



Strasbourg, 30 November 2004

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**in the framework of**  
**THE POLISH CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**  
**in cooperation with**  
**THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY – FRANCE**  
**and**  
**THE IUS ET LEX FOUNDATION – POLAND**

**with the kind support of THE ROYAL CASTLE OF WARSAW**

**UNIDEM SEMINAR**

**“EVALUATION OF FIFTEEN YEARS OF  
CONSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE IN CENTRAL  
AND EASTERN EUROPE”**

**Warsaw, 19-20 November 2004**  
**Royal Castle of Warsaw – Ballroom**  
**University of Warsaw – Senate Room**

**PROGRAMME**

**Thursday, 18 November 2004**

- 14.00 - 16.00 Registration of participants
- 16.00 - 17.45 Cultural event: Visit to the old city of Warsaw
- 19.00 Welcome Reception offered by the France-Poland Association

**Friday, 19 November 2004** (Royal Castle of Warsaw)

- 9.00 - 9.30 Registration of participants
- 9.30 - 10.00** **Opening of the Seminar**
- ◇ *Mr Marek Safjan, President of the Constitutional Tribunal of Poland*
  - ◇ *Mr Gianni Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission*
  - ◇ *Mr Guy Lardeyret, President of the Institute for Democracy*
- 10.00 - 13.00** **First working session, chaired by Mr Marek Safjan, President of the Constitutional Tribunal of Poland:**  
**Role of the President of the Republic**
- 10.00 - 10.20 Report by *Mr François Frison-Roche*, Research Officer, National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS, France), University of Paris no. II (Centre on Study and Research on Administrative Science, CERSA): “*Comparative analysis of six countries*”
- 10.20 - 10.40 Report by *Mr Marian Grzybowski*, Professor, Judge at the Constitutional Court: “*The role of the President in the relationship with government*”
- 10.40 - 11.00 Report by *Mrs Hanna Suchocka*, Former Prime Minister of Poland, Polish Ambassador to the Holy See, Polish Member of the Venice Commission: “*Developments of the institution of the Presidency in Poland since 1989*”
- 11.00 - 11.20 Break
- 11.20 - 13.00 Discussion of morning session - Additional contributions by participants
- 14.30 - 14.50 Report by *Mr Mark Entin*, Professor, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, MGIMO University: “*The role of the President of the Republic*”
- 14.50 - 15.30 Discussion of morning session - Additional contributions by participants

- 15.30 - 18.00**      **Second working session, chaired by Mrs Hanna Suchocka, Ambassador of Poland to the Holy See, Former Prime Minister of Poland, Member of the Venice Commission:**  
**Constitutional revisions**
- 15.30 - 15.50      Report by **Mr Ryszard Piotrowski**, Professor, Warsaw University: *“Inventing the New Republic; current proposals for the constitutional reform in Poland on the comparative background”*
- 15.50 - 16.10      Report by **Mr Guy Lardeyret**, President, Institute for Democracy: *“Common features of the new Constitutions in Central and Eastern countries: Elements for revision; lessons to be drawn”*
- 16.10 - 16.30      Break
- 16.30 - 18.00      Discussion of afternoon session - Additional contributions by participants
- 19.00              Reception hosted by **Mr Marek Safjan**, President of the Constitutional Court

**Saturday, 20 November 2004**

(Senate Room, University of Warsaw)

- 09.00 - 12.30**      **Third working session, chaired by Mr Gaguk G. Haryutyunyan, President, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, Member of the Venice Commission:**  
**Electoral systems and their influence in the functioning of institutions**
- 09.00 - 09.20      Report by **Mr Bernard Owen**, Secretary General, Elections Comparative Study Centre, Professor, Paris University, no. II: *“Governable institutions and proportionality? Electoral systems in Central and Eastern countries, 15 years later”*
- 9.20 - 9.40        Report by **Mr Florian Grotz**, Assistant Professor, Free University of Berlin: *“Electoral systems and Party systems in Central et Eastern Europe. A contextualised comparison”*
- 9.40 - 10.00      Report by **Mr Antoni Kaminski**, Professor, Science Academy of Poland: *“Crisis of the political system of the third Republic of Poland. Analysis of its causes and perspectives of reforms”*
- 10.00 - 11.00      Discussion of morning session - Additional contributions by participants
- 11.00 - 11.20      Break
- 11.20 - 12.30      Discussion of morning session - Additional contributions by participants

- 14.00 - 17.30**      **Fourth working session, chaired by Mr Guy Lardeyret, Chairman of the Institute for Democracy, Paris, Territorial Councillor of Sarthe:**  
**Assistance by European institutions to Central and Eastern European countries**
- 14.00 - 14.20      Speech by **Mr Gianni Buquicchio**, Secretary, Venice Commission: “*What type of assistance does the Venice Commission offer to Central and Eastern European countries?*”
- 14.20 - 14.40      Report by **Mr Jean Baechler**, Member, Institute of France, Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, Professor, Sorbonne University, Paris no. IV: “*Europe and the institutions of its member states*”
- 14.40 - 15.00      Break
- 15.00 - 16.30      Discussion of afternoon session - Additional contributions by participants
- 16.30 - 17.00      Closing remarks  
by **Mr Janucz Kochanowski**, Professor, Warsaw University, President of Ius and Lex  
by **Mr Gianni Buquicchio**, Secretary, Venice Commission
- 18.00              Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland