



XIXth Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts

Minutes of the meeting of the Circle of Presidents of 22 May 2024

09:00 – 10:00, Palace of the Republic

Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

I. Participants in the meeting:

Representatives of the Presiding Court:

1. Ms Domnica MANOLE, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova (accompanied by Mr Teodor PAPUC, Deputy Secretary General of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova).

The Circle of Presidents participants (heads of delegations of Member Courts):

2. Ms Holta ZAČAJ, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania;
3. Mr Stephan HARBARTH, President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany;
4. Mr Yervand KHUNDKARYAN, Justice, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia;
5. Mr Christoph GRABENWARTER, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Austria;
6. Mr Farhad ABDULLAYEV, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
7. Mr Pierre NIHOUL, President of the Constitutional Court of Belgium;
8. Ms Valerija GALIĆ, President of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
9. Ms Pavlina PANOVA, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria;
10. Mr Miroslav ŠEPAROVIĆ, President of the Constitutional Court of Croatia;
11. Ms Laura DÍEZ BUESO, Justice, Constitutional Court of Spain;
12. Mr Ivo PILVING, Chairman of the Administrative Law Chamber, Supreme Court of Estonia;

13. Ms Corinne LUQUIENS, Member, Constitutional Council of the French Republic;
14. Mr Merab TURAVA, President of the Constitutional Court of Georgia;
15. Ms Réka VARGA, Judge, Constitutional Court of Hungary;
16. Mr Hogan GERARD, Judge, Supreme Court of Ireland;
17. Mr Giovanni AMOROSO, Vice President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Italy;
18. Mr Aldis LAVIŅŠ, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia;
19. Mr Hilmar HOCH, President of the Constitutional Court of the Principality of Liechtenstein;
20. Mr Gintaras GODA, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania;
21. Mr Thierry HOSCHEIT, President of the Constitutional Court of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg;
22. Ms Dobrila KACARSKA, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia;
23. Mr Jean-Philippe DEROSIER, Member, Supreme Court of the Principality of Monaco;
24. Mr Milorad GOGIC, President of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro;
25. Ms Dineke de GROOT, President of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands;
26. Mr Justyn PISKORSKI, Judge, Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Poland;
27. Mr José João ABRANTES, President of the Constitutional Court of Portugal;
28. Mr Gheorghe STAN, Judge, Constitutional Court of Romania;
29. Ms Snežana MARKOVIĆ, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia;
30. Mr Ivan FIAČAN, President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic;
31. Mr Matej ACCETTO, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia;
32. Mr Yves DONZALLAZ, President of the Federal Court of Switzerland;
33. Mr Jozef BAXA, President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic;
34. Mr Kadir ÖZKAYA, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye;
35. Mr Viktor GORODOVENKO, Judge, Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Member courts whose representatives were not present at the meeting of the Circle of Presidents:

- Constitutional Tribunal of the Principality of Andorra;
- Supreme Court of Denmark;
- Constitutional Court of Malta;
- Supreme Court of Norway;
- Supreme Constitutional Court of Cyprus.

Representatives of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Principality of Andorra were not present at the meeting of the Circle of Presidents, yet they participated at the works of the Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts (CECC) on 22-23 May 2024.

II. Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda of the Circle of Presidents (in accordance with Article 9 of the Statute; Article 10 of the Conference Regulations).

2. Organizational matters.

- a) Confirmation of the chairmanship and of the speakers of the Congress plenary sessions;
- b) Live broadcast of the event (only the solemn opening session);
- c) Publication of the speakers' contributions and of the General Report.

3. Matters of membership in the Conference of European Constitutional Courts (CECC). Application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo for membership in CECC.

Pursuant to Article 11 of the CECC Regulations, a committee may be established to prepare a report on the application for admission submitted by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo. According to the circular decision voting of 11 October 2023, where 28 votes were pronounced in its favour, the procedure for creating the special committee should be launched.

Identification of candidates in order to create the committee:

- a) Submission of candidates;
- b) Approval of the candidates;
- c) Empowering the committee for the drafting of the committee's Rules until the next preparatory meeting of the Circle of Presidents.

4. Financial matters.

a) Report on the costs associated with the organization of the XIXth Congress of the CECC and the adoption of the Congress budget (according to Article 11 para. (2) of the Statute);

b) The financial contribution for the organization of the XIXth Congress of the CECC (expenses and the method of their distribution).

5. The final declaration of the Congress.

6. The proposal of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic regarding the establishment of a Permanent Office of the CECC.

7. Other matters.

8. Handing over the chairmanship of CECC.

III. Summary of the meeting of the Circle of Presidents of 22 May 2024

1. Ms Domnica MANOLE, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting making reference to the provisions of the Statute and of the Regulations of the Conference, according to which the Circle of Presidents is empowered to take decisions if at least half of the members are present or represented at the meeting. "At least half of a total of 40 members represents 20 members. The condition is met. Today's Circle of Presidents is attended by 36 members, except that representatives of the Constitutional Tribunal of Andorra refused to participate in the meeting of the Circle of Presidents claiming not being empowered to do so. Thus, 35 members are present at this meeting of the Circle of Presidents. Therefore, the condition set out in Article 9 para. (6) of the Statute is met."

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) proposed to approve the agenda and to vote it, mentioning that decisions can be taken by a majority of two thirds of members present at a meeting. Abstentions shall be counted as negative votes.

Vote: Unanimity of votes. The agenda has been approved.

2. a) Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) proposed the confirmation of the chairmanship and of the speakers of the Congress plenary sessions, included in the agenda of the Congress, and put it to the vote.

Vote: Unanimity of votes. The subject has been approved.

b) Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) noted that, according to Article 12 para. (2) of the Statute of the Conference, the Congress proceedings are not open to the public. However, the solemn session of the Congress is not part of the solid core of the Congress, which is why the possibility of the press to live broadcast the solemn opening session of the Congress was proposed to be voted.

Vote: Unanimity of votes. Live broadcast of the solemn opening has been approved.

c) Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) put to the vote the possibility of publication of the general report, the answers to the questionnaire (national reports) and the contributions of the speakers at the Congress.

”The general report was sent to all members in English and French languages. A structured version of the report will be presented at the session of the Congress tomorrow”.

Ms MANOLE put to the vote the approval to publish the contributions of the speakers and the general report in a volume dedicated to the works of the Congress, which will ultimately then be sent to all member courts.”

Vote: Unanimity of votes. The publication has been approved.

3. Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) informed the members about the application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo for membership in the Conference of European Constitutional Courts. Article 11 of the Regulation provides the possibility of establishing a committee on the admission of other constitutional courts to the Conference. According to the result of votes cast by a circular decision on this subject on 11 October 2023, when 28 votes were cast in favour of the creation of such a committee, the procedure for the creation of the committee shall be started. Thus, the invitation to submit applications was launched.

Ms Holta ZAÇAJ (Albania) intervened with a remark on the mechanism proposed for the voting and noted that in October it was voted for the creation of a committee, which would present something today that will help the members to vote and not for establishing the committee. She suggested to vote for the standard voting procedure, even that Article 11 of the Regulation is being invoked, it represents an extraordinary voting mechanism that has never been used for a country.

Ms ZAÇAJ supported the application for membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to the CECC, noting their efforts demonstrated in order to obtain the membership and suggested to the members to revisit Article 6 para. (1) of the Statute of

the Conference, claiming that the Constitutional Court of Kosovo has submitted all the necessary documents and meets all the requirements necessary to become a member of the CECC. Appreciating the efforts made by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, she declared support for its application for membership to the Conference.

Thus, before voting on establishing the committee, she proposed to vote for the standard voting procedure for obtaining the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo. If it will be voted YES, to vote on obtaining the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo. If the standard procedure is not an appropriate one, voting for that extraordinary mechanism will be considered and questioned the need for establishing such a committee.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) noted that all the questions addressed to the constitutional courts were aimed at preparing for the works of this Congress. The decision belongs to the Circle of Presidents, and this fact is undeniable. She noted that Article 11 of the Regulation provides the possibility for the Circle of Presidents to create committees to elaborate reports regarding specific issues. A specific question was raised on the issue of solving the application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, reiterating that all questions were proposed for this Congress. „We did not have the opportunity to create this committee before the Circle of Presidents meeting. Only the Circle of Presidents is empowered to take this decision and to approve the members of this committee.”

Mr Kadir ÖZKAYA (Türkiye) greeted the participating delegations and expressed support for the application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo for membership in the CECC. He agrees with the colleagues who previously spoke, stressing that the Constitutional Court of Kosovo has made continuous efforts, demonstrating its firm commitment to join the Conference since 2011. His Honor noted that, if he understood correctly, at the meeting of the Circle of Presidents in 2023 it was decided to create a committee on the subject of the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

He proposed to initiate the procedure for establishing the committee and submitted his candidacy to be a member of the committee and to eventually establish a working schedule for drafting the report.

At the same time, he expressed his conviction that the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to the Conference will contribute substantially to the strengthening of the rule of law in Kosovo and that the Constitutional Court of Kosovo shares the values and objectives of the Conference. As the most recently established constitutional court in Europe, it will benefit from joining the Conference in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, as well as will consolidate partnerships with its counterparts in Europe.

He believes that the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, in turn, will make a great contribution to the Conference.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye had declared its support for the Constitutional Court of Kosovo and its candidacy to be a member of the committee.

Ms Corinne LUQUIENS (France) noted that there was an ambiguity, when the members were consulted on the establishment of this committee, as she did not understand that establishing a committee would allow the question on the membership of Kosovo to the Conference to be discussed in three years. This problem seems to be getting postponed in a systematic way. The previous discussions on this issue were held in Prague and, in that case, there was no vote on the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, as the subject was not included on the agenda. She believes that the time has come to discuss this topic, for the reasoning emphasized by both the colleague from Albania and Türkiye. She questioned the need to create a committee to finally discuss the membership of Kosovo in the Conference and proposed the subject of the membership of Kosovo to be discussed and put to the vote, since establishing a committee means postponing the decision for another three years.

Mr Matej ACCETTO (Slovenia) expressed his agreement with those communicated by the President of the Constitutional Court of Albania and the Member of the Constitutional Council of France. Establishing the committee would have made sense if it was to prepare a report for this Congress, but after all these years and the process well-known to all the courts, he believes that the time has come to discuss and vote on the request of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo today. He considers that the proposal, even if it pursues the best of intentions, would prolong the procedure far too long, since it is foreseen that the committee will first draw up its rules of procedure by the next preparatory meeting of the Circle of Presidents, and this would prolong the process much longer than necessary. He considers that they are ready to vote on this today.

Mr Aldis LAVIŅŠ (Latvia) fully supports the proposal formulated by the President of the Constitutional Court of Albania and believes that it is time to discuss on the merits of the subject of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo membership. If there will not be enough votes to decide on this issue, the Constitutional Court of Latvia expressed its intention to be a member in this committee.

Mr Yves DONZALLAZ (Switzerland) noted that setting up such a committee, for the first time in the history of this association, to vote on admission of a new member seems to him to be relatively discriminatory and unjustified. Creating committees or subcommittees that would meet in three years or more would be a practice of delaying the process. He supports the opinions of previous speakers and believes that a two-

staged voting procedure must be taken. In the first stage, to vote directly on the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to the Conference, in the second stage, if the required majority is not met, to create the specialized committee.

Mr Christoph GRABENWARTER (Austria) noted the efforts of the presidency of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova to solve this difficult problem and bring the decision one step closer. At the same time, he noted the remark of the colleague from the Constitutional Council of France regarding the meeting in Prague, when through a procedural discussion exhausted the subject on admission. The Austrian Constitutional Court abstained from the vote on the establishing of a committee. He supports the proposal of the Swiss colleague to, first, vote on the actual membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, and if the required majority will not be met, to establish the committee.

Mr José João ABRANTES (Portugal): Having listened to the earlier statements on this subject, he considers the proposal of his colleague from Switzerland to be the most reasonable. He supports the proposal to vote in two stages. First, vote on the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to the Conference itself and, in the case the latest receives a negative vote, to vote on the establishment of the special committee.

Mr Stephan HARBARTH (Germania) finds convincing the proposal made by the colleague from Switzerland, supported by Austria and Portugal, to proceed to the two-staged voting procedure. Referring to the first stage, he considers it to be in the best interest of the Conference, of the European community of European constitutional courts, as well as of Kosovo to be allowed to become a part of this meeting. Their progress in the matter of the rule of law is tangible and he believes that it is time for it to join the Conference.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) remarked that, as a result of those mentioned above, two opinions were outlined.

Ms Snežana MARKOVIĆ (Serbia) considers that the discussion is contrary to the agenda and Article 10 of the Regulation, as the discussions are about changing the agenda. The agenda approved at the beginning of the meeting should be respected. Serbia voted for the proposed agenda because it aimed at establishing the committee and it would be right to follow the approved agenda. As previously did at the meetings of the Circles of Presidents, Serbia remains of the same opinion and considers that the Constitutional Court of Kosovo does not meet the conditions as stipulated in Article 6 of the Statute, since it is not a European state nor is it a member of the United Nations or the Council of Europe. Therefore, according to the well-known point of view of

Serbia, she opposed to amending the agenda, after it was approved, and to the discussion regarding the voting directly on the Constitutional Court of Kosovo application. She considers necessary to establish a committee, as it was voted in October.

Mr Christoph GRABENWARTER (Austria) noted that according to the agenda they all have before them, it is clear that the subject on the request of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo for membership in the Conference is being discussed. Directly deciding on this issue is completely covered by the recently adopted agenda.

Mr Stephan HARBARTH (Germany) expressed his firm disagreement with the statements of the Serbian colleague, in particular on the voting procedure and the agenda of the Circle of Presidents. He clarified that the item on the agenda refers to the request of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to join the CECC, noting that there is a difference of an item on the agenda and a proposal for a certain resolution. There may be disagreements on the matter itself, but it is not acceptable to suggest that it would be a violation of the rules of procedure.

Ms Dineke de GROOT (Netherlands) pointed out that the application for membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo is the main topic on the agenda. Although she fully understands the sensitivity of the point of view of the Serbian colleague, the topic is included in the agenda and she supports the discussions on the proposed procedure. She also noted that she had the same question as the colleague from Albania regarding the reasons for not using the standard procedure and supported the proposal to first decide whether the required majority is met for the application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo, expressing appreciation for the progress made by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo in ensuring the rule of law.

Mr Pierre NIHOUL (Belgium) mentioned that it is a delicate subject, but as constitutional judges they are used to such matters and pointed out three issues: that he shares the opinion of his colleagues from Austria and Germany regarding the agenda, which refers to the application for membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo; that he shares the proposal of his colleague from Switzerland to vote in two stages and that he agrees with the opinion of Ms De GROOT regarding the favourable evolution of the decisions of the Constitutional Court in Kosovo.

Mr Justyn PISKORSKI (Poland) noted that the decision to establish a committee was made by vote in October and is binding. He suggested to first vote on abolishing this decision, and then to follow up with other proposals.

Mr Jean-Philippe DEROSIER (Monaco) expressed his support for the proposals made, in particular by the Swiss colleague, to proceed in two stages: to vote for the membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo and, if the required majority is not

met, to vote for the establishment of the committee. He agrees with his Austrian and German colleagues that item 3 on the agenda clarifies the debate regarding the membership of Kosovo. If the vote for membership is approved, the establishment of the committee is no longer necessary. However, if the committee has to be established, the candidates can be rejected, thus solving the problem raised by the colleague from Poland.

Mr Thierry HOSCHEIT (Luxemburg) expressed his opinion that the decision taken in October was not really a decision, but a poll, stressing that important decisions are made in the actual physical meetings after a detailed exchange of pros and cons arguments. He does not find it acceptable to say that a decision was made in October and claims that the real decision must be taken in the today's meeting. There is the application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to become a member of the Conference and the responsibility to respond to this request cannot be avoided.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) noted the need to take a decision regarding the request of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo and emphasized that the final decision belongs to the Circle of Presidents.

Based on what was communicated, two proposals were outlined: to vote on the request directly, and in case of a negative vote, to create a committee.

Ms MANOLE proposed to initiate the voting procedure on the request of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo to join the CECC and noted the need to meet the required majority of 2/3 of the votes of the members present for the approval of the subject, asking the members to decide on the voting procedure.

Mr Christoph GRABENWARTER (Austria) referred to the provisions of art. 9 para. (7) of the Statute of the Conference regarding the voting rules, which establishes the necessity of a consensus of two thirds of the members present, abstention being considered a negative vote, and each member has only one vote. There is no secret voting.

Ms MANOLE put to the vote the open voting, by raising a hand.

Vote: In favour - more than 2/3 of the members. Open voting was approved.

Ms MANOLE put to the vote the application of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo for membership in the CCCE by open vote.

Vote: In favour – 22 votes, Against / Abstained – 13. The proposal did not meet the required number of votes.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) proposed to discuss the establishing of the committee, as indicated in the agenda, the identification and, subsequently, the approval of the candidacies. It is proposed to vote on establishing the number of members on the committee and submitting the candidates, suggesting that an odd number of people would avoid creating deadlocks.

The following candidates were identified: Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Italy, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia, Constitutional Court of Belgium, Constitutional Council of France, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania, Supreme Court of the Principality of Monaco.

Ms MANOLE put to the vote the creation of the seven-member committee, nominated above, that will examine the request for membership of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

Vote: In favour - more than 2/3 of the members. The establishment of the seven-member committee was approved.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) proposed to discuss if it is necessary to vote on the empowering of the committee to draft its Rules until the next preparatory meeting of the Circle of Presidents.

Ms Holta ZAÇAJ (Albania) questioned the necessity to vote on this subject and on the Rules of procedure of the committee. The committee can decide on its own whether or not it will need the said Rules, since its only purpose is to draw up a report.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) explained that this was the proposal of the court organizing the Congress, and if the Circle of Presidents does not support this idea, the presentation of the report of the committee on the request of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo at the next meeting of the Circle of Presidents will be put to the vote.

Also, Ms MANOLE raised the question on the necessity to vote on the presentation of the report of the committee at the next meeting of the Circle of Presidents, that was tacitly accepted.

Mr Kadir ÖZKAYA (Türkiye) asked who will be the president of this committee, proposing the candidacy of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania.

In response, **Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova)** specified that the president of the committee shall be elected by its members and they will establish their own working method.

Ms Holta ZAÇAJ (Albania) requested a clarification that the approved matter was for the proposal for the committee to prepare the report until the next preparatory meeting of the Circle of Presidents and not for drafting its Rules of procedure.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) confirmed that the tacitly approved matter was for the presentation of the report at the next preparatory meeting of the Circle of Presidents.

4. Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) presented the budget of the Congress to be approved by the members present at the meeting of the Circle of Presidents. The data presented also contained the financial contribution of each court for the organization of the XIXth Congress of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts.

According to art. 11 para. (1) of the Statute of the Conference, the Conference shall be financed primarily by the equal contributions of full members. The proposed costs for the organization of the Congress in Chişinău include: costs for rental of the premises, printing costs, costs of the translation of written documents, interpretation costs, general administrative overheads. The draft budget was sent earlier to all the participating courts, which allowed the participants to study the indicated numbers in advance.

The total amount presented is 102 250,00 EUR. The amount resulting from the equal division among the 36 courts participating in the Congress is 2 840,00 EUR.

Ms MANOLE put to the vote the approval of the presented cost sharing.

Vote: In favour - more than 2/3 of the members. The budget and cost sharing were approved.

5. Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) informed that the final declaration of the Congress will be voted tomorrow, in the second day of the Circle of Presidents meeting. She gave the members the opportunity to submit suggestions on the content of the text. In the absence of proposals, it was agreed that the text of the final declaration is to be drafted by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova.

6. In the context of the proposal of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic regarding the establishment of a Permanent Office of the CECC, Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) invited Mr Josef BAXA, President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic to present the proposal.

Mr Josef BAXA (Czech) stated that the proposal of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic to establish the Permanent Office of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts will ensure the continuity and efficiency of the activities of the Conference, having in mind the periodic changes of the presidency between the courts.

The Permanent Office will administer the general website and keep the archive of the Conference documents. He has requested the support of the members on this proposal.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) put to the vote the proposal to create the Permanent Office of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts, as proposed by the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic.

Vote: In favour - more than 2/3 members. The establishment of the Permanent Office was approved, according to the proposal of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) noted that the question of handing over the Conference chairmanship remains to be resolved.

In this regard, two courts have expressed their willingness: Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Poland and Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania. Ms MANOLE asked whether there were other candidates willing to take over the Conference presidency.

Mr Aldis LAVIŅŠ (Latvia) submitted the candidacy of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia, expressing the willingness to organize the next Congress.

In the context of the existence of three candidacies and noting the fact that the Presidents of the Constitutional Courts of Germany and the Czech Republic will not be present tomorrow at the meeting of the Circle of Presidents, **Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova)** proposed to vote on the subject of handing over the presidency today.

Mr Justyn PISKORSKI (Polonia) communicated the readiness to organize the Congress, stressing that the Constitutional Court of Poland has the necessary staff, resources and experience. Ultimately, he declared the withdrawal of the candidacy of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Poland in favour of other competing courts.

Before closing the meeting, given that the time allocated for this meeting had been exceeded, **Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova)** proposed to continue discussing this topic and exercising the vote on the issue in the meeting of the Circle of Presidents on the next day and asked about the possibility of empowering another court to vote for those who will not be present.

Mr Christoph GRABENWARTER (Austria) supported the postponement of the vote until the next day, stressing that the votes cannot be transmitted to other courts. Opinions of other courts can be communicated so that they can be included in the discussions. However, the voting procedure should only be done by the courts that are present.

According to pt. 3 of Article 9 para. (7) of the Statute of the Conference, each court only has one vote and this provision is imperative.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) put to the vote handing over the chairmanship to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania.

Vote: In favour - 21 votes for the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania. The required number of votes are not met.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) put to the vote handing over the chairmanship to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia.

Vote: In favour - 11 votes for the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia. The required number of votes are not met.

Mr Christoph GRABENWARTER (Austria) suggested this issue to be repeatedly voted at the meeting on the following day.

Ms Domnica MANOLE (Moldova) confirmed the repeated voting will take place at the meeting on the following day.

The meeting was declared closed.