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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

PROPOSALS FOR UNIDEM SEMINARS

IN 1999

**Regional integration in a comparative perspective
Relations between infra-State and supra-State powers**

**1st session: Traditional seminar
(Thursday 18 March 1999 and Friday 19 March 1999 morning)**

Topics to be discussed:

- the participation of entities (federated or regional) in the development of supra-State law
- the participation of entities in the implementation of supra-State law
- co-operation between entities and the national State in the process of integration
- the influence of integration on the distribution of powers between the central State and the entities

European Union

National reports:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Spain
- Germany
- Italy

General report

North American Free-Trade Agreement

Mercosur

Southern African Development Community

Japanese report: An external point of view towards regional integration

**2nd Session: Round table with key players (primarily executive regional leaders)
(Friday 19 March 1999 afternoon)**

Democracy in a society in conflict
Suggested topics

Comparative aspects

Societies in conflict: typology

Solutions:

Federalism and statutes of autonomy

Legal rules for the protection of national minorities

Electoral systems

Consensual democracy and power-sharing – or majority democracy and alternation ?

Case-studies (examples)

- Northern Ireland
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Moldova
- South Africa

Possibly

- Romania, Slovakia (protection of minorities)
- Ukraine (Crimea)
- Albania