	al instruments
	2.1.1.4.1	United Nations Charter of 1945
	2.1.1.4.2	Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948
	2.1.1.4.3	European Convention on Human Rights of 1950 <sup>34</sup>
	2.1.1.4.4	Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951
	2.1.1.4.5	European Social Charter of 1961
	2.1.1.4.6	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966
	2.1.1.4.7	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966
	2.1.1.4.8	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969
	2.1.1.4.9	American Convention on Human Rights of 1969
	2.1.1.4.10	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981
	2.1.1.4.11	European Charter of Local Self-Government of 1985
	2.1.1.4.12	Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989
	2.1.1.4.13	International conventions regulating diplomatic and consular

This keyword allows for the inclusion of enactments and principles arising from a separate constitutional chapter elaborated with reference to the original Constitution (declarations of rights, basic charters etc). Including its Protocols.

rel	ations

	2.1.2	Unwritten	rules	
		2.1.2.1	Constitutio	nal custom
		2.1.2.2	General pri	inciples of law
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	2.1.3	Case-law		
		2.1.3.1	Domestic c	rase-law
		2.1.3.2	Internation	al case-law
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			2.1.3.2.2	Court of Justice of the European Communities
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		2.2.1.3	Treaties an	d other domestic legal instruments
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		2.2.1.5	_	Convention on Human Rights and non-constitutional domestic legal
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			2.2.1.6.4	Secondary Community legislation and domestic non-constitutional
	222	IIi anamalari		instruments
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		•		nces of Community law
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	2.3.4	-	tion by analo	gy
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	2.3.6		interpretatio	n
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	2.3.8	•	c interpretati	
	2.3.9	Teleologic	cal interpreta	tion

## 3 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 Sovereignty
- 3.2 Republic/Monarchy
- 3.3 <u>Democracy</u>

 $^{\rm 35}$   $\,$  Presumption of constitutionality, double construction rule.

- 3.3.1 Representative democracy
- 3.3.2 Direct democracy
- 3.3.3 Pluralist democracy<sup>36</sup>
- 3.4 Separation of powers
- 3.5 Social State<sup>37</sup>
- 3.6 Structure of the State <sup>38</sup>
  - 3.6.1 Unitary State
  - 3.6.2 Regional State
  - 3.6.3 Federal State
- 3.7 Relations between the State and bodies of a religious or ideological nature<sup>39</sup>
- 3.8 <u>Territorial principles</u>
  - 3.8.1 Indivisibility of the territory
- 3.9 Rule of law
- 3.10 Certainty of the law<sup>40</sup>
- 3.11 Vested and/or acquired rights
- 3.12 Clarity and precision of legal provisions
- 3.13 Legality<sup>41</sup>
- 3.14 Nullum crimen, nulla poena sine lege<sup>42</sup>
- 3.15 Publication of laws
  - 3.15.1 Ignorance of the law is no excuse
  - 3.15.2 Linguistic aspects
- 3.16 <u>Proportionality</u>
- 3.17 Weighing of interests
- 3.18 General interest<sup>43</sup>
- 3.19 Margin of appreciation
- 3.20 Reasonableness
- 3.21 Equality<sup>44</sup>
- 3.22 Prohibition of arbitrariness
- 3.23 Equity
- 3.24 <u>Loyalty to the State</u><sup>45</sup>
- 3.25 Market economy<sup>46</sup>
- 3.26 <u>Principles of Community law</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Including the principle of a multi-party system.

<sup>37</sup> Includes the principle of social justice.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> See also 4.8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Separation of Church and State, State subsidisation and recognition of churches, secular nature etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Including maintaining confidence and legitimate expectations.

Principle according to which sub-statutory acts must be based on and in conformity with the law.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Prohibition of punishment without proper legal base.

<sup>43</sup> Including compelling public interest.

Only where not applied as a fundamental right. Also refers to the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of nationality as it is applied in Community law.

Including questions of treason/high crimes.

<sup>46</sup> Including prohibition on monopolies.

- 3.26.1 Fundamental principles of the Common Market
- 3.26.2 Direct effect<sup>4</sup>
- 3.26.3 Genuine co-operation between the institutions and the member states

#### 4 Institutions

- 4.1 Constituent assembly or equivalent body<sup>48</sup>
  - 4.1.1 Procedure
  - 4.1.2 Limitations on powers
- 4.2 State Symbols
  - 4.2.1 Flag
  - 4.2.2 National holiday
  - 4.2.3 National anthem
  - 4.2.4 National emblem
  - 4.2.5 Motto
  - 4.2.6 Capital city
- 4.3 Languages
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  - 4.3.3 Regional language(s)
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- 4.4 <u>Head of State</u>
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    - 4.4.1.2 Relations with the executive powers<sup>50</sup>
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    - 4.4.1.4 Promulgation of laws
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    - 4.4.3.4 End of office
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  - 4.4.4 Status
    - 4.4.4.1 Liability
      - 4.4.4.1.1 Legal liability

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> For the principle of primacy of Community law, see 2.2.1.6.

Including the body responsible for revising or amending the Constitution.

For example presidential messages, requests for further debating of a law, right of legislative veto, dissolution.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> For example nomination of members of the government, chairing of Cabinet sessions, countersigning of laws.

For example the granting of pardons.

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4.4.4.1.1.1 Immunity
4.4.4.1.1.2 Civil liability
4.4.4.1.1.3 Criminal liability
Political responsibility
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                             Powers of enquiry<sup>54</sup>
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                             Prohibition
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4.4.4.1.2

4.5.11 Status of members of legislative bodies<sup>63</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Bicameral, monocameral, special competence of each assembly, etc.

Including specialised powers of each legislative body and reserved powers of the legislature.

<sup>54</sup> In particular commissions of enquiry.

For delegation of powers to an executive body, see keyword 4.6.3.2.

Obligation on the legislative body to use the full scope of its powers.

<sup>57</sup> Representative/imperative mandates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Presidency, bureau, sections, committees etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Including the convening, duration, publicity and agenda of sessions.

Including their creation, composition and terms of reference.

State budgetary contribution, other sources etc.

For the publication of laws, see 3.15.

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For example incompatibilities arising during the term of office, parliamentary immunity, exemption from prosecution and others. For questions of eligibility see 4.9.5.

For local authorities see 4.8.

Derived directly from the constitution.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> See also 4.8.

The vesting of administrative competence in public law bodies having their own independent organisational structure, independent of public authorities, but controlled by them. For other administrative bodies, see also 4.6.7 and 4.13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Civil servants, administrators etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Practice aiming at removing from civil service persons formerly involved with a totalitarian regime.

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For example, Judicial Service Commission, *Conseil supérieur de la magistrature*. Comprises the Court of Auditors in so far as it exercises judicial power.

4.8

See also 3.6.

And other units of local self-government.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> See also keywords 5.3.38 and 5.2.1.4.

Proportional, majority, preferential, single-member constituencies, etc.

For aspects related to fundamental rights, see 5.3.38.2.

For the creation of political parties, see 4.5.10.1.

E.g. Names of parties, order of presentation, logo, emblem or question in a referendum.

Tracts, letters, press, radio and television, posters, nominations etc.

Impartiality of electoral authorities, incidents, disturbances.

E.g. signatures on electoral rolls, stamps, crossing out of names on list.

E.g. in person, proxy vote, postal vote, electronic vote.

E.g. *Panachage*, voting for whole list or part of list, blank votes.

```
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                           Council
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               4.17.1.3
                           Commission
                           Court of Justice of the European Communities<sup>90</sup>
               4.17.1.4
       4.17.2 Distribution of powers between Community and member states
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E.g. Auditor-General.

Parliamentary Commissioner, Public Defender, Human Rights Commission etc.

E.g. Court of Auditors.

The vesting of administrative competence in public law bodies situated outside the traditional administrative hierarchy. See also 4.6.8.

Institutional aspects only: questions of procedure, jurisdiction, composition etc are dealt with under the keywords of Chapter 1.

- 4.17.3 Distribution of powers between institutions of the Community
- 4.17.4 Legislative procedure
- 4.18 State of emergency and emergency powers<sup>91</sup>

## 5 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS<sup>92</sup>

```
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Including state of war, martial law, declared natural disasters etc; for human rights aspects, see also keyword 5.1.4.

Positive and negative aspects.

For rights of the child, see 5.3.41.

The question of "*Drittwirkung*".

<sup>95</sup> See also 4.18.

Taxes and other duties towards the state.

Here, the term "national" is used to designate ethnic origin.

5.3

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For example, discrimination between married and single persons.

This keyword also covers "Personal liberty" It includes for example identity checking, personal search and administrative arrest.

Detention by police.

loculation of posterior including questions related to the granting of passports or other travel documents.

May include questions of expulsion and extradition.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> Including the right of access to a tribunal established by law; for questions related to the establishment of extraordinary courts, see also keyword 4.7.12.

This keyword covers the right of appeal to a court.

Including the right to be present at hearing.

		501014	T CONTROL					
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		5.3.13.20						
			Presumption of innocence					
			Right to remain silent					
		5.3.13.23.1 Right not to incriminate oneself						
			5.3.13.22.2 Right not to testify against spouse/close family					
			Right to be informed about the reasons of detention					
			Right to be informed about the charges					
			Right to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of the case					
			Right to counsel					
			5.3.13.28.1 Right to paid legal assistance					
5	2 1 1		Right to examine witnesses					
	-	4 Ne bis in idem						
		Rights of victims of crime Right to compensation for damage caused by the State						
<i>5</i> .	3.10	Freedom of conscience 106						
		Freedom of opinion						
		Freedom of worship						
5.	3.20	Freedom of worship  Freedom of expression <sup>107</sup>						
5.	3.20	Freedom of	the written press					
			espect of the audiovisual media and other means of mass communication					
		Right to inf						
		_	ministrative transparency					
		5.3.24.1 Right of access to administrative documents						
5.	3.25	National service <sup>108</sup>						
5.	3.26	Freedom of	association					
5.	3.27	Freedom of assembly						
		Right to participate in public affairs						
		5.3.28.1 Right to participate in political activity						
5.	3.29	Right to respect for one's honour and reputation						
5.	3.30	Right to private life						
			Protection of personal data					
5.	3.31	31 Right to family life <sup>109</sup>						
			Descent					
			Succession					
		2 Inviolability of the home						
5.	3.33	3 Inviolability of communications						
			Correspondence					
			Telephonic communications					
_		5.3.33.3 Electronic communications						
		Right of petition						
5.	3.35	Non-retrospective effect of law						
			Criminal law					
			Civil law					
		5.3.35.3	Social law					

Covers freedom of religion as an individual right Its collective aspects are included under the keyword "Freedom of worship" below.

This keyword also includes the right to freely communicate information.

Militia, conscientious objection etc.

Aspects of the use of names are included either here or under "Right to private life".

5.	3.	.3	5.	4	Tax	ation	1aw

- 5.3.36 Right to property<sup>110</sup>
  - 5.3.36.1 Expropriation
  - 5.3.36.2 Nationalisation
  - 5.3.36.3 Other limitations
  - 5.3.36.4 Privatisation
- 5.3.37 Linguistic freedom
- 5.3.38 Electoral rights
  - 5.3.38.1 Right to vote
  - 5.3.38.2 Right to stand for election<sup>111</sup>
  - 5.3.38.3 Freedom of voting
  - 5.3.38.4 Secret ballot
- 5.3.39 Rights in respect of taxation
- 5.3.40 Right to self fulfilment
- 5.3.41 Rights of the child
- 5.3.42 Protection of minorities and persons belonging to minorities

### 5.4 Economic, social and cultural rights

- 5.4.1 Freedom to teach
- 5.4.2 Right to education
- 5.4.3 Right to work
- 5.4.4 Freedom to choose one's profession<sup>112</sup>
- 5.4.5 Freedom to work for remuneration
- 5.4.6 Commercial and industrial freedom
- 5.4.7 Consumer protection
- 5.4.8 Freedom of contract
- 5.4.9 Right of access to the public service
- 5.4.10 Right to strike
- 5.4.11 Freedom of trade unions<sup>113</sup>
- 5.4.12 Right to intellectual property
- 5.4.13 Right to housing
- 5.4.14 Right to social security
- 5.4.15 Right to unemployment benefits
- 5.4.16 Right to a pension
- 5.4.17 Right to just and decent working conditions
- 5.4.18 Right to a sufficient standard of living
- 5.4.19 Right to health
- 5.4.20 Right to culture
- 5.4.21 Scientific freedom
- 5.4.22 Artistic freedom

#### 5.5 <u>Collective rights</u>

- 5.5.1 Right to the environment
- 5.5.2 Right to development
- 5.5.3 Right to peace
- 5.5.4 Right to self-determination

Including compensation issues.

For institutional aspects, see 4.9.5.

This keyword also covers "Freedom of work".

<sup>113</sup> Includes rights of the individual with respect to trade unions, rights of trade unions and the right to conclude collective labour agreements.