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Vienna, 31 January 2014

Dear Mister President,

Permit me to address you in my capacity as Chairman of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts.

The Austrian Constitutional Court will host the XVIth Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts in Vienna; the related preparatory meeting was already held in September 2012. In the course of that meeting, the relevant decisions regarding the organization of the 2014 Congress were taken, including a decision to open the Congress to the courts and institutions of Europe and other continents as observers (Decision IV).

Thus, it is a special pleasure for me to invite you, Mister President, as well as one or several accompanying persons, to participate in the Congress as an “observer”, as provided for in the Statute of the Conference.

The Congress will be held at the Congress Centre of the Vienna Hofburg (<http://www.hofburg.com/>) from 12 to 14 May 2014.

As unanimously decided by the members of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts, i.e. more than forty constitutional courts or similar institutions, the theme of the Congress will be “The Co-operation of Constitutional Courts in Europe – Current Situation and Perspectives” (see

Decision III adopted on 10 September 2012). We hope that this theme is of interest to you.

The member courts have already prepared and handed in their national reports. The full versions of these reports as well as the summaries can be accessed and read on the permanent website of the CECC (<http://www.confcoconsteu.org/>) and the sub-site of our court (<http://www.vfgh.gv.at/cms/vfgh-kongress/en/xvi-kongress-2014/landesberichte.html>).

On the basis of these reports, Professor Grabenwarter, General Rapporteur of the Congress, will present his report in the course of the first session after the solemn opening of the Congress on 12 May at 11:00.

The four subsequent sessions will be dealing with the sub-themes specified in the enclosed "Preliminary Schedule for the Congress". Input papers will be delivered on these sub-themes and – as we all hope – lively discussions will follow.

For ease of communication, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the official languages of the Congress (French, English, German and Russian) as well as in Italian and Spanish (Art. 12 para. 2 of the Conference Regulations).

It is a special pleasure for us to organize a social programme for you and your accompanying persons. For Sunday evening (11 May 2014, 19:00), we are planning a welcome dinner at the *Orangerie* of Schönbrunn Palace. On Monday evening (12 May 2014, 20:00), we will be received by the City of Vienna in the *Arkadenhof* of the City Hall. For Tuesday evening (13 May 2014, 19:00), we will be inviting you to a concert at the Vienna *Musikverein*, to be followed by the closing reception of the Congress at the Vienna State Opera. Our full-day excursion on Wednesday (14 May 2014) will take us to Burgenland. For further details, please refer to the enclosed draft programme.

It goes without saying that transfer (shuttle service by bus and minivan) will be provided throughout the Congress.

We would ask you, Mister President, as well as your accompanying person(s), to register for the Congress and to complete the online registration form by **22 February 2014, at the latest** ([https://secure.austropa-interconvention.at/ei/getdemo.ei?id=769&s= 1100JVMW5](https://secure.austropa-interconvention.at/ei/getdemo.ei?id=769&s=1100JVMW5)).

Using the online form, you can book your hotel accommodation and, at the same time, communicate your travel data and special requests to us. For a pleasant stay in Vienna, we have chosen the Vienna Intercontinental Hotel at *Stadtpark*. It has the capacity to accommodate all Congress participants and is conveniently located in the city centre in the vicinity of all Congress venues.

Yours sincerely,

Enclosures:
Decisions I to VIII
(Circle of Presidents, 10 Sept 2012, Vienna)
Preliminary schedule for the Congress
Notes on the Congress theme
Draft programme
and
Jubilee Brochure, 40 Years of CECC
Short video, XVIth Congress in Vienna