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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**CONFERENCE
ON “CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE AND
THE RULE OF LAW IN
THE SOUTH CAUCASUS”**

Batumi, Georgia

19-20 June 2008

SYNOPSIS

In co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Georgia and the German Society for Technical Co-operation (GTZ), the Venice Commission organised a Conference on "*Constitutional Justice and the Rule of Law in South Caucasus*" in Batumi (19-20 June 2008).

The participants included presidents and judges from the constitutional courts or equivalent bodies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as several Georgian and foreign experts.

The conference was opened by the president of the Constitutional Court of Georgia, Mr George Papuashvili.

Discussions focused on the relevance of constitutional justice for the rule of law and its role in protecting human rights. The specific importance of the individual complaint in this respect was also examined.

The participants discussed the leading role of constitutional courts in countries where the ordinary judiciary was still in a transitional phase. Individual complaints to the constitutional court were a means not to control the ordinary judiciary, but to give it guidance in matters relating to the protection of human rights.

A session was dedicated to the three countries of the Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – providing a useful overview on the state of advancement of reforms in the field of constitutional justice notably with respect to the enforcement/execution of the Constitutional Court's judgments.