



Strasbourg, 24 October 2006

CDL-JU(2006)051
Engl. only

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

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

**IXth INTERNATIONAL FORUM
ON CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE**

on the occasion of the 15th anniversary
of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation

**COMMON LEGAL SPACE OF EUROPE AND
PRACTICE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE**

26-28 October 2006
Moscow, "President Hotel"

SYNOPSIS

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Court, the Moscow Institute of Law and Public Policy and the Venice Commission organised a conference entitled "Common Legal Space in Europe and the Practice of Constitutional Justice" which was held in Moscow from 26 to 28 October 2006. The Conference took place in the framework of the Russian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe's European Court of Human Rights was represented by Mr Luzius Wildhaber, President, Mr Christos Rozakis, Vice-President, and Mr Anatoly Kovler, Judge. Mr Gianni Buquicchio, Secretary, and Ms Tatiana Mychelova, External Relations Officer, represented the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

Among the local participants were judges and staff of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Supreme Court, the First Vice-President of the Higher Arbitration Court, the Head of the Administration of the President and other representatives of the executive, the First Vice-President of the State Duma, the Plenipotentiary Representative on Human Rights Issues, Presidents of Constitutional Courts of subjects of the Russian Federation, academics and students. Presidents and judges from some 30 foreign courts, from the Court of Justice of the European Communities as well as several international scholars also participated.

The Conference was opened by Mr Sobyenin, Head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation who addressed the Conference on behalf of President Putin. He insisted that the strengthening of national human rights protection mechanisms is a priority for Europe, that the protection of human rights directly depends on the practice of constitutional justice and that a real, united Europe is unthinkable without a common legal space on the continent.

The reports and discussions focused on the definition of a European common legal space and the factors of its consolidation as well as on its principal actors and their interaction.

A crucial role in the creation of a common legal space in Europe is played by the national constitutional courts and European courts, such as the European Court of Human Rights. The harmonious application of the constitutions and the European Convention on Human Rights presupposes an exchange between the national and European levels. The effectiveness of national constitutional practice can be further strengthened through monitoring at the European level.

There was an important media presence at the Conference.

The proceedings of the Conference will be published by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and the Institute of Law and Public Policy.