



Current Problems of European Law – International Conference

Cluj / Kolozsvár, May 6–7th, 2011

In May 2011, the Department of Juridical Sciences and European Studies of the Sapientia University hosted the international conference dedicated to the current issues of European Law.

Meant as the first edition of a planned series of annual international scientific conferences around the Europe Day, the conference aimed to discuss the current and debatable issues of European law, always in progress or transformation. The choice of topic seemed rather obvious as European law has become part of our daily activities, and one cannot circumvent this law, no matter what field of law they are working in (as practitioners or academics).

As Emőd Veress, head of the Legal Sciences Specialisation at the Department of Juridical Sciences and European Studies, stressed it in his opening speech, European integration is not a straight path towards perfection, but a permanent experiment in a space of economic constraints and interests, and the critical study of the European law is of paramount importance.

Organised in different panels, the conference hosted 27 lectures given by renowned specialists from Romania and Hungary, while Jonathan Tomkin from Ireland's Trinity College Dublin, Irish Center for European Law was invited as a keynote speaker. The attendance comprised law practitioners mostly from Cluj / Kolozsvár (prosecutors, attorneys, legal counselors), as well as academic staff and students also from other Romanian and Hungarian cities.

The plenary lectures held in the opening sections each day comprised themes of general interest: Miklós Király, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) gave a lecture on the Common Frame of Reference as an optional means in creating a common European contract law, pointing out the complex and debated nature of the CFR, as well as the methods of how law practitioners, scholars, politicians all concur in implementing a truly common internal market.

Jonathan Tomkin, Director of the Irish Centre for European Law, Trinity College Dublin followed him, his lecture bearing the title: *Recent Case Law of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the Field of Public Procurement*. His lecture also focused on this fundamental objective of the European Union, the creation of the

internal market, characterised as an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured. Accordingly, EU public procurement legislation is a significant tool in the development of the internal market, providing a mechanism by which Member States (including emanations of the State, such as regional, local authorities and public bodies) respect and assure freedom of movement of goods, freedom of establishment, and freedom to provide services.

The second day featured plenary lectures delivered by Erzsébet Sándor Szalay (Faculty of Law, University of Pécs): *Fundamental EU Rights – on the Strasbourg Scale of Justice*, in which she presented the possibilities of enforcing fundamental EU rights through the Court of Justice of Strasbourg; and by Tamás Nótári (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, Budapest): *Development of Hungarian Copyright Law in the Perspective of Tendencies in the EU Legislation*.

After the plenary lectures, work sessions were organised in three different panels: European public law, European procedural law, European economic law and European penal law. Discussions following each section concluded in valuable exchange of ideas, sometimes references to know-how in the field of expertise of the participants.

A separate section was dedicated to minority rights as many faculty members of the European Studies Department of the Sapientia University specialise in this field and in this way the conference could benefit from their researches and expertise in this field of study.

Given the secular traditions of higher legal education in Kolozsvár / Cluj, the host institutions (Sapientia University and Forum Iuris Association) organised a poster exhibition, under the curatorship of Zsolt Kokoly (lecturer at Sapientia University), presenting the evolution of legal education in this city (from 1581, the founding of the Jesuit college until the present days).

A book launching took place at the conference, the audience was presented the 2/2011 number of the scientific journal *Scientia Iuris Român-Magyar Jogtudományi Közlöny* [*Scientia Iuris Romanian-Hungarian Review of Law*], published by the Sapientia University.

Given the large number of participants from abroad, the conference wanted to give them the opportunity of familiarising with the cultural sights of this region organising a one-day trip to the renowned salt mines of Torda / Turda and to the city of Nagyenyed / Aiud in Alba County.

The participants of the conference had spent three days lecturing on and discussing about current issues of different sections of European law and agreed that these were very productive and efficient work sessions. In the closing session of the conference, the organisers made a call for papers, asking all participants to review their lectures and send them in for publication in the following number of the *Scientia Iuris Romanian-Hungarian Review of Law*.

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