

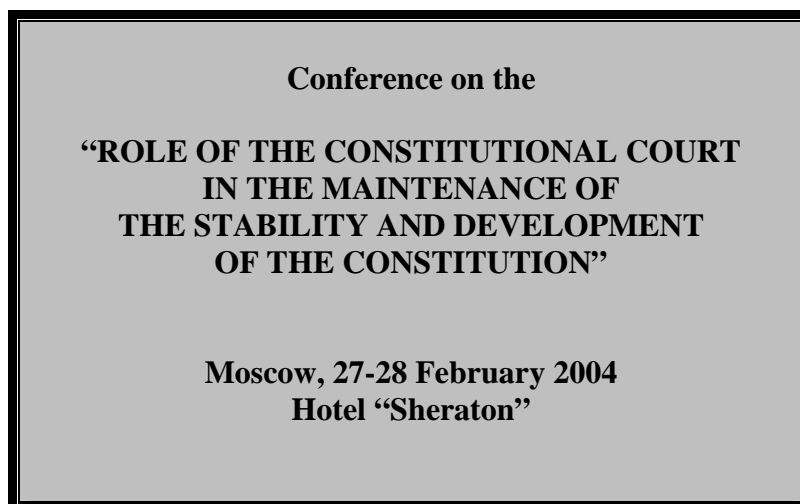


Strasbourg, 16 February 2004

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Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
and with the assistance of
THE INSTITUTE OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY



PROGRAMME

Thursday, 26 February 2004

Arrival of the participants and transfer to “Sheraton” and “Budapest” hotels

Friday, 27 February 2004

- 09:30-09:50 Registration of participants
 09:50-10:00 **Opening remarks:**
- Mr Valery ZORKIN, President, Constitutional Court, Russian Federation
 - Mr Gianni BUQUICCHIO, Secretary General, Venice Commission

PART A:	STABILITY OF THE CONSTITUTION
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10:00 – 13:00	Morning session
Chair:	Mr Valery ZORKIN, President, Constitutional Court, Russian Federation

A1.	<i>The interpretation of norms in conformity with the Constitution as a method of providing stability in the legal order vs. interpretation of the Constitution as a means to develop the constitutional order</i>
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Reports:

10:05 – 10:20 Mr Valery ZORKIN, President, Constitutional Court, Russian Federation
 10:20 – 10:35 Mr Gustavo ZAGREBELSKY, President, Constitutional Court, Italy

10:35 – 11:00 Discussion
11:00 – 11:20 *coffee break*
 11:20 – 13:00 Discussion

Interventions:

- *“The effectiveness of constitutional justice as a factor of stability of the Constitution”* – by Mr Gagik G. HARUTYUNYAN, President, Constitutional Court, Armenia, Member of the Venice Commission
- *“The practice of the Constitutional Council of Kazakhstan in the maintenance of the supremacy and stability of the Constitution”* – by Mr Yuriy KHITRIN, Chairman, Constitutional Council, Kazakhstan

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 17:30	Afternoon session
Chair:	Mr Uno U. LÕHMUS, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Estonia

A2.	<i>The obligatory force of decisions of the Constitutional Court for other courts as a stabilising factor</i>
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Reports:

14:30 – 14:45 *“The effects of the decisions of the Constitutional Court in relation to other jurisdictions”* - Report by Ms Eliska WAGNEROVA, Vice-President, Constitutional Court, Czech Republic

14:45 – 15:00 Mr Ioan VIDA, Judge, Constitutional Court of Romania

15:00 – 16:00 Discussion
16:00 – 16:20- *coffee break*
 16:20 – 17:25 Discussion
 17:25 – 17:30 Summary of the discussions by the Chair

19:00 *Reception offered by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation*

Saturday, 28 February 2004

PART B: DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

09:30 – 12:30

Morning session

Chair:

Mr John G. KHETSURIANI, Chairman, Constitutional Court, Georgia, Member of the Venice Commission

B1. ***The application of different techniques of interpretation of the Constitution as a factor of its development***

Reports:

09:35 – 09:50

Mr Uno U. LÕHMUS, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Estonia

09:50 – 10:05

Mr Aivars ENDZINS, President, Constitutional Court, Latvia

10:05 – 10:50

Discussion

10:50 – 11:10

coffee break

11:10 – 12:30

Discussion

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 17:00

Afternoon session

Chair:

Ms Cholpon T. C. BAEKOVA, Chairwoman, Constitutional Court, Kyrgyzstan

B2. ***The application of general principles - rule of law, separation of powers, federalism etc. - by the Constitutional Court as a factor of development of the Constitution***

Reports:

14:05 - 14:20

“The development of the idea of the democratic state ruled by law and the application of the ensuring principles by the Constitutional Tribunal of Portugal” – by Mr Lunés NUNES de ALMEIDA, President, Constitutional Court, Portugal

14:20 - 14:35

“The role of the Constitutional Tribunal in creating the principles of a democratic State, ruled by law, in the transition process” – by Mr Marek MAZURKIEWICZ, Justice, Constitutional Court, Poland

14:35 -15:10

Discussions

Intervention:

“The role of the Constitutional Court in the maintenance of constitutional principles in the formation of the organs of state power” – by Mr John G. KHETSURIANI, Chairman, Constitutional Court, Georgia, Member of the Venice Commission

15:10 – 15:30

coffee break

15:30 – 16:45

Discussions

16:45 – 17:00

Summary of the conference discussions:

Mr Egidijus V. KURIS, Chairman, Constitutional Court, Lithuania

17:00- 17:15

Closing remarks:

- Mr Gianni BUQUICCHIO, Secretary General, Venice Commission
- Mr Valery ZORKIN, President, Constitutional Court, Russian Federation

19:00

Performance at the Bolshoy Theatre

Sunday, 29 February 2004

10:00

Visit to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour; departure of participants