

SEMINAR

BICAMERALISM: MODELS, EVOLUTION AND CURRENT CHALLENGES OF A “CONTESTED INSTITUTION”

**CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS POLÍTICOS Y CONSTITUCIONALES
VENICE COMMISSION – COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 July 2022

At least in numerical terms, the relevance of bicameralism has steadily declined in the world throughout the twentieth century. In the last decades, however, this long-term trend has come to a halt and, in recent years, a slight movement in the opposite direction has been observable. Between 1996 and 2012 no fewer than 28 new second chambers appeared, 19 of them in Africa or the Middle East, 4 in Asia and 5 in Europe and the ex-USSR. Over the same period, only nine countries had eliminated their second chambers. These trends bring new interest into the long-standing and never fully settled discussion on the legitimacy and utility of bicameralism.

Current debates on this important institutional arrangement have become extremely diversified and complex and keep questioning core elements of modern constitutionalism and democratic theory. Being a “contested institution”, a great deal these debates keeps discussing the very existence of second chambers and it is possible to recognise a diversity of arguments both in favour and against Bicameralism. Each of the arguments in favour or against bicameralism open a wide range of more specific and equally contentious discussions which are at least as important as the one about more general principles. After all, “the devil hides in the details” and, second chambers can be implemented in very different ways, which may lead to entirely different results. These debates concern, among others, crucial issue like the composition, selection of members, functioning and function of second chambers within the more general institutional framework.

Monday 4 July

10:00 Opening remarks

- **YOLANDA GÓMEZ SÁNCHEZ**, Director of the CEPC and Professor for Constitutional Law at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia
- **CLAIRE BAZY MALAURIE**, President of the Venice Commission
- **SIMONA GRANATA-MENGHINI**, Director/Secretary of the Venice Commission
- **MANUEL MONTOBBIO DE BALANZÓ**, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe

10:30 Introductory session: Bicameralism in the 21st century. Trends and Challenges

- **RAFAEL BUSTOS GISBERT**, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Member for Spain at the Venice Commission
- **PIEDAD GARCÍA-ESCUADERO MÁRQUEZ**, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Counselor at the Cortes Generales
- **JOSÉ TUDELA ARANDA**, Director of the Fundación Manuel Giménez Abad de Estudios parlamentarios y del Estado autonómico. Counselor at the Cortes de Aragón

Chaired by **Emilio Pajares Montolío**, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Deputy Director of Publications and Documentation of the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales

13.00 Lunch

14:30 First panel: Bicameralism and Representation in Increasingly Complex Societies

- **WARREN NEWMAN**, General Counsel at the Constitutional, Administrative and International Law Section of the Canadian Department of Justice. Member of the Venice Commission for Canada
- **RAFAEL RUBIO NÚÑEZ**, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Former Substitute Member of the Venice Commission for Spain
- **ERIKA MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ PINZÓN**, Associate Researcher at the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales

Chaired by **Mayte Salvador Crespo**, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law at the Universidad de Jaén. Deputy Director of Studies and Research at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales

16:00 Second panel: Bicameralism and democracy. Between old dilemmas and new opportunities

- **EVA SÁENZ ROYO**, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law at the Universidad de Zaragoza
- **GIORGIO REPETTO**, Associate Professor of Public Law Institutions at the Università degli Studi di Perugia. Study assistant at the Corte Costituzionale.
- **GEORGE TSEBELIS**, Collegiate Professor Anatol Rapoport of Political Science at the University of Michigan

Chaired by **Camino Vidal Fueyo**, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional Law at the Universidad de Burgos. General Director of Constitutional Affairs and Legal Coordination

Tuesday 5 July

10:30 Third panel: Bicameralism and decentralisation

- **SYLVIA MARTÍ**, Counselor at the Cortes Generales
- **JANINE OTALORA MALASSIS**, Judge of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judicial Branch. Substitute Member for Mexico at the Venice Commission
- **EVA MARIA BELSER**, Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the Universität Freiburg
- **JOSEP MARIA CASTELLÀ ANDREU**, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Universitat de Barcelona. Former Member for Spain at the Venice Commission

Chaired by **Ángel Sánchez Navarro**, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Counselor at the Tribunal Constitucional

12:30 Conclusions

- **JORGE ALEXANDER PORTOCARRERO QUISPE**, Research Fellow García-Pelayo at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales. Former *secondment* at the Venice Commission
- **GABRIEL ECHEVERRÍA**, Research Fellow García-Pelayo at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales. Current *secondment* at the Venice Commission

13:00 Closing remarks

- **CLAIRE BAZY MALAURIE**, President of the Venice Commission
- **YOLANDA GÓMEZ SÁNCHEZ**, Director of the CEPC and Professor for Constitutional Law at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia

Working languages: Spanish and English

Simultaneous translation for both languages will be provided

The seminar will take place in **hybrid modality** (presential + online)