

**Co-operation agreement
between
the Venice Commission
and
the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice**

Noting that, since its foundation, the Venice Commission has established co-operation with Constitutional Courts and equivalent bodies in order to enhance their capacity to perform these functions;

Considering that through the CODICES database the Commission enables regular exchanges of information between Courts which are conducive to mutual inspiration and "cross-fertilisation";

Noting that, since 1995 the Constitutional Courts from Latin America and Iberian Peninsula meet and in 2005 have established the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice with a view to promote exchange between them in order to strengthen constitutional justice;

In view of this shared interest and in order to initiate a productive exchange on the subject of constitutionalism, the Conference and the Venice Commission enter into the following co-operation agreement:

Article 1 - Contributions to CODICES

The Constitutional Courts and Constitutional Chambers, which are members of the Conference are invited to contribute to the CODICES database. For this purpose, they shall appoint liaison officers, who shall submit their institutions' leading constitutional case-law as full texts in the original language and as summaries (précis) in English or French for inclusion in the CODICES database three times a year.

Each Court shall ensure that they are consistent in form and properly indexed in accordance with the Commission's Systematic Thesaurus so they can be added to the database without any further processing.

The Commission will include the Systematic Thesaurus in the Portuguese and Spanish languages into the CODICES database.

The contribution of the Conference shall be acknowledged in the database.

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Article 2 - Exchange of publications

Courts and Councils which are members of the Conference shall, if they so wish, receive publications from the Venice Commission (in the Science and Technique of Democracy series) together with the Bulletin on Constitutional Case-Law and the CODICES CD-ROM.

Constitutional Courts and Constitutional Chamber which are members of the Conference shall send their publications free of charge to the Venice Commission's multilingual Documentation Centre on Constitutional Justice in Strasbourg.

Article 3 - Venice Forum Newsgroup

The Venice Commission provides access to its Venice Forum Newsgroup to the Constitutional Courts and Chamber which are members of the Conference.

Article 4 - Participation in meetings

A representative of the Conference shall be invited to attend the Commission's plenary sessions and the meetings of its Joint Council on Constitutional Justice.

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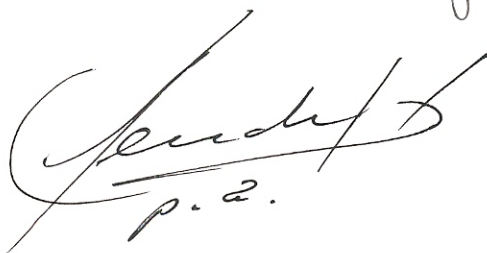
Article 5 - Length and termination of the agreement

The present agreement shall apply for an indeterminate period. It shall enter into force once it has been approved by the appropriate bodies of the two parties and signed by representatives of the Conference and the Commission.

The agreement may be terminated by any of the parties, by written notification.

Done in English, Portuguese and Spanish

at on 4 June 2008.



p. 2.

