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TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic*

On the days of 9th and 10th April 2013, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic celebrated the 20th anniversary of its establishment. The most notable part of this celebration was the official ceremony in Košice State Theatre which was attended by the highest constitutional officials, Slovak and foreign guests as well as the employees of the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court. During this official ceremony, speeches were presented in turn by **Ivan Gašparovič**, the President of the Slovak Republic, **Pavol Paška**, the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, **Ivetta Macejková**, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, **Zdenko Trebuľa**, the President of Košice Self-Governing Region and **Richard Raši**, the Mayor of the City of Košice.

The official celebration was preceded by an international conference entitled **“The position of constitutional courts and their influence on the legal order of the state”**. The invitation to this conference was also accepted by **Gianni Buquicchio**, the President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), the Presidents and the Vice Presidents of the Constitutional Courts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Serbia, and a judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, as well as current and former judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, a judge of the European Court of Human Rights and judges of the Court of Justice of the European Union. The guests also included representatives of the diplomatic corps, academic community and civil service.¹

The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic **Ivetta**

* The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, Košice, Slovak Republic. More information can be obtained from the spokeswoman of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, PhDr. Anna Pančurová, e-mail: anna.pancurova@concourt.sk.

¹ Part of the guest list is included in press release No. 35/2013.

Macejková also presented her contribution entitled *“The competences of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic after 20 years”*. The Constitutional Court was acknowledged in the ceremonial speech of the President of the Venice Commission, in which he reminded the guests of some milestones in the history of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, appreciated its activity and wished the Court all the best for the future.

Other contributions were presented by **Pavel Rychetský**, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic (*“The Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic as a negative legislator”*), **Péter Paczolay**, the President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary (*“The new Basic Law of Hungary and the Constitutional Court”*), **Anatolii Holovin**, the President of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (*“Influence of decisions of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on the legal order of the state in terms of protection of constitutional rights and freedoms”*), **Brigitte Bierlein**, the Vice President of the Constitutional Court of Austria (*“The Austrian Constitutional Court’s influence on the legal order”*), **Augustin Zegrean**, the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania (*“The role of the Constitutional Court of Romania in ensuring compliance with the procedure for organization and holding of a referendum and in confirming its returns”*), **Nikolay Bondar**, the judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation (*“Constitutional justice – transformer of modern constitutionalism (on the issue of formation of judicial constitutionalism)”*), **Sona Salmanova**, the Vice President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan (*“Legal positions of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan and their influence on the legislative process in Azerbaijan”*), **Eduard Bárány**, the former Vice President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (*“The Constitutional Court and value orientation of law”*), **Daniel Šváby**, the judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union and a former judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (*“When does Košice and when does Luxembourg protect fundamental rights? And what about Strasbourg?”*), **Ján Šikuta**, the judge of the European Court of Human Rights (*“The relevance of the Convention for protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and its interaction with national legal order”*), **Marica Pirošíková**, the Agent of the Government of the Slovak Republic before the ECHR (*“Constitutional complaint as an effective remedy from the perspective of the European Court of Human Rights”*), **Ján Drgonec**, a former judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (*“The possibilities of more effective protection of constitutionality in the Slovak Republic de constitutione ferenda”*), and by **Jozef Suchoža**, professor at

the Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (*"The constitutional enshrinement of the market economy principle and its social and ecological aspects – legislative initiatives"*).²

The programme of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Constitutional Court was completed on 10th April 2013 with the official opening of the new session chamber, which is intended for public hearings of the Plenum and Senates of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic.

This new session chamber is the result of extensive reconstruction work which started in July 2009. The chamber is technologically better equipped, more modern and fully representative, which was appreciated by the domestic and foreign guests who participated in its official opening by **Ivetta Macejková**, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, **Gianni Buquicchio**, the President of the Venice Commission and **Pavel Rychetský**, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, who shared in cutting the tape.

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic was concluded with the conferment of the title "Doctor honoris causa" of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice to **Gianni Buquicchio**, the President of the Venice Commission, one of the most distinguished European personalities in the field of law, at the Historical Hall of the Rectorate of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice.

² All contributions are published in full in their original versions on the website www.concourt.sk, in the part Ústavný súd Slovenskej republiky (Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic) – Publikačná činnosť (Publications) – Konferencia 9. apríl 2013 (Conference, 9th April 2013).