

International conference
of the
Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

“THE ROLE OF CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS IN ENSURING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMON EUROPEAN VALUES IN FACE OF CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES”

PROGRAMME

25 APRIL 2025



WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT “SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE IN UKRAINE”, IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE JOINT PROGRAMME “PARTNERSHIP FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE”, PHASE III

09:30–10:00 Opening of the Conference

Ms Irēna Kucina, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

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

Ms Oleksandr Petryshyn, Acting Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Ms Siuzanna Mnatsakanian, Project Manager, “Support to development of the constitutional justice in Ukraine”, EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance, Phase III

10:00–11:15 Panel discussion I

Challenges to democracy, the rule of law, and pluralism

- Extraordinary situations are frequently dealt with by concentrating the state power in the hands of one or a few institutions or branch(es) of the state power, which creates challenges with respect to separation of powers – what safeguards are there / should be there to guard against possible abuse?
- Essential processes of a functioning democracy may become impossible or impracticable during times of emergencies, but how to ensure that the adjustment of those processes does not perpetuate beyond the time when and to the extent to which it is strictly necessary?
- A proper legislative procedure requires consultations with all affected parties. However, does the weight to be afforded to the opinions and concerns of various minorities decrease when the life of the nation is under threat?



Introductory remarks

Ms Veronika Bílková, Vice President of the Venice Commission / Professor at the Department of Public International Law of Charles University (Prague)

Key speakers

Ms Galyna Yurovska, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Mr Zdeněk Kühn, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic

Ms Susanne Baer, Professor at the Law Faculty and the Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies at Humboldt University Berlin, former Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany

11:15–12:15 Discussion

Chaired by **Ms Veronika Bílková**, Vice President of the Venice Commission / Professor at the Department of Public International Law of Charles University (Prague)

12:15–12:30 Official photo

12:30–13:45 Lunch break

14:00–15:00 Panel discussion II

Challenges to human dignity, freedoms, and respect for human rights

- Extraordinary situations frequently necessitate more stringent restrictions on fundamental rights, but where are the “red lines” that may not be crossed even in such circumstances?
- How to ensure an effective control of continued necessity of emergency-based restrictions on fundamental rights (how to prevent the normalization of dealing with emergencies)?
- Taking geopolitical context into consideration in assessing the constitutionality of fundamental rights restrictions when the life of the nation is not (yet) under threat – what methodology to follow?

Introductory remarks

Mr Kristaps Tamužs, Head of the Legal Department of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

Key speakers

Mr Mārtiņš Mits, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

Mr Matej Accetto, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr Alan Greene, Reader in Constitutional Law and Human Rights, Head of the Section, Birmingham Law School

15:00–16:00 Discussion

Chaired **Mr Kristaps Tamužs**, Head of the Legal Department of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

16:00–16:25 Resilience of democratic values in times of crisis:

deliberative process, judicial independence,
empowered individuals as strength rather than weakness

Ms Ineta Ziemele, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union

16:25–16:50 Concluding remarks of the conference

Mr Artūrs Kučs, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

16:50–17:00 Closing of the conference

Ms Irēna Kucina, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia

Ms Galyna Yurovska, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine