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**COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
(CAHDI)**

**30th meeting
Strasbourg, 19 - 20 September 2005**

**NOTE ON THE LAST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE NEW PROCEDURE
OF NOTIFICATION OF ACTS RELATED TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S TREATIES**

Secretariat memorandum
prepared by the Directorate General of Legal Affairs

Note on the last developments concerning the new notification procedure

1. At the 28th meeting of the CAHDI, in September 2004, the Secretariat informed the delegations of the introduction of a new notification procedure relating to Council of Europe treaties (document CAHDI-2004)21). This new procedure aims at replacing the existing mechanisms of written notifications sent by post by a notification procedure by electronic means.

2. The Governments of the Council of Europe's member States have been consulted in October 2004 and no objection has been raised. The required technical works for the introduction of this procedure have begun and the Treaty Office estimates that it will be in the position to start the new procedure towards the end of 2005.

3. Additional information on the main aspects of the procedure has been given to the member States via their Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe by a letter dated 28 June 2005. The modalities of the notification procedure by electronic means will be the following:

- All the notifications of the Depositary will be filed in a database articulated according to the "Web Cube Documentary" (Wcd) methodology currently in application within the framework of the Committee of Ministers' website, and will be accessible either via the Treaty Office website (<http://conventions.coe.int>) or that of the Committee of Ministers. The Wcd methodology determines the available search functions, which will allow for a search by keywords such as the State, the date of the notification, the nature of the legal act (signature, ratification, reservations, declarations and other communications), the title or CETS number of the treaty. Notifications will continue to be established in their current form in terms of content and presentation and will be posted in a downloadable and printable secure PDF format.
- On a weekly basis, the Treaty Office will inform by electronic mail the Permanent Representations, as well as the other authorities concerned, of the legal acts which have been registered, and of the corresponding notifications. The electronic mail will contain electronic links providing direct access to the relevant notifications within the database. In the absence of the registration of any legal act, a message will be sent informing thereof the interested parties.
- A list of the established notifications reproducing the content of the weekly electronic mail will be published on the website of the Treaty Office on the day the electronic mail is transmitted.
- On a monthly basis, a *Note verbale* taking stock of all the notifications, which have been communicated electronically by the Depositary, will be established. The Note will bear the signature of the Director General of Legal Affairs and will be sent to all recipients of the Depositary's notifications.
- It is envisaged that, for a period of 6 months necessary for the launching of the new procedure, the Treaty Office will in parallel continue to apply the existing procedure of written notifications sent by post.