

Strasbourg, 16 May 2007

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**Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
& European Integration**



UNIVERSITY of ZAGREB



Ustavni sud Republike Hrvatske
Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia



**UNIVERSITY
of
GLASGOW**



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

Under the patronage of

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

in co-operation with

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB
THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCES
THE FACULTY OF LAW**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES**

UniDem Seminar

“THE PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES IN PUBLIC LIFE”

**Starogradska vijećnica (old City Hall)
Ćirilometodska 5, Zagreb, Croatia**

18 – 19 May 2007

PROGRAMME

Friday 18 May 2007

- 09h00-09h30 Registration of participants
- 09h30-10h00 Welcome addresses:
- Mr **Vladimir LONCAREVIC**, Assistant of the Advisor of the President of Croatia for the Political System Issues
 - Ms **Mirjana BOHANEK-VIDOVIĆ**, Assistant Minister for Croatian Minorities, Emigration and Immigration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European integration of Croatia
 - Mr **Gianni BUQUICCHIO**, Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe
 - Mr **Josip KREGAR**, Dean of the Law Faculty, University of Zagreb
 - Mr **David J. SMITH**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow

First session 9h30-13h00

Making minorities more influential in public life: opportunities and limits resulting from existing constitutional arrangements at the domestic level

- Chair: Mr **Sergio BARTOLE**, substitute member of the Venice Commission, Italy
- 10h00 - 10h20 *The absence of a constitutional recognition of minorities in the context of unitary states: an insurmountable obstacle ?*
Report by Mr **Stéphane PIERRÉ-CAPS**, Professor of Public Law, Director of the Institute for Research on Nation and State developments, University of Nancy II
- 10h20 – 10h40 *Territorial solutions for managing diversity and their changing role: constitutional models compared and their impact on minority participation*
Report by Mr **Francesco PALERMO**, Associate Professor, Comparative Public Law, University of Verona / Director of the Institute for Federalism, European Academy of Bolzano / Member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM
- 10h40 – 11h00 *The case of Croatia: progress made to improve participation of national minorities in decision-making processes and future challenges in the light of the 2002 Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities*
Report by Mr **Milorad PUPOVAC**, Representative of the Serbian minority in Parliament of Croatia, President of the interparliamentary co-operation committee
- 11h00-11h15 Coffee break
- 11h15-11h30 Comments on the reports by Ms **Constance GREWE**, co-discussant, Professor of Public Law, Robert Schuman University, Strasbourg / Judge at the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 11h30-12h30 General discussion
Can every constitutional model be accommodated so as to promote minority participation in public life?
- 12h30 -13h15 Visit to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia
- 13h15 Lunch



Second Session

15h00-18h00

The development of a corpus of international standards and its influence at the domestic level to ensure minority participation

- Chair: Mr **Bogdan AURESCU**, substitute member of the Venice Commission, Romania
- 15h00-15h20 *Which state obligations can be inferred from existing international and European standards in terms of minority self-governance? - special focus on effective participation under Article 15 FCNM*
Report by Mr **Joseph MARKO**, Professor, Law Faculty, University of Graz, member of the Advisory Committee on the FCNM
- 15h20-15h40 *Special measures to promote minority representation in elected bodies: the experience of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*
Report by Ms **Annelies VERSTICHEL**, Representative of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, The Hague
- 15h40-16h00 *Can international monitoring mechanisms and EU integration prospects help improve the participation of national minorities at the domestic level?*
Report by Mr **Tin GAZIVODA**, Director, Centre for Human Rights, Zagreb
- 16h00-16h15 Coffee Break
- 16h15-16h30 Comments on the reports by Ms **Judit SOLYMOSI**, co-discussant, Expert, Media Correspondent on Minority Issues, Budapest
- 16h30-18h00 General discussion
Do the relevant international standards and their interpretation constitute a serious incentive for States to adapt their institutional arrangements in terms of minority participation in public life?
- 18h15 Reception at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia



Saturday 19 May 2007

Third session

9h30-12h45

The re-emergence of an old model: cultural autonomy

- Chair: Ms **Jasna OMEJEC**, Vice-president of the Constitutional Court of Croatia
- 09h30-09h50 *The revival of cultural autonomy in certain countries of Eastern Europe: were lessons drawn from the inter-war period?*
Report by Mr **David J. SMITH**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow
- 09h50-10h10 *Contemporary forms of cultural autonomy in Eastern Europe: recurrent problems and prospects for improving the functioning of elected bodies of cultural autonomy*
Report by Mr **Christopher DECKER**, former Senior Research Associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Flensburg, presented and discussed by Mr **Eamonn BUTLER**, Lecturer at the Department of Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow, and Ms **Laura CASHMAN**, PhD Researcher at the Department of Central and East European Studies and Fellow of the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow
- 10h10-10h25 *Coffee Break*
- 10h25-10h45 *Personal autonomy through the "Communities" system: does the case of Belgium suggest that forms of non-territorial autonomy can make a difference in terms of minority participation?*
Report by Mr **Jean-Claude SCHOLSEM**, Professor at the University of Liège, Substitute member of the Venice Commission, Belgium
- 10h45-11h00 Comments on the reports by co-discussant Mr **John HIDEN**, Professor, Department of Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow
- 11h00-12h30 General Discussion
Is there a future for cultural autonomy to promote participation of minority in the decision-making process?

