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THE VENICE COMMISSION

The European Commission for Democracy through Law, also known as the Venice Commission, was established in 1990 pursuant to a Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe. It is a consultative body which co-operates with member states of the Council of Europe and with non-member states. It is composed of independent experts in the fields of law and political science whose main tasks are the following:

- to help new Central and Eastern Europe democracies to set up new political and legal infrastructures;

- to reinforce existing democratic structures;
- to promote and strengthen principles and institutions which represent the bases of true democracy.

The activities of the Venice Commission comprise, *inter alia*, research, seminars and legal opinions on issues of constitutional reform, on draft constitutional charters, electoral laws and the protection of minorities, as well as the collection and dissemination of case-law in matters of constitutional law from Constitutional Courts and other courts throughout Europe.

CONTENTS

Austria	5	Netherlands	55
Belarus	8	Norway	63
Belgium	9	Poland	64
Bulgaria	12	Portugal	70
Canada	14	Romania	74
Croatia	16	Russia	76
Cyprus	21	Slovakia	77
Czech Republic	22	Slovenia	80
Denmark	24	Spain	87
Estonia	25	Sweden	95
France	27	Switzerland	96
Germany	31	Turkey	99
Hungary	42	United States of America	101
Ireland	45	European Court of Human Rights	107
Italy	45	Systematic thesaurus	113
Lithuania	53	Alphabetical index	125