



EPLO
European Public Law
Organization



Invitation

***“Democracy and law in European integration and
in international relations”***

international conference

**organized by the International and Regional Studies Institute of the
University of Szeged, Faculty of Law,
Europe Direct Szeged and
the European Public Law Organization**

10-11 May 2018

University of Szeged, Hungary

With the co-financing of the European Union



Democracy and law in European integration and in international relations

The roots of **direct democracy** reach Ancient times, and it is one of the means of exercising power even today: in accordance with the constitutional requirements of most European states the accession to the European Union or to the NATO was bound to successful referenda.

It is important to examine how modern states can ensure the possibility for their citizens to participate in the exercise of power, and to clarify issues where it is worth or even indispensable to have their opinion or decision. How can the **constitutional order** be established in the best possible way to assist **informed decision-making** and to **preclude abuse** of the institution of referendum? It is enough to mention that rather specific, even expressly legal professional questions have been the subject of referenda, and it is impossible for the average voter to have in-depth knowledge concerning such topics. Furthermore, **political parties** frequently use European issues to reach their aims in domestic politics, thus further aggravating responsible decision-making.

Encouraging citizens to give their decisive opinion on/about European and international political and legal questions, especially through referenda, is a strengthening phenomenon in **European public speech**. European law and national constitutions have aimed at **lessening the democracy deficit** in the past decades, also with a view to **increase the sense of ownership of the member states and their institutions, especially national parliaments in the development of European integration**. It is important that citizens of the member states as well as the national parliaments consider the results of European integration as their own. This is served, for example, by the European Citizens' Initiative. Referenda on integration also have significance. The French, Dutch, British and Irish referenda reveal that in questions concerning European integration citizens do not always follow the ideas of their political leaders.

Besides, parallel to the development of European identity we can witness the **strengthening of national identity**, especially marked by referenda aiming at secession, as the one in Scotland in 2014 or the Catalan example in 2017, or the lack of success in the field of European Citizens' Initiative. Nevertheless, it is an acceptable claim of the citizens to have the opportunity to express their opinion about significant European and international topics. Concerning the discussions about **the future of Europe**, there is a strong intention to entitle citizens to express their opinion on the most important issues.

The conference will try to find answers to questions shaping the future of Europe, and the solution of which will define power relations within the European Union for a long time. Does democracy deficit exist on the European and international level? Is referendum the proper form to decide European and international issues? Is it necessary to widen the European and international legal repertoire in order to be able to ensure national and European interests at the same time? What legal challenges arose from the Brexit-referendum for the EU and for Member States?

Plenary Session

May 10, 2018

9:30 – 10:35 Opening and keynote speech

- 9:30-9:40 ELEMÉR BALOGH, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Szeged
9:40-9:50 SPYRIDON FLOGAITIS, Director, EPLO
9:50-10:20 BERTRAND MATHIEU, Supreme Council of Magistracy, University of Paris I
Panthéon-Sorbonne, France
10:20-10:40 Questions

10:40-11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:45 Democracy and constitutionalism

Moderator: LÁSZLÓ TRÓCSÁNYI, professor, University of Szeged Faculty of Law; Minister of Justice, Hungary

- 11:00-11:20 TAMÁS SÜLYÖK, President, Constitutional Court of Hungary
11:20-11:40 TAMÁS KORHECZ, Judge, Constitutional Court of Serbia
11:40-12:00 LÉNA GANNAGÉ, Dean, Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth, Libanon
12:00-12:45 Debate

12:45-14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 Democracy and European integration

Moderator: ANIKÓ SZALAI, Senior Lecturer, University of Szeged, Faculty of Law

- 14:00-14:20 JAAP DE ZWAAN, Professor Emeritus, Erasmus University, Rotterdam
14:20-14:40 PÁL SONNEVEND, Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, Eötvös Loránd University
14:40-15:00 VERONIKA BILKOVÁ, Vice President, Venice Commission
15:00-15:30 Debate

15:30-15:50 Closing remarks – NÓRA CHRONOWSKI, Head, Department of Constitutional Law, Eötvös Loránd University

Call for papers

Call:

This is a two-day-long international conference: the first day is a plenary session with highly renowned speakers, while for the second day we issue a **call for papers**. Those wishing to participate as speakers of the second day should send a 300-word-long abstract in English, relating to the concept of the conference, in one of the following topics, as the summary of the planned 15-20-minute-long speech:

- 4) Law and democracy;
- 5) Democracy in the European integration;
- 6) Democracy in international relations.

Besides the abstract, please also send a short curriculum vitae.

Send the materials to: szeged-eplo@irsi.u-szeged.hu

Deadline for sending in the abstracts and cv: March 15, 2018

Eligibility: primarily university lecturers of any level and PhD students are eligible to speak at the conference, but based on the relevance and quality of the abstract speakers with other affiliation can be chosen as well.

Selection of speakers: Speakers are chosen based on the relevance and quality of the abstracts, and will be informed about their selection to be a speaker not later than March 25, 2018.

Publication of conference proceedings: a study based on the conference speech can be published either in EPLO Central and Eastern European Legal Studies (CEELS) or in the European Review of Public Law journal, based on the recommendation of anonym peer-review required for in these journals. Further details of publication will be available for the selected speakers.

Information

Language of the conference:

Day 1: speeches are held in Hungarian, English or French, interpretation is provided.

Day 2: speeches are held in English, no interpretation is provided.

Costs: There are no registration costs. Speakers selected for the second day and non-speaker participants shall provide for all their costs of travel and accommodation.

Non-speaker participation at the conference: non-speaker participation at the conference is bound to prior registration.

Please register until April 30, 2018, by sending an e-mail to szeged-eplo@irsi.u-szeged.hu with the following information: Name, Title, Affiliation, which day of the conference you intend to participate.

Place of the conference:

Day 1: József Attila Study and Information Centre University of Szeged, Congress Room, Floor No. 1.

Address: 10 Ady tér, Szeged, 6722

Day 2: main building of the Faculty of Law, University of Szeged, III. floor

Address: 54 Tisza Lajos krt., Szeged, 6722

Supporters:

- European Public Law Organization
- European Commission (Europe Direct Szeged)