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Region and Regionalism in European and Russian Law

The presentation will focus on the notion of a region as provided for in European and Russian law with the emphasis on constitutional law instruments. As for European law provisions of the draft Charter on Regional Self-Government will be examined. As practice shows the attitude to the notion of a region differs from state to state and from legislation to legislation, depending on the form of state construction. The author will analyse the voice of regions in the European Union context and in the Russian Federation, thus comparing the phenomenon of regionalism as the legal term and the relevant practices.

Draft European Charter of Regional Self-Government

6. Aware that the region is an appropriate level of authority for effective implementation of subsidiarity, which is considered one of the basic principles to be observed with regard both to European integration and to the internal organisation of States involved in this movement;

Article 3

Principle

1. Regional self-government denotes the right and the ability of the largest territorial authorities within each State, having elected bodies, being administratively placed between central government and local authorities and enjoying prerogatives either of self-organisation or of a type normally associated with the central authority, to manage, on their own responsibility and in the interests of their populations, a substantial share of public affairs, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

Article 25

Regions to which the Charter shall apply

The principles of regional self-government contained in this Charter shall apply to all the regions existing within the territory of a Contracting Party. However, each Contracting Party may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the categories of regions to which it intends to confine the scope of the Charter or which it intends to exclude from its scope.