



Vienna, 21 May 2012

Dear Madam President, / Dear Mr. President,

In my capacity as organiser of the XVIth Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts I am delighted to be able to extend an official invitation for the Circle of Presidents (Preparatory Meeting) in Vienna (Resolution III of 15 October 2009 in Bucharest).

As already announced in our letter of 31 January 2012, the Circle of Presidents will be convened at Grand Hotel Wien from 9 to 11 September 2012. It will start with a reception and dinner on 9 September at 7 p.m. The preparatory meeting itself will be held on 10 September from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

I may point out again that the Conference of European Constitutional Courts was founded in 1972 and is thus celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2012. For this reason, the Circle of Presidents convened in Austria is an event of particular significance.

On the evening of 10 September, the Circle of Presidents will be received by the Federal President of the Republic of Austria at Hofburg Palace and subsequently be invited to a banquet hosted by the Austrian Federal Chancellor. Please refer to the attached preliminary programme for all details pertaining to the Circle of Presidents.

In line with the provisions for the organisation of the preparatory meeting (Art. 9 Statute; Art. 10 Rules of Procedure of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts) you will also find attached to this letter an agenda whose adoption will be decided under agenda item 1.

With regard to agenda item II.3. please find enclosed a proposal for the theme of the XVIth Congress, information on the theme (Notes on the Theme), the preliminary schedule for the individual Congress sessions as well as a schedule for the further preparatory steps for the Congress (questionnaire, country reports).

Following the decision by the Circle of Presidents at the XVth Congress in Bucharest on 25 May 2011 (cf. Resolution IV of 25 May 2011), the application of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo for admission to the Conference of European Constitutional Courts as an Associate Member was set on the agenda of the preparatory meeting (Item IV). We have chosen the following procedure for dealing with the extremely comprehensive documentation linked to this application by the Kosovo Constitutional Court (Art. 6 para. 5 of the Statute): as it is impossible to deliver this bulky set of attachments by mail, it will be sent out exclusively by electronic route (e-mail). Courts and institutions that have difficulties receiving very large amounts of data are requested to notify us of that fact. Apart from delivery by e-mail, the documents will also be made available for *download* on our website (<http://www.vfgh.gv.at/>).

The Austrian Constitutional Court will take the necessary steps (cf. the concomitant resolutions of Brussels, 2002, and Bucharest, 2009) to update the website texts of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts and ensure their translation into the official conference languages. The texts will be made available for the website administered by the Constitutional Court of Belgium (<http://www.confeuconstco.org/>).

In addition, a sub-site similar in layout to the permanent website will be placed on the website of the Austrian Constitutional Court (<http://www.vfgh.gv.at/>). This sub-site will contain additional organisational information for the Circle of Presidents and the further preparations for the XVIth Congress.

All full members who have not yet registered for the Congress are urgently requested to do so at their earliest convenience. We would also ask all Courts desiring simultaneous translation into an additional language (in acc. with Art. 9 para. 2 Statute; Art. 12 para. 2 Rules of Procedure of the Conference) to inform us of that fact together with their registration.

You are kindly requested to use the following e-mail address for your registration, as well as for information about your chosen language of correspondence, your choice of language for simultaneous translation and any other comments on the agenda:

E-mail address: praesidentenrunde2012@vfgg.gv.at

I am looking forward to welcoming you in Vienna in September.

Yours sincerely,

Attachments: Preliminary Programme

Agenda

Notes on the Congress theme

Preliminary Schedule

Res. IV of 25 May 2011, Circle of Presidents, XVth Congress, Bucharest

Application of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo

List of members/contact data