



საქართველოს საკონსტიტუციო სასამართლოს თავმჯდომარე  
**PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF GEORGIA**

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№ 01/01-254

“25” 07 2012

**TO: Mr. Gerhart Holzinger**  
**President**  
**Constitutional Court of Austria**

Dear Mr. President,

Allow me to express my gratitude for your invitation to the Circle of Presidents (Preparatory Meeting) in Vienna on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2012. It will be a great pleasure for me to attend this Circle and I look forward to a productive meeting.

With reference to the forthcoming meeting let me herewith present the candidature of the Constitutional Court of Georgia for organizing and hosting the 2017 Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts in Batumi, the hometown of the Constitutional Court of Georgia.

Throughout the last decade Constitutional Court of Georgia has organized more than two dozen international and regional events, conferences, seminars and trainings with an aim to promote and uphold constitutional justice, values of democracy, rule of law, rights and freedoms of individuals. These events have been organized in partnership with Council of Europe, Venice Commission, GIZ (German Society for International Cooperation), USAID/JILEP, European Commission and other Institutions.

Thus, on national as well as regional level, Batumi has gradually become accepted as a venue for exchange of thoughts, ideas and opinions; hosting debates. It further strives to become a hope lace for international research and cooperation. Therefore, holding the Congress in Batumi will undoubtedly have both symbolic and practical importance for the country and the region as a whole. It will serve as a reinforcement of democratic principles, will promote the integration of this region into the European legal family as well as further facilitate cooperation of Constitutional Court of Georgia with constitutional courts and equivalent bodies of other European states.

Situated on the shores of the Black Sea, 2-3 meters above sea level, Batumi is the land and marine gateway to Georgia, with largest sea port, railway hub, and international airport. Its mild climate and amazing nature are harmonized with unique cultural monuments and recreational zones.

It should also be mentioned that Batumi, which is distinguished by its geographic location, has always served as a “connecting bridge” between Europe and Asia. It is a second largest financial and trade center of Georgia and an important economic hub of the Black Sea Region.

Batumi has an ancient history, it was first mentioned by Aristotle in his written scripts dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Xenophonte and Apollonius of Rhodes claim this city was well known in the ancient world and one of the significant seaports. Ancient Greek scripts and the legend about the Argonauts prove importance of Batumi for East and Aegean cultures. It is also worthy to note that in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Batumi was considered to be the most tolerant and multicultural city in the region. That is why Orthodox, Catholic and Gregorian churches, a Mosque and Synagogue stand side by side in Batumi.

Thus, Batumi with its convenient geographic location, historical and legal traditions has all what is needed for hosting the XVII Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts in 2017.

On behalf of the Constitutional Court of Georgia I therefore kindly request to circulate the letter among the members of the Circle of Presidents and to put the candidacy of the Constitutional Court of Georgia on the agenda of the Preparatory Meeting – Circle of Presidents in Vienna, 10 September 2012. We sincerely hope that our bid to host the Conference will be successful and will be supported by the member courts

Sincerely Yours,



George Papuashvili

President