

## CONFERENCES AND REPORTS

### Report from the Conference “10 Years in the EU: Relations, Questions, Issues” held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Košice

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 an international scientific conference called “10 Years in the EU: Relations, Questions, Issues” focusing on the topics related to the EU and its functioning was held at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Faculty of Law. The conference itself took place in Košice, Slovakia, and it offered an opportunity to reconsider some of the most important issues connected to the EU law on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Slovak as well as Czech accession to the EU. The conference was inaugurated by **Professor Ján Klučka**, a former judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and a former judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union, who pointed out the importance of the EU for the former Eastern Block countries and gave a warm welcome to everyone.

The first panel was dedicated to general issues regarding membership in the EU and application of EU law. It brought together speakers who are excellent scholars in their respective fields. First of them, **Dr. Andrej Králik**, Head of Press and Political Section of European Commission Representation in the Slovak Republic, in his speech focused on a topic called “10 Years of Membership in the EU: from where?”. He outlined several theses and ideas regarding the development of the EU. **Associate Professor Miroslav Slašťan**, vice-rector of the Paneuropean University, delivered a paper called “The Analysis of Application of EU law by Slovak Courts after 10 Years of EU Membership”. **Associate Professor Michael Siman**, member of the Institute of International and EU Law of Faculty of Law of Paneuropean University, built his follow-up presentation on paper called “Present Issues of Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights”. He expressly mentioned the issue of relations between the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights governed by Article 3 (6) of the Draft revised agreement on the accession of the EU to the Convention. He emphasized that accession of the EU to the Convention is to have no practical meaning. **Associate Professor Lucia Mokrá**, member of the Institute of European Studies and International Relations of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University in Bratislava, presented a paper called “EU Citizenship and Exercising Rights Attached to it in the Slovak Republic”. She made a detailed analysis of relevant Slovak law and a strong case for asserting that some Slovak legal acts violate EU law governing EU citizenship. The first panel was ended with a speech of **Dr. Martina Jánošíková**, member of the Institute of European Law of Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, concerning the case law of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. She delivered a paper called “10 Years of EU Law in Case Law of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic”. She closely examined some of the judgements of Slovak Constitutional Court (e.g. IV. ÚS 108/2010 and II. ÚS 126/2013) and expressed the idea that the Slovak Constitutional Court applies “cagey avoidance of answer doctrine” when it comes to EU law.

The second panel was opened by the speech of **Professor Ján Klučka** who focused on the topic called “The European Union as an Example for Other Regional Integration Blocs?” He put the European integration into broader perspective and spoke about many Asian as well as American and African regional organizations (e.g. ECOWAS, ASEAN). He also pointed out several reasons why those regional organizations can not follow the example of the EU. **Associate Professor Richard Král**, member of the Department of EU Law at Charles University in Prague, delivered a paper entitled “When is it Possible to Justify Violation of Transposition Deadlines of EU Directives?” He outlined several situations when a Member State can justify failure to observe obligation arising under EU law regarding transposition of EU directive within the prescribed period and then focused on the case of action against the Czech Republic for failure to transpose Directive 2003/41 (case C-241/11). The second panel was concluded by contribution of **Associate Professor Bernard Pekár**, member

of the Department of Administrative and Environmental Law of Faculty Law of Comenius University in Bratislava, who spoke about “The EU Dimension of Judicial Review within the Administrative Procedure”.

The third panel concentrated on the various topics of EU law ranging from EU consumer law to EU private international law. **Associate Professor Juraj Jankuv**, member of the Department of International Law and European Law of Faculty of Law of Trnava University, discussed the topic of “Protection of Climate in the EU Environmental Law and Approach of the Slovak Republic 10 Years after Accession to the EU”. **Dr. Radoslav Svítana**, a judge of the District Court of Bánovce nad Bebravou, addressed the issue of “Protection of a Consumer in EU and Slovak Law”. **Mr. Petr Navrátil**, member of the Department of EU Law at Charles University in Prague, delivered a paper entitled “The *ultra vires* Doctrine in German and Czech Constitutional Courts Case Law”. He focused on current reference for a preliminary ruling initiated by German Constitutional Court regarding the OMT Decision of the Governing Council of European Central Bank of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012. He emphasized that German Constitutional Court by referring such a question to the Court of Justice of the EU failed to follow his own case law. Moreover he compared the attitude of the German Constitutional Court to the main character of famous movie “Rebel without a Cause”. **Dr. Elena Júdová**, member of the Department of International and EU Law at Matej Bel University, spoke about the “Fragmentation of International Private Law in the EU”. She outlined the main reasons why this field is currently considered to be fragmented.

The fourth panel was opened by **Associate Professor Kristián Csach**, member of the Institute of European Law of Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University. He briefly discussed the private enforcement of competition law and then focused on “Inter-regionalism in International Trade”. **Dr. Katarína Svítanová**, member of the Institute of International and EU Law of Faculty of Law of Paneuropean University, presented a paper called “Equality of Opportunities in the Field of Legal Professions in the EU”. She emphasized that conditions for becoming a notary in the EU are quite strict and should be smoothed - especially those regarding the nationality. **Ms. Zuzana Štefanková** from the Faculty of Law of Paneuropean University spoke on topic of “Public Relations of the EU: the Issues and Solutions”. In her speech she tried to describe several ways how the public relations of the EU should be improved.

The fifth panel was dedicated to the sanctions in the EU law as well as international law. **Dr. Ludmila Pošivaková**, member of the Institute of European Law of Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, dealt with “The Enforcement of Rule of Law by Instruments of EU Law”. **Dr. Radoslav Benko**, member of the Institute of European Law of Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, focused on the “Inspirational Influence of the System of Protection of Rights in the EU on Regional Systems”. **Ms. Ľubica Gregorová Širicová**, member of the Institute of European Law of Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, delivered a paper called “International Sanctions in the Activities of the EU”. The panel was concluded by **Mr. Adam Giertl**, member of the Institute of European Law of Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, who presented a paper called “International Sanctions in the Activities of the EU: Implementation of UN Sanctions”.

Finally it should be emphasized that the conference provided a great venue to expert discussion as the excellent speakers delivered interesting speeches before a wide audience. Moreover the speeches were always followed by a lively discussion which enabled the participants to confront their opinions on some of the most important issues of EU law and integration. Last but not least, special thanks are due to the organizers of the conference whose hard work and commitment made this excellent event possible.

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