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**Conference “Human Rights Protection Systems”
21-22 November 2002, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

SYNOPSIS

The Venice Commission co-operates with Kyrgyzstan since 1992. It delivered its comments on the first draft Constitution in 1993. Seminars in co-operation with the Constitutional Court were organised in 1998 on “Judicial Independence and Incompatibilities of the Office of Judge with other Activities” and in 2001 on “Economic transition: property rights, restitution, pensions and other issues concerning the constitutional protection of economic rights of citizens”.

This conference was organised upon the request of and in co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Kyrgyzstan. The delegation, composed of 6 experts (Mr H-C Kruger (Special Advisor on the EU Convention), Mr R. Husbands (UN OHCHR), Mr J. Leon Diaz (HR Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr K. Hajiev (Member of the Venice Commission, President of the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan), Mr L. Ferrari Bravo (Professor, ad-hoc judge of the ECHR), Mr Jose de la Mata Amaya (High Court of Appeal, Spain), was accompanied by Mr G. Buquicchio and Ms T. Mychelova.

The seminar’s aim was to inform Kyrgyz legal professionals on international and national judicial means of protection of human rights. The Secretary of the Venice Commission brought the participants up-to-date with the work of the Venice Commission in general and its activities in the field of human rights in particular. The participants were informed on the role of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights in human rights protection in Europe. As Kyrgyzstan is a member of the UN and the OSCE, their respective human rights protection mechanisms as well as relevant obligations of Kyrgyzstan were discussed. The roles of supreme, constitutional and ordinary courts in this respect were also examined. The Kyrgyz speakers (1st Vice Prime Minister, judges of the Constitutional and Supreme courts) shared their experiences in the relevant domains. The discussions were lively and the publications of the Venice Commission in Russian were highly appreciated.

The seminar was a timely event as it was held when the first ombudsman was elected and the public discussions on the constitutional amendments were at their climax. The conference received wide media coverage. The members of the Secretariat of the Venice Commission and the Chair of the Constitutional Court of Kyrgyzstan were received by the President of the Republic. Mr Buquicchio and President Akaev exchanged views on further co-operation between the Commission and Kyrgyzstan and on comments by the Commission on the constitutional amendments. Mr Akaev expressed a genuine interest of his country in strengthening cooperation with Europe.

The seminar’s proceedings will be published in the CDL-JU series of the Commission’s documents.

Gianni BUQUICCHIO

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