



Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia



**European Commission for Democracy Through Law
(Venice Commission)**

International Conference

**Judicial Activism of Constitutional Court in a Democratic State
26 – 27 May 2016**

Rīga, Kuģu iela 24
hotel “Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel”

Rīga, Mūkusalas iela 3
National Library of Latvia

Working languages: Latvian, English and Russian

DRAFT PROGRAMME
(05.05.2016.)

Wednesday, 25 May 2016

Meeting of participants according to the scheduled arrival times (at the airport) and transfer to the Hotel “Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel”
<https://www.radissonblu.com/lv/viesnica-riga>

19:00 – 21:30 Welcoming dinner at the hotel restaurant

Thursday, 26 May 2016 (hotel “Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel”, the 1st floor)

Meeting of participants according to the scheduled arrival times (at the airport) and transfer to the Hotel “Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel”

9:00 – 9:30 *Registration for the conference*

9:30 – 10:00 Opening of the conference. Introductory speeches
H.E. Mr Raimonds Vējonis, President of Latvia
Ms Tanja Gerwien, Representative of the Venice Commission
Mr Aldis Laviņš, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

- 10:00 – 11:30** **1st session** Chaired by Aldis Laviņš, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia)
- 10:00 – 10:30 Mr **Evgeni Tanchev**, former President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Venice Commission expert
Keynote speech: “**Judicial Activism Revisited or Constitutional Court Between Negative and Positive Legislator**”
- 10:30 – 10:50 Mr **Pierre Nihoul**, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Belgium
Presentation: “**The Activism of the Constitutional Court of Belgium**”
- 10:50 – 11:10 Mrs *Prof., Dr. iur.* **Sanita Osipova**, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia
Presentation: “**A State Governed by the Rule of Law or “a Judges’ State”?**”
- 11:10 – 11:30 Questions and discussion
- 11:30 – 12:00 *Coffee break*
- 12:00 – 13:30** **2nd session** (Chaired by *Asoc. prof., Dr. iur.* Uldis Ķinis, Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia)
- 12:00 – 12:30 Mr **Dean Spielmann**, former President of the ECHR
Keynote speech: “**Unravelling the Myth of Judicial Activism Through Dialogue with National Courts: The Strasbourg Experience**”
- 12:30 – 12:50 Mrs *Prof.* **Maria Lúcia Amaral**, Vice-President Portuguese Constitutional Court
Presentation: “**Judicial Activism of European Constitutional Courts: Does It Really Exist?**”
- 12:50 – 13:10 Mr *Prof.* **Gediminas Mesonis**, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania
Presentation: “**Judicial Activism in the Context of the Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania**”
- 13:10 – 13:30 Questions and discussion
- 13:30 – 15:00 *Lunch at the hotel restaurant*
- 15:00 – 17:00** **3rd session** (Chaired by *Prof., Dr. iur.* Sanita Osipova, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia)
- 15:00 – 15:30 Mr **Koenraad Lenaerts**, President of the CEU
Keynote speech: “**Mutual Trust, Mutual Recognition and the Protection of Fundamental Rights in the Case Law of the Court of Justice of the European Union**”
- 15:30 – 15:50 Mrs *Prof., Dr.* **Gabriele Britz**, Justice if the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany
Presentation: “**Judicial activism of constitutional courts as an objective necessity**”

- 15:50 – 16:10 Mr *Prof. Gerhart Holzinger*, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Austria
Presentation: “**Judicial Activism of Constitutional Courts in a Democratic State – from the Austrian Perspective**”
- 16:10 – 16:45 Questions and discussion
- 16:45 – 17:00 Closing of the first day of the conference
- 19:00 *Departure to the official dinner*
- 20:00 – 22:00 Official dinner
Hosted by the President of the Constitutional Court Mr. Aldis Laviņš, attended by H.E. Raimonds Vējonis, President of Latvia
Light House Restaurant
<http://www.lighthousejurmala.lv/en/restaurant.html>
- 22:00 *Departure to the hotel*
22:30 *Arrival at the hotel*

Friday, 27 May 2016 (National Library of Latvia)

- 9:30 – 10:00 *Registration for the conference*
- 10:00 – 13:15 4th session – round table** (Chaired by *Prof., Ph.D. Ineta Ziemele*, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia)
- 10:00 – 11:30 Discussion
- 11:30 – 12:00 *Coffee break*
- 12:00 – 13:00 Discussion
- 13:00 – 13:15 Closing of the conference
- 13:30 – 14:30 *Lunch at the restaurant of Library*
- 14:40 *Departure to the hotel*
- 15:30 *Departure from the hotel*
Social programme
- 17:00 *Turaida Museum Reserve (Specially Protected Cultural Monument)*
<http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/?lang=en>
- 19:00 *Dinner at the Restaurant “Kungu rija”*
<http://www.kungurija.lv/ENG/index.php>
- 21:30 *Departure to the hotel*
22:30 *Arrival at the hotel*

Transfer to the airport will be supported on Friday and Saturday according to the scheduled departure times.

Constitutional Courts and Institutions represented:

Austria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Slovenia, Ukraine, European Court of Human Rights, European Court of Justice, Venice Commission, Council of Europe