

YEAR 2016

JANUARY

On 28-30 January 2016, Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, and Mrs Oana RĂICAN, counsellor within the External Relations, Press and Protocol Compartment, attended the official ceremony marking the opening of the judicial year of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the seminar organised on that occasion in Strasbourg, France.

FEBRUARY

On 3-6 February 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania headed by Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, President, and composed of Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA, Judge, and Mrs Oana RĂICAN, counsellor within the External Relations, Press and Protocol Compartment, attended the meetings of the Association of Constitutional Courts using the French Language (A.C.C.P.U.F.), organised in Brussels, Belgium.

MARCH

On 2 March 2016, the Constitutional Court in collaboration with the Committee for Legal Affairs, Discipline and Immunities of the Chamber of Deputies, organised a seminar with experts invited by the Dutch Embassy in Bucharest. The guests, Mr Perry QUAK, senior judge and Mr Marco MATERMAN, senior clerk and head of the administrative section, presented the Dutch legal system. The discussions focussed, in particular, on the issue of the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in Romanian law and in Dutch law, with special reference to criminal law and the recent case-law of the Constitutional Court. The seminar, moderated by Mr Liviu-Bogdan CIUCĂ, Chair of the Committee for Legal Affairs, Discipline and Immunities of the Chamber of Deputies and by Mrs Marieta SAFTA, First Assistant Magistrate at the Constitutional Court, was attended by Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, President of the Constitutional Court, Prof. Dr. Tudorel TOADER, Judge of the Constitutional Court, representatives of the Dutch Embassy in Bucharest, assistant-magistrates, auxiliary specialised staff of the Constitutional Court and experts from the parliamentary staff.

On 16-19 March 2016, at the invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Montenegro headed by Mrs Desanka LOPIČIĆ, President of the Court, and composed of Mr Budimir SCEPANOVIĆ, Judge, and Mrs Vesna BULATOVIĆ, interpreter, paid an official visit to Romania. During the visit, the Plenum of the Constitutional Court of Romania had working meetings with the honourable guests, which was an excellent opportunity for a fruitful exchange of experience for both sides. The discussions concerned the scope of the constitutionality review, the tasks and competencies of the Constitutional Court, as well as the mode of appointment of judges at the constitutional courts. The

meeting was also attended by Mrs Marieta SAFTA, First Assistant Magistrate, Mrs Mihaela Senia COSTINESCU, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief and Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief.

On 29 - 31 March 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania headed by Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, President, and composed of Mr Mircea-Ştefan MINEA, Judge, and Mrs Oana RĂICAN, counsellor within the External Relations, Press and Protocol Compartment, paid an official visit to the Constitutional Council of Lebanon.

The visit was carried out in the framework of international bilateral relations, the main theme of the discussion focusing on the competencies of the two constitutional courts.

The programme included also a meeting with Mr Nabih BERRI, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Lebanon.

APRIL

On 4-6 April 2016, at the invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Hungary headed by Mr Barnabás LENKOVICS, President of the Court, and composed of Mr Tamás SULYOK, Vice-President, Mr Imre JUHÁSZ, Judge, Mr Botond BITSKEY, Secretary General and Mr Attila SZABÓ, Head of the President's Office, paid an official visit to Romania. This visit marked a new stage in the bilateral relations between the two constitutional courts. During the visit, the Plenum of the Constitutional Court of Romania had working meetings with the honourable guests, the discussions focusing on relevant aspects of the recent case-law of both authorities of constitutional jurisdiction. The meeting was attended also by Mrs Ruxandra SĂBĂREANU, Secretary General, Mrs Marieta SAFTA, First Assistant Magistrate, Mrs Mihaela Senia COSTINESCU, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief and Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief. The visit of the delegation of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Hungary was carried out in the spirit of mutual trust and respect and it constituted a new stage in the development of the traditional friendly relations between the two constitutional courts.

On 14-16 April 2016, Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, President of the Constitutional Court of Romania, and Mrs Ruxandra SĂBĂREANU, Secretary General, paid an official visit to the Austrian Constitutional Court.

On 18-19 April 2016, Mrs Marieta SAFTA, First Assistant-Magistrate of the Constitutional Court of Romania, participated in the Conference on the topic "Same-sex relationships and beyond: gender matters in the EU", organised by the Academy of European Law in Hamburg, Germany.

On 25-27 April 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania composed of Mrs Mihaela Senia COSTINESCU and Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrates-in-chief, and Mrs Andreea COSTIN, Mrs Bianca DRĂGHICI and Mrs Ramona Daniela MARIȚIU, Assistant-Magistrates, paid a working visit to Strasbourg, at the institutions of the Council of Europe: the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. On that occasion, the delegation of the Constitutional Court had meetings with officials from the institutions visited.

On 24-29 April 2016, Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA and Mr Petre LĂZĂROIU, Judges of the Constitutional Court of Romania, participated in the International Conference under the theme "The Execution of Judgments concerning Constitutional Complaints and Their Effects" dedicated to the 54th anniversary of Constitutional Court of Turkey, organised in Ankara, Turkey.

MAY

On 13-14 May 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania composed of Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA, Judge, Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief, Mr Fabian NICULAE, Mrs Simina POPESCU and Mrs Andreea COSTIN, Assistant-Magistrates, attended the International Conference "Europeanisation of administrative law and codification of administrative procedure", organised by the Faculty of Law of the Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca. On that occasion, Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA and Mr Fabian NICULAE presented the paper "Influence of recent case-law of the Constitutional Court of Romania on the principle of good governance". On the same occasion, Mr BENKE Károly and Mrs Andreea COSTIN presented the paper entitled "The effects of the reception of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the European Court of Human Rights in the case-law of the Constitutional Court in administrative matters".

On 18-21 May 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania composed of Mrs Simona-Maya TEODOROIU and Mr Petre LĂZĂROIU, Judges, and Mrs Ruxandra SĂBĂREANU, Secretary General, attended the 19th international conference organised by the Furth Family Foundation, the Michigan University-Law School and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, in Washington, USA.

On 26-27 May 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania composed of Mr PUSKÁS Valentin-Zoltán, Judge, and Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief, participated in the International Conference on the topic "Judicial activism of Constitutional Courts in a Democratic State", organised by the Constitutional Court of Latvia in Riga.

On 31 May 2016, on the occasion of the 5th edition of the Days of the institutional networks of the Francophonie, Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA, Judge of the Constitutional Court, attended the dinner organised by the French Constitutional Council.

On 31 May -1 June 2016, the Constitutional Court of Romania organised the International Conference on the topic "The Role of Assistant-Magistrates in the Jurisdiction of Constitutional Courts", which was attended by representatives of the constitutional courts and judicial authorities of 27 States, representatives of the Court of Justice of the European Union, as well as representatives of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

JUNE

On 7-8 June 2016, Mrs Marieta SAFTA, First Assistant-Magistrate, participated in the meeting of the Joint Council for Constitutional Justice of the Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), as a liaison officer of the Constitutional Court of Romania.

On 9-10 June 2016, at the invitation of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic - Constitutional Division, Mr Daniel Marius MORAR, Judge of the Constitutional Court, participated in the International Conference under the theme "The Place and the Importance of the Constitutional Control Body in Effective Functioning of Checks and Balances System between the Branches of State Power" held at Issyk-Kul Lake. At the conference, Mr Daniel Marius MORAR presented the paper entitled "The principle of the separation and balance of powers in the case-law of the Constitutional Court of Romania".

On 20-22 June 2016, the Constitutional Court of Romania received the visit of the delegation of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Lebanon, composed of Mr Issam SLEIMAN, President of the Council and Mr Tarek ZIADÉ, Vice-president.

During the visit, the Constitutional Court of Romania, represented by its interim President Mr Valer DORNEANU, and by Mr Augustin ZEGREAN, Mr Mircea Ștefan MINEA and Mr PUSKÁS Valentin-Zoltán, Judges, had working meetings with the honourable guests, which was an excellent opportunity for a fruitful exchange of experience for both sides. The discussions focussed on the tasks and competencies of the two constitutional bodies, as well as on the mode of appointment of judges thereto. The meeting was also attended by Mrs Ruxandra SĂBĂREANU, Secretary General.

On 22-25 June 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania composed of Mrs Simona-Maya TEODOROIU, Mr PUSKÁS Zoltán-Valentin, Judges, and Mr BENKE Károly, Assistant-Magistrate-in-chief, participated in the International Conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, which was held in Bled.

On 22-25 June 2016, Mrs Valentina BĂRBĂȚEANU, Assistant-Magistrate, participated in the Conference on the topic “European Constitutional Democracy in Peril – People, Principles, Institutions”, organised in Budapest, Hungary.

Mrs Valentina BĂRBĂȚEANU presented the paper "The Constitutional Court of Romania, Guarantor and Guardian of Participatory Democracy" .

On 29 June-2 July 2016, a delegation of the Constitutional Court of Romania composed of Mr Petre LĂZĂROIU, Judge, and Mrs Cosmina MARIN - External Relations, Press and Protocol Compartment, participated in the First Congress of the Association of Constitutional Justice of the Countries of the Baltic and Black Sea Regions (BBCJ) on the topic “The Role of Constitutional Courts in the Protection of Democratic Values”, organised by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova, in Chișinău.

During the event, Judge Petre LĂZĂROIU presented the paper entitled “The Constitutional Court’s Role in the Protection of the Principle of Supremacy of the Constitution” .