

# BALTISCH-DEUTSCHES HOCHSCHULKONTOR

Invitation to the Symposium (English translation):

## Verfassungsrechtsprechung zwischen Souveränität und Integration (II) (Constitutional Jurisprudence between Sovereignty and Integration (II))

### Positionen der Verfassungsgerichte und aktuelle verfassungsrechtliche Problemstellungen der Mitgliedschaft in der Europäischen Union

(Positions of the constitutional courts and topical constitutional problems caused by EU membership)

Friday, November 28, 2008, 14:00 - 20:30  
University of Latvia, Raiņa bulvāris 19, Rīga, Auditorium 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

The member states of the European Union continue to be sovereign states but are subjected to far-reaching obligations. The primacy of Union law (also over national constitutional law) has led to an *Europeanisation of constitutional law* and has *reduced the significance of the domestic constitutions*. Now and again, the constitutional courts have to decide on problems caused by the supranational integration - on possible conflicts and necessary amendments of the Constitution, on the bases and *limits of obedience to Union law* and on their role as guardians of the national fundamental values and ideas, as they are laid down in the constitution. Frequently, the judgements cause vivid discussions.

The symposium ties in with our symposium of November 16, 2007. It deals with the development in six member states and with the sensitive relationship between the European and national (constitutional) courts. The subject has become even more topic: In Sweden, after the LAVAL decision of the ECJ the constitutional right to take collective action has to stand back behind the freedom of foreign companies to provide services. In Latvia, the Satversmes tiesa has to decide about the compatibility of the Treaty of Lisbon with the constitution. Moreover, the call of a former president of the German Bundesverfassungsgericht to "stop the European Court of Justice" challenges the exclusive right of the ECJ to decide in disputes of competence. The importance of the constitutional law may decline but the importance of the constitutional courts does not.

The symposium will leave plenty of room for discussions. **Mainly in German language.** With simultaneous German-Latvian and Latvian-German translation. There will be drinks and snacks at the breaks.

#### **Introduction: Constitutional state, constitutional courts and supranational integration**

*Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmitz*, University of Latvia, Baltisch-Deutsches Hochschulkontor

#### **New developments in the jurisprudence of the Conseil constitutionnel concerning the participation of France in the process of European integration**

*Rodolphe Laffranque, LL.M.*, University of Tartu

#### **The jurisprudence of the Konstitucinis Teismas concerning the participation of Lithuania in the process of European integration**

*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Skirgailė Žalimienė*, Vilnius University, Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania

#### **The jurisprudence of the Tribunal Constitucional concerning the participation of Spain in the process of European integration**

*Prof. Dr. Dr. María Roca*, Complutense University of Madrid

#### **The constitutional jurisprudence concerning the participation of Greece in the process of European integration**

*Dr. Giorgos Christonakis*, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Academy for Public Administration, Athens

#### **Swedish constitutional law and the participation of Sweden in the process of European integration [in English]**

*Dr. Ola Zetterquist*, University of Gothenburg

#### **The Treaty of Lisbon at the Satversmes ties**

*Mag. iur. Līga Ziediņa*, Riga

#### **"Stop the European Court of Justice"? On the limits of obedience to the European Courts**

*Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmitz*

Moderator: *Dr. Christoph Schewe*, lecturer of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) at the University of Tartu

Please announce your participation until November 24, 2008 (e-mail to [tschmit1@gwdg.de](mailto:tschmit1@gwdg.de)).

For further information see special website at [www.lanet.lv/~tschmit1](http://www.lanet.lv/~tschmit1)

Organizer: Baltisch-Deutsches Hochschulkontor, lecturer of the DAAD Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmitz