



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
**“THE ROLE OF THE
CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS
IN CONCRETISING THE SHARED VALUES
UNITING EUROPE”**

1 March 2024, Riga

PROGRAMME

Arrival of delegations

Small Guild

5 Amatu Str., Riga

<http://mazaigilde.lv/en/>

9:30–10:00 **Registration of participants**

Lobby, Small Guild

10:00–10:30 **Opening of the Conference**

Grand Hall, Small Guild

Aldis Laviņš, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

Inese Lībiņa-Egnere, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia

10:30–12:45 **Panel discussion I**

Reconciling constitutional identities of Member States with the shared European values

- Premise one: European values that are shared by the EU system and the Council of Europe system exist
- Premise two: elements of profound constitutional identities that are unique to individual Member States exist
- Problems related to correct application of law in the complex multilayered system of national law, international law, and the EU law occasionally arise due to actual or perceived collisions between the European values and constitutional identities
- A commonly held understanding of how “true” constitutional identities and “true” shared European values may be differentiated from “false” identities and values is needed
- A commonly accepted understanding of how apparent conflicts between constitutional identities and the European values are to be resolved in a consistent manner is needed. Are constitutional identities and the shared European values the “immutable cores” of the three legal systems?

Introductory remarks

- **Aldis Laviņš**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

Key speakers

- **Martin Kuijer**, Vice President of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Justice of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands
- **Mykola Gnatovskyy**, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights
- **Peter M. Huber**, Professor of the Faculty of Law at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (Munich)

11:45–12:45 **Discussion**

- *Chaired by **Aldis Laviņš**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia*

12:45–13:00 **Official photo**
Lobby, Small Guild

13:00–14:15 **Lunch**
Small Hall, Small Guild

14:15–16:30 **Panel discussion II**
European consensus shaping the European public order

- European consensus is a doctrine developed in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights that may be understood as a reflection of existing or changing set of European values
- Since European consensus leaves a real and practical impact on the scope and application of fundamental rights, it must be clear to the European courts and national courts what sort of methodology is to be applied to ascertain the existence of European consensus and the impact of such consensus on fundamental rights
- If European consensus is understood as a mechanism that shapes the understanding of the contents of shared European values, how is the (changing) European consensus accommodated within the legal system of the European Union?

Introductory remarks

- **Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou**, Professor in Human Rights Law at the University of Liverpool

Key speakers

- **Artūrs Kučs**, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia
- **Maciej Szpunar**, First Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union
- **George Letsas**, Professor of the Philosophy of Law at the University College London
- **Elīna Luīze Vītola**, Deputy Agent of the Government (before the European Court of Human Rights)

15:30–16:30 **Discussion**

- *Chaired by* **Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou**, *Professor in Human Rights Law at the University of Liverpool*

16:30–16:55 **Future outlook and challenges**

- **Ineta Ziemele**, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union

16:55–17:15 **Concluding remarks of the conference**

- **Mārtiņš Pāparinskis**, Professor of Public International Law at the University College London

17:15–17:20 **Closing of the conference**

- **Aldis Laviņš**, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia