
JULY

8-11 July 2018 - at the invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, Prof. Dr. Valer DORNEANU, a delegation of the Supreme Court of Israel, headed by Mrs Esther HAYUT, President, and composed of Justices Uri SHOAM, Noam SOHLBERG and Yoram DANZIGER and by Mrs Natalie KIMHI, Director of the Public Affairs Department, paid an official visit to Romania.

On 9 July 2018, the guests were welcomed by the President of the Constitutional Court, Mr Valer DORNEANU, together with Mr Petre LĂZĂROIU, Mrs Mona Maria PIVNICERU, Mrs Livia Doina STANCIU, Mrs Simona Maya TEODOROIU, Mr Daniel Marius MORAR, Mr Marian ENACHE, Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA and Mr Varga ATTILA, Judges. The delegation of the Constitutional Court also included Mrs Claudia Margareta KRUPENSCHI, delegated First Assistant-Magistrate, Director of the President's Office, Mrs Senia Mihaela COSTINESCU and Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrates-in-chief.

The meeting began with the welcome message of the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, which underlined the importance and, at the same time, the naturalness of the existence of bilateral relations between the Supreme Court of Israel and the Romanian Constitutional Court.

In the opening of the works, the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania briefly set out the powers of the Constitutional Court and the procedure for appointing the constitutional judges.

Thanking for the invitation and the warm welcome, the President of the Supreme Court of Israel, Mrs Esther HAYUT, presented the main features of the law system in her country and the specificity of the Supreme Court of Israel, by showing its dual nature, as an ordinary law court and a constitutional court. At the same time, she broadly described the constitutional powers and the similar situation of the Supreme Court of Israel when confronted with issues involving fundamental legal questions and constitutional aspects of a particular importance.

The agenda of the meeting also included the following presentations:

- Short considerations regarding the judicial proceedings of the *a priori* and the *a posteriori* constitutional review, by Lect. Dr. Simona-Maya TEODOROIU, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Romania;

- Israel as a Jewish and democratic State, by Mr Noam SOHLBERG, Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel;

- The legal conflict of a constitutional nature, by Judge Daniel Marius MORAR;

- The appointment of Justices to the Supreme Court of Israel, by Prof. Yoram DANZIGER, Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel.

The meeting then continued in the form of a dynamic dialogue, with specific references to the differences, but also to the similarities in terms of powers between the two constitutional courts.

At the end of the working meeting, the officials agreed on maintaining, developing and strengthening judicial dialogue concerning aspects of common interest, according to the specific role of constitutional courts in safeguarding and promoting the fundamental values of humanity.

That same day, the delegation of the Supreme Court of Israel had a working meeting with Mrs Iulia Cristina TARCEA, President of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, and with Mrs Gabriela-Elena BOGASIU, Vice-President of the High Court of Cassation and Justice.

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11-15 July 2018 - Mr Fabian Niculae, Assistant-Magistrate, attended the works of the International conference entitled “The Constitutional Courts: a warranty of the democratic quality of societies?”, event dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Andorra.

SEPTEMBER

2-5 September 2018 - Judges Daniel Marius Morar and Petre Lăzăroiu attended the works of the International conference entitled “Constitutional Justice and Democracy”, event dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea, held in Seoul.

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13 September 2018 - the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, Prof. Dr. Valer DORNEANU welcomed Prof. Christiane Clara WENDEHORST, President of the European Law Institute.

In the beginning of the meeting, the guest briefly presented the European Law Institute as a platform for exchanges and discussions between judges, lawyers, law practitioners and representatives of the academic world that exceed European borders, having as main objective, through the projects carried out, to stimulate the development of European law, of legal policies and practices in a global context.

During this meeting, both parties discussed about future cooperation, in the form of mutual participation in various events and manifestations of common interest.

13 September 2018 - as part of the *Exchange Programme for Judicial Authorities*, initiated by the European Commission, coordinated by the *European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)*, in cooperation with the National Institute of Magistracy, a group of 9 magistrates from EU Member States paid a working visit to the Constitutional Court. Mrs Cristina TITIRIȘCĂ, Counsellor, presented a series of aspects regarding the organisation, operation and powers of the Constitutional Court, the latter being illustrated by examples of the recent case-law of the Constitutional Court.

OCTOBER

15-26 October 2018 - a delegation of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova, composed of Mr Marcel Lupu and Mr Vasile Oprea, judicial assistants, paid a documentation and experience sharing visit to the Constitutional Court of Romania, which falls under the close bilateral relations between the two constitutional jurisdictions.

Coordinated by Mr Benke Károly, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief, the study visit included, besides concrete procedural activities, discussions on the organisation, operation and competence of the Constitutional Court of Romania and its specific proceedings, especially on the judicial proceedings of the constitutional review of laws before their promulgation and the settlement of exceptions of unconstitutionality raised before the courts of law or commercial arbitration, on the relevant case-law, as well as on issues related to the application of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union within the national judicial system.

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23 October 2018 - as part of the *Exchange Programme for Judicial Authorities*, initiated by the European Commission, coordinated by the *European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)*, in cooperation with the National Institute of Magistracy, a group of 9 magistrates from EU Member States paid a working visit to the Constitutional Court. Mr Cosmin VĂDUVA, Assistant-Magistrate, presented a series of aspects regarding the organisation, operation and powers of the Constitutional Court, the latter being illustrated by examples of the recent case-law of the Constitutional Court, which have stirred a fruitful and useful dialogue.

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28-30 October 2018 - Judge Mircea Ştefan MINEA attended the works of the meeting of the Bureau of the Association of Francophone Constitutional Courts (ACCF), held in Fez, Morocco.

NOVEMBER

6 November 2018 - as part of the *Exchange Programme for Judicial Authorities*, initiated by the European Commission, coordinated by the *European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)*, in cooperation with the National Institute of Magistracy, a group of 20 magistrates from EU Member States paid a working visit to the Constitutional Court. Mr Fabian NICULAE, Assistant-Magistrate, presented a series of aspects regarding the organisation, operation and powers of the Constitutional Court, with specific references to the recent case-law of the Constitutional Court, which have stirred a constructive dialogue.

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15 November 2018 - the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, Prof. Dr. Valer DORNEANU, welcomed Mrs Işıl KARAKAŞ, President of Section II of the European Court of Human Rights, and Mrs Iulia Antoanella MOTOC, Romania's Judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

Mrs Claudia Margareta KRUPENSCHI, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief, Director of the President's Office, also attended the meeting.

The harmonization of the judicial dialogue through the case-law of the two courts was the main topic of discussions, especially with a view to ratifying, by the

Member States of the Council of Europe, Protocol No 16 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.