

CIVIL CONVENT FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE BULGARIAN CONSTITUTION

Project Objectives

The project aims to publicly institutionalize the debates about the constitutional reform. The major task of the civil convention is to provide a common ground for public debates which will contribute to Bulgaria's constitutional image in the 21st century. Bulgaria's image should reflect the principles of Bulgarian constitutionalism, meet the challenges of the modern world before the Bulgarian state institutions and be in accord with the fundamental values of the EU.

Project Implementation Tools

The civil convention is a forum for discussions which unites representatives of the national institutions, the basic political parties, the expert community and non-governmental organizations. Different issues in regard to the constitution are being discussed, which are topical about the constitutional debate existing in Bulgaria.

Project Status

In progress

Project Development

The project was initiated in the autumn of 2003. Fifteen discussions on different constitutional topics have been discussed so far, some of which have left a permanent mark in the process of the constitutional reforms and have managed to convey their message in the political and social sphere.

- The civil convention and the debate for constitutional changes in Bulgaria (September 27th 2003)
- The idea about the Great People's Assembly in the light of today's constitutional policy (November 17th 2003)
- Constitutional aspects of Bulgaria's accession to the EU (February 3rd 2004)
- Constitution, referendum, the Great People's Assembly (March 9th 2004)
- What power does the president have? (April 19th 2004)
- Is there a chance for a parliament with an upper and a lower chamber in Bulgaria? (June 17th 2004)
- Decentralization and possible changes in the constitution (July 21st 2004)
- Judicial reform and changes in the Bulgarian constitution (October 13th 2004)
- Is it necessary to make changes in the Supreme Judicial Council? (January 31st 2005)
- Constitutional issues of the political delegation (March 28th 2005)
- Do people have a right to lodge a personal complaint before the Constitutional Court in Bulgaria (May 4th 2005)
- Euthanasia – is it possible to become legal in Bulgaria? (May 18th 2005)
- Is the Bulgarian Constitutional Court successful? (October 4th 2005)
- Human rights protection – the Bulgarian constitutional practice and the international standards (November 16th 2005)
- What will the amendments to the constitution change? (February 6th 2006)

The full texts of the discussions are available at:

www.constituion.osf.bg

Results

The fifteen discussions have been published in two different editions.

- "The Constitutional debate in Bulgaria – notes from the sessions of the 2003-2004 civil convention, taken in shorthand"
- "The Constitutional debate in Bulgaria – notes from the sessions of the 2005 civil convention, taken in shorthand"

Experts and Partners

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