

VALUES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION – RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY NATIONAL JUDGE

The international conference organized by the Supreme Court of Latvia in connection with the 20th anniversary of Latvia's accession to the European Union

May 22-23, 2024
Riga, Latvia

20 years ago, Latvia joined Europe's strongest family of democratic countries – the European Union. This also implied inclusion in the single European legal space and responsibility for its further maintenance and development. Along with Latvia, nine more countries joined the European Union in 2004. Within these 20 years, the Supreme Courts of these countries, like the Supreme Court of Latvia, have become beacons of their national legal systems in the vastness of European legal space. During these years, in the process of development of European Union law, the dialogue of the Court of Justice of the European Union and the Supreme Courts of the Member States has been essential, as it has allowed Europe to be united in a single community of values, rights and economics. Moreover, during these years, we have shared various challenges, the successful overcoming of which required a broader perspective – European Union law – and awareness of our responsibility not only for the application of national law, but also of European Union law.

The conference is devoted to the 20th anniversary of Latvia's accession to the European Union. The invited participants are senators of the Supreme Court of Latvia, presidents of all Latvian courts, and Supreme Court judges of the nine countries that joined the European Union along with Latvia, as well as the judges of these countries who work or had worked in the Court of Justice of the European Union. Also, Latvian judges who currently work and who had worked at the CJEU and the General Court are invited.

As a symbolic support, representatives of the Supreme Courts of the candidate countries for joining the EU (Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia) are also invited to participate in the conference.

The conference is dedicated to a judge, namely to a national judge, who is also a European judge, and whose responsibility is the skilful implementation of European Union law and, therefore, the very idea of a united Europe. The conference shall analyze how membership in the European Union has altered the work of a judge in a national legal system, and whether within these 20 years every national judge has become a European judge who thus applies European Union law and protects the fundamental values of the European Union.

	STARPTAUTISKĀ KONFERENCE EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS VĒRTĪBAS – KATRA NACIONĀLĀ TIESNEŠA ATBILDĪBA	23 05 2024 RĪGA 
	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE VALUES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION – RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY NATIONAL JUDGE	

Draft programme

Wednesday, May 22

16:30	Guided tour at the Supreme Court of Latvia (<i>exact time tbc</i>)
19:00	Dinner

Thursday, May 23

9:00 – 9:30	Registration, coffee
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I. OPENING ADDRESSES

9:30 – 9:40	Mr. Aigars Strupiņš, President of the Supreme Court of Latvia
9:40 – 9:50	Mr. Edgars Rinkevičs, President of Latvia
9:50 – 10:00	Mr. Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court of Justice of the European Union
10:00 – 10:10	Mr. Anders Eka, President of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the EU (<i>tbc</i>)

II. EU VALUES AND AN EU JUDGE

Moderator tbc

10:10 – 10:30	Challenges faced by national courts, when a country joins the European Union <i>Ms. Ingrida LABUCKA, former Minister of Justice of Latvia, first Latvian judge at the General Court</i>
10:30 – 10:50	The European judge as an enforcer of EU common values <i>Ms. Ineta Ziemele, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union, former President of the Constitutional Court of Latvia</i>
10:50 – 11:10	The principle of judicial independence within the functioning of European Union law <i>Mr. Aigars STRUPIŠS, President of the Supreme Court of Latvia</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Transformations of the understanding of gender equality in the European Union in the last 20 years <i>Ms. Sanita OSIPOVA, Senator of the Department of Civil Cases of the Supreme Court of Latvia</i>

III. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

Moderated by Mr. Jānis PLEPS, Senator of the Department of Administrative Cases of the Supreme Court of Latvia

11:30 – 11:50	The search of equilibrium between the unity and national identity in the case-law of the CJEU <i>Mr. Irmantas JARUKAITIS, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union</i>
11:50 – 12:05	<i>Ms. Sandra KAIJA, Senator of the Department of Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Latvia (topic tbc)</i>
12:05 – 12:20	<i>Judge of the Superior Courts of Malta (tbc)</i>
12:20 – 12:35	<i>Judge of the Supreme Court of Slovakia (tbc)</i>
12:35 – 12:50	Discussion

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LUNCH

12:50 – 14:00	Lunch
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IV. EUROPEAN UNION LAW IN DAILY WORK OF A JUDGE

Moderator tbc

14:00 – 14:20	<i>Speaker tbc</i>
14:20 – 14:35	Questions for a preliminary reference submitted to the Court of Justice of the European Union – is it judge's ignorance or duty? <i>Ms. Anita KOVAĻEVSKA, Senator of the Department of Administrative Cases of the Supreme Court of Latvia</i>
14:35 – 14:50	<i>Judge of the Supreme Court of Estonia (tbc)</i>
14:50 – 15:05	<i>Judge of the Supreme Court of Slovenia (tbc)</i>
15:05 – 15:20	Discussion

V. CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE

15:20 – 15:40	Summary <i>Ms. Ineta ZIEMELE, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union</i>
15:40 – 15:50	Concluding remarks <i>Mr. Aigars STRUPIŠS, President of the Supreme Court of Latvia</i>

VI. DISCUSSIONS

15:50 – 16:30	Refreshments
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