

Events. Book reviews

CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. LEGISLATION, CASE LAW AND DOCTRINE COURSE – NOTES

DOI:10.47743/rdc-2022-1-0008

The book *Constitutional justice in the European Union. Legislation, case law and doctrine. Course – notes*, authored by Professor Marieta Safta, PhD, was published by Hamangiu Publishing House, in 2022.

The author of the book is a Professor Hab. Ph.D. at the Faculty of Law within the Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest and a Member of the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Law within the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest. She teaches courses in Constitutional Law and Political institutions, Constitutional Law of the European Union, and Constitutional Justice in the European Union. With a vast experience in constitutional justice, Marieta Safta has been an Assistant Magistrate at the Constitutional Court of Romania (CCR) since 2003, being the First Assistant Magistrate between 2010-2022. She was a liaison officer of the CCR at the Venice Commission between 2012-2017 and held the position of Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice between 2017-2018.

In a brief presentation of the book, the author shows that in this first approach, intended primarily for students from the Master's Program whose object is the study of European Union Law, she fixed some benchmarks of legislation, jurisprudence, and doctrine to provide them with a guidance tool in the increasingly complex universe of justice in the European Union: "Any construction begins with the setting of some benchmarks, a foundation, and the present work is the first step for a more complex, detailed approach to how it is organized and justice works in general and constitutional justice in particular, in the member states of the European Union".

We think that her work is more than that since, as the publisher noted, the book carries out a concise and quite precise mapping of a problem otherwise not very easy to decode, even by specialists. And it does in the way the author has already accustomed us, that is, thoroughly and systematically, providing the reader with quick access to the most important landmarks in the legislation, jurisprudence, and doctrine (national or European) on this topic.

Having as a starting point the very motto of the work *Constitutional Justice in the European Union. Legislation, case law and doctrine. Course notes*, the European Union is not held together by an army, but by law (Ninon Colneric, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union between 2000-2006) and taking into consideration the fact that the European Union is an economic and political union that has reached to

be involved in most areas of modern life, it is imperative to talk about the concept of European constitutional law and the concept of constitutional order of the European Union. The reviewed paper is structured in 7 titles, Title I. The framework of reference and conceptual clarifications, Title II. Constitutional courts of the EU Member States, Title III. Court of Justice of the European Union, Title IV. European Court of Human Rights, Title V. Dialogue of Constitutional Courts, Title VI. Independence of the judiciary, Title VII. Conclusions.

In the first title, the author addresses various concepts such as the specifics of the European constitutional order, international influences in the process of adopting and revising constitutions, mechanisms for connecting to the international and supranational legal order in the constitutions of EU Member States, the concept of constitutional justice and European constitutional justice.

With reference to Title II, Constitutional Courts of the EU Member States, this paper presents in a first stage the constitutional review, including its regulation in the constitutions of the Member States. Further, the author describes the organization and functioning of the constitutional courts, presents the powers and analyzes their acts, giving special importance to the aspects regarding their effects.

Title III of the work is dedicated to the Court of Justice of the European Union and contains a first part in which the author presents a brief history and the role of this court, and then deals with issues concerning the organization, functioning, procedures, jurisdiction and powers of the court of Luxembourg, attaching particular importance in this title to the preliminary reference mechanism. Furthermore, in this title, the author addresses the Statute of the Tribunal and the procedure before it.

In Title IV, the author refers to the European Court of Human Rights, to its organization and functioning and performs a detailed analysis of the procedural aspects, namely, of the admissibility requirements of applications. An important section is also devoted to the effects of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. Likewise, it should be noted that the author focused on a particularly important issue, namely the relationship between the European Union and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Title V. The dialogue of constitutional courts emphasized aspects regarding the extent of the dialogue of these courts, cooperation in international structures and judicial dialogue, Title VI provides an analysis of the supreme value of the rule of law, namely the independence of the judiciary, and Title VII presents the author's conclusions on the topic addressed in this extensive paper *Constitutional Justice in the European Union*.

Starting from the analysis of the structure of the paper, given the complexity of the author's approach that brings to light particularly important issues regarding constitutional justice as a whole and noting the author's concern for developing a

reference work by combining theoretical notions with analysis of updated legislation, the presentation of doctrine and the study of the relevant case law, the author completes a unique work in Romania, with a novelty character for the field of constitutional, European and international law.

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