



HRVATSKA UDRUGA ZA USTAVNO PRAVO

Croatian Association for Constitutional Law (CACL)

Trg maršala Tita 3, 10 000 Zagreb

MINUTES

of the regular meeting of the Assembly of Croatian Association for Constitutional Law, held on 3 October 2015 at the Faculty of Law University of Rijeka

Attendees: Professor Branko Smerdel, PhD; Professor Biljana Kostadinov, PhD; Professor Emeritus Zvonimir Lauc, PhD; Associate Professor Robert Podolnjak, PhD; Associate Professor Sanja Barić, PhD; Assistant Professor Đorđe Gardašević, PhD; Assistant Professor Ana Horvat Vuković, PhD; Assistant Professor Anita Blagojević, PhD; Assistant Professor Mato Palić, PhD; Mato Arlović, PhD, Dubravko Ljubić, PhD; Gordan Struić, PhD; Sandra Marković, PhD, Matija Miloš and Ivan Pavić.

It is hereby confirmed that all preconditions for holding the meeting of the Assembly provided by Arts. 21 and 23(1) of the Association's statute have been met. The quorum of the Assembly and the Board of Directors was present and valid decisions could therefore be made.

The meeting of the Assembly was opened by Professor Branko Smerdel, Association's president, greeting those gathered and putting the agenda of the Assembly to a vote. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

The agenda contains the following four items:

Ad a) Presenting and adopting reports of the Association's work in the 2013-2015 term:

- the biannual report of the President concerning the Association's operations was adopted;
- the biannual report of the Association's Supervisory Board was adopted;
- the biannual report of the president of the Court of Honour was adopted.

Ad b) Electing the new president of the Association and members of the Association's other bodies for the upcoming 2015-2017 term:

- Associate Professor Sanja Barić was nominated and unanimously elected as the new president of the Association;
- Associate Professor Robert Podolnjak was nominated and unanimously elected as the Association's new vice-president;
- the following nominated members of the Association were unanimously elected to serve as members of its Administrative Board: Professor Biljana Kostadinov, Associate Professor Petar Bačić, Assistant Professor Ana Horvat Vuković and Assistant Professor Anita Blagojević;
- the following nominated members of the Association were unanimously elected to serve as members of its Supervisory Board: Professor Branko Smerdel, Professor Arsen Bačić and Professor Emeritus Zvonimir Lauc;
- Mato Arlović, PhD was unanimously appointed to sit as the president of the Association's Court of Honour;
- Matija Miloš was unanimously appointed as the Association's secretary.

Ad c) Following the discussion on the draft of the new statute of the Association, which was delivered to all members in accordance with requirements set out in Art. 33(2) of the Statute, the proposed provisions were put to a vote. In this manner, the new text of the Association's statute was agreed upon and then unanimously voted into force, in accordance with Art. 33(1) of the Statute. In this regard, the Assembly adopted the Decision to adopt the new Statute of the Croatian Association for Constitutional Law.

Ad d) The newly elected president of the Association, Associate Professor Sanja Barić, outlined her programme for the 2015-2017 term. Its foundational idea lies in the effort to make the Association a recognisable beacon of an expert approach to matters of constitutional law in the general public. She particularly emphasized the need to avoid politicization as well as her intention to discuss particularities of a greater public presence of the Association within the Board of Directors. She also encouraged the broader membership of the Association to be actively involved in these plans.

Regarding the main modalities available to building a more recognisable public profile of the Association, the President particularly expressed her intention to encourage the organisation of round tables and symposia that would gather social scientists and experts in the field of constitutional law. The membership could take advantage of these in order to discuss current research and promote possible responses to current issues in the field of constitutional law. Additionally, the President noted that the Association should continue to pursue its activities in the field of publishing, particularly focusing on thematically-oriented collections of papers which may at the same time draw additional publicity to the aforementioned symposia and round tables. The president of the Association noted that many topics may be the focus of these activities, including the electoral system and the (lack of) consistency in the reasoning displayed in the Constitutional Court's decisions. These particular topics were brought up prior to the meeting of the Assembly by different members of the Association.

The president of the Association informed the membership that 25 years have passed since the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia was enacted and that this anniversary should be celebrated by an appropriate event. In particular, the anniversary calls for a gathering of the Association's members, which is planned to take place next year, at the beginning of March.

The President pointed out the main obstacles in the way of constructing a recognisable public profile of the Association, chief among them being those of financial nature. On the other hand she noted that some of the difficulties can be alleviated by relying on capacities available to the Association, such as the spaces available in the Croatian law faculties and in the Interuniversity Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Opatija. The President pointed out that additional funds may be acquired from authorities of other countries, which is a practice already established by the aforementioned Centre of Excellence.

The President of the Association opens the floor for discussion on this item of the agenda. Professor Branko Smerdel is recognised and notes the need to promote the Constitution. He describes his idea of celebrating the 25th anniversary of its enactment in a ceremony which would include the judges of Croatia's Constitutional Court.

The President of the Association reemphasizes the possible symposium of the Association's members planned for March next year and also brings into discussion her idea to contact and cooperate with constitutional law experts and other countries. Possible partners include social scientists from Italy and Hungary. Professor Robert Podolnjak is recognised and notes that some cooperation has already been established with constitutional experts from Slovenia and that it may continue in the future. The President agreed with Professor Podolnjak's statement. In conclusion, she pointed out that further discussion in the Association's Board of Directors needs to take place for the ideas presented to take a more concrete form.

Ad e) In closing the meeting of the Association's Assembly, new members of the Association (Sandra Marković, PhD, Matija Miloš and Ivica Pavić) were heartily welcomed. They were unanimously accepted as members of the Association by the decision of the Association's Board of Directors on 2 October 2015.

Done in Rijeka, on 3 October 2015.

President

Recorder

Associate Professor Sanja Barić

Matija Miloš, Association's secretary