



XVI^e Congrès de la Conférence des Cours constitutionnelles européennes
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Synthèse / Summary / Kurzfassung / резюме

**RÉPUBLIQUE DE LETTONIE / REPUBLIC OF LATVIA /
REPUBLIK LETTLAND / ЛАТВИЙСКАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА**

**The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia
Latvijas Republikas Satversmes tiesa**

Anglais / English / Englisch / английский

XVIth Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts in 2014

Cooperation of Constitutional Courts in Europe – Current Situation and Perspectives

Questionnaire for the national reports

SUMMARY

As a court of a member state of the European Union, the Constitutional Court, as any other institution, is obliged to consider European law in the performance of its tasks.

The obligation of the State to consider the international commitments in the field of human rights is established in the Constitution *expressis verbis*, therefore the Constitutional Court applies international norms in clarifying the content of the fundamental rights set out in the Constitution.

The Constitutional Court has directly defined a higher level of protection of fundamental rights in the Constitution than in the international documents. Those are the only cases, when the case law of the Constitutional Court and the European courts differs.

The Constitutional Court, in accordance with its jurisdiction defined by law, may have to adjudicate cases, which directly pertain to the European Convention on Human Rights, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or other instruments of international law at European and international level.

The Constitutional Court refers to the case law of European courts, if it is necessary for the adjudication of a case, interpretation of a norm, revealing the content of a particular right. The rulings by the Constitutional Court contain references to various European-level and international-level international documents. Other national courts consider the case law of European courts, independently from the extent to which it is considered and used by the Constitutional Court.

The Constitutional Court refers to the rulings made by the constitutional courts and supreme courts of other states. Convenient accessibility and codification of rulings is of great importance.