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Sc/rdp

Batumi / Strasbourg, 19 September 2014

Dear President,

At the XVIth Congress of European Constitutional Courts this May in Vienna, we noticed that some participants called for the establishment of a permanent platform between Constitutional Courts.

We would like to recall that such a platform already exists and is hosted by the Venice Commission. It seems this got unnoticed even though, in 2008, the importance of the wide range of services provided to Constitutional Courts by the Venice Commission and the co-operation between the CECC and the Venice Commission was recognised in the Resolution on the co-operation with the Venice Commission adopted by the Circle of Presidents at the XIVth Congress of the CECC (attached).

We have therefore come to the conclusion that, while these tools have been functioning well over a number of years already, it is nonetheless necessary to ensure that the judges of the member Courts of the CECC are informed about their existence.

These tools are the following:

1 The Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law

Liaison officers, appointed by the member Courts, select and summarise the important case-law of their Courts. These summaries are then published on paper by the Venice Commission in the Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law three times a year.

2. The CODICES database

This database contains summaries and full texts of some 8000 judgments together with the Constitutions, laws on the courts and court descriptions. The database is fully searchable in full text and via a Thesaurus (www.codices.coe.int).

3. The 'Venice Forum'

This is a restricted site accessible only to the liaison officers that allows them to exchange information quickly on legal issues on their agenda. Liaison officers can ask questions to other liaison officers on relevant case-law relating to pending cases.

The liaison officers are the focal points in each Court and ensure the good functioning of these tools. They meet annually within the framework of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice.

The judges at your Court can contact them when they would like to make a request to all other courts via the 'Venice Forum' or when they need assistance for a search in the public CODICES database. We are very grateful to the liaison officers for their hard work.

Many Courts use the CODICES database and the 'Venice Forum' to prepare comparative law files when they are dealing with complex cases.

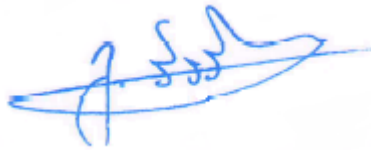
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Finally, as you probably already know, the Venice Commission may also provide amicus curiae briefs at the request of a constitutional court.

The important role played by the participating Courts in the Venice Commission's activities cannot be emphasised enough and the benefits the Courts in turn reap from the tools made available to them is also invaluable.

We would be grateful if you could share this information with the judges of your Court.

Yours faithfully,



George Papuashvili
President of the Constitutional Court of Georgia
Presidency of the Conference of European
Constitutional Courts



Gianni Buquicchio
President of the Venice Commission