

OPENING REMARKS

FOR THE 63. ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

"THE FUTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE IN THE 21. CENTURY"

Holta ZAÇAJ*

Honorable President of the Republic of Türkiye,

Honorable President of the Constitutional Court of Türkiye Honorable Presidents of Constitutional Courts,

Distinguished Presidents and Representatives of Conferences and Organizations,

Excellencies, Esteemed Guests,

On behalf of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye. This milestone offers an opportunity not only to celebrate the remarkable journey of your esteemed institution but also to reaffirm the deep-rooted friendship and exemplary cooperation that continue to characterize the relations between our two countries and their highest institutions.

In this context, I would like also to emphasize the importance of participation of our Courts in regional and

^{*} Term-President of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts / President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania.

international platforms such as the Conference of European Constitutional Courts (CECC) and the Balkan Constitutional Courts Forum. These platforms offer vital opportunities to exchange experiences, confront shared challenges, and reinforce judicial independence across borders.

Esteemed colleagues,

Though we come from different geographic, political, economic, cultural, and legal contexts, we are united by common values. In this dynamic era, our courts stand not only as guardians but as visionaries, strengthening the foundations upon which our societies are built. Human dignity, the rule of law and democratic values are not merely abstract concepts – they are living principles that guide our jurisprudence and shape the everyday lives of our citizens. They represent the promise of a fair and just society for all.

While we confront shared challenges, we are also presented with unprecedented opportunities to strengthen and revitalize our constitutional traditions. This era calls upon us to innovate, to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to judicial independence, and to advance the protection of fundamental rights in ways that will inspire future generations.

We recognize that the strengthening of constitutional justice and human rights places constitutional courts at the very heart of these endeavors. One of our greatest responsibilities is to ensure that constitutional justice is not merely theoretical, but tangible and effective—delivered in a timely and meaningful way to our citizens.

When we examine the evolution of constitutional justice across Europe, we see a remarkable story of progress and resilience. From the ashes of authoritarianism, many of our courts emerged as symbols of a new commitment to rights and freedoms. Others evolved from long-standing traditions, adapting ancient principles to modern challenges. Together, we

form a tapestry of constitutional wisdom that draws strength from both our commonalities and our diverse experiences. The constitutional jurisprudence we craft reverberates beyond our courtrooms. It shapes the lives of our citizens and the future of our democracies. This privilege and responsibility demand not only our unwavering commitment to constitutional principles but also our willingness to learn from one another's experiences and insights. When one constitutional court advances the protection of rights or strengthens democratic processes, all of our systems become enriched.

No constitutional court exists in isolation, especially in our interconnected world. The opportunities before us – from harnessing technological innovation to bridging political divides, from addressing environmental challenges to advancing the protection of all people – invite a collaborative approach.

In conclusion, allow me to reaffirm the profound responsibility we bear as constitutional judges. I am confident that the discussions we are holding today will be enriching and productive, contributing meaningfully to the further consolidation of constitutional justice in our respective countries—meeting the needs of our citizens and the aspirations of our peoples.

Let us continue to work together in our shared mission to guarantee constitutional justice—ensuring that all citizens are equal before the law, that no one stands above it, and no one is left beneath it.

Again, I would like to express my sincere compliments to the Constitutional Court of Türkiye for the excellent organization of this conference and other celebrating events.

Thank you very much for your attention!