

**10th Polish-Italian Law Colloquium: “Security and Democracy,” Bari,
19–20 October 2023**

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и демократия», Бари, 19–20 октября 2023 г.

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On 19 and 20 October 2023, the 10th International Polish-Italian Law Colloquium, in the form of an international research conference, was held in Italy. Such events have been held regularly for several years. As part of this cooperation, meetings of Italian and Polish lawyers are organised alternately in Poland and Italy, during which problems that are critical from the perspective of the functioning of a modern state are discussed.

The initiators of this cooperation are Prof. Zbigniew Witkowski, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and Prof. Gian C. De Martin from LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome, a long-time Director of the “Vittorio Bachelet” Research Center on Public Administration. On the Italian side, the research cooperation has been undertaken by leading Italian research centres from Rome, Palermo, Molise, Florence, Venice and Messina. In Poland, such meetings were organised at the University of Toruń, the University of Gdańsk and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. Conferences were held, i.a., in 2010 in Rome, in 2012 in Toruń, in 2014 in Venice, in 2016 in Gdańsk and in 2018 in Palermo. In 2021, the 8th edition of the Law Colloquium was organised in Mrągowo, with the support of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. In 2022, the host of the 9th Polish-Italian Law Colloquium was the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The Law Colloquium titled “Human Rights in the Face of Contemporary Challenges: Polish and Italian Experiences” was organised jointly by the employees of the Department of

Constitutional Law at the Catholic University of Lublin and the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.

The 10th meeting was held in Italy. It was divided into two parts: the first in Bari, and the second in Foggia. In Bari, the presentations and discussions were held at the Regional Council of Apulia (Apulia is an administrative region in southern Italy with the capital in Bari), and in Foggia the venue was the Faculty of Law at the University of Foggia. The conference was divided into four thematic blocks. The first was titled “New Dimensions of Security in Democratic States Among Sovereignty, Rights and Constitution,” the second “External Security and Defence Policy Among National States, the European Union and the OSCE,” the third was titled “Security and New Technologies: Challenges and Prospects Between Digitalisation and Cybersecurity,” and the fourth was “Security and Democratic Control: Data Circulation and Transparency – What Are the Prospects.”

The opening of the conference was attended by representatives of regional authorities: the President of the Regional Council of Apulia Loredana Capone, the Vice-President of the Regional Council Raffaele Piemontese, the Secretary General of the Regional Council of Apulia Domenica Gattulli, and the Mayor of Bari, the President of ANCI Antonio De Caro. A representative of the Polish Embassy in Rome also attended the meeting and read a letter from Ambassador Anna Maria Anders.

The Mayor of Bari, in his welcoming speech, emphasised that Polish-Italian Culture Week, initiated by an actress playing Bona Sforza, has been taking place in Bari for five years, to cultivate the relations between these countries. The Secretary General of the Regional Council of Apulia indicated that talking about democracy and security at such a delicate moment is an important task. As the Secretary said, democracy, both for Italy and Poland, is a fundamental value on which protection of rights is built. It is appropriate to reflect on what security is, especially after the events related to the COVID-19 pandemic that swept the world and also had an impact on human rights.

The event was attended by over forty esteemed constitutionalists from Poland and Italy, who discussed the topic of security and its perception in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and climate security. The first session was opened by Prof. Hanna Suchocka from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, and during her speech she pointed out that ensuring security is one of the state's goals and there is no such thing as “permanent security.” The next speaker was Dr. habil. Katarzyna Witkowska-Chrzczonek, professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, who emphasised the need to protect security values, which must be democratically controlled and monitored.

The speakers raised various issues in their speeches. Prof. Vincenzo Antonelli, who works with the LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome, referred to the Hamas attack on Israel pointing to the fact that war and migration processes cause great uncertainty among the world's communities. Prof. Daniele Coduti from the University of Foggia took a similar view. He said that the concept of security is often accompanied by other terms, such as national security. For some time now, measures have been implemented that violate freedom and limit it in the name of the need to protect other values. According to the speaker, sometimes only the sense of security is protected. Dr. Alessandro Nato from the University of Teramo also spoke about the need to build a common defence policy in the European Union. The author referred to the supply of weapons to Ukraine, which in his opinion is an element of defence policy. In turn, Prof. Andrzej Szmyt from the University of Gdańsk presented a project of changes to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland in response to the war in Ukraine. The project includes legal provisions ensuring, in the event of war in Poland, access to loans for the country's defence needs.

During the afternoon session, Prof. Tanja Cerruti from the University of Turin said that she sees borders not as divisions, but as areas where integration can be achieved. Internal borders determine the identity of states, but it is hoped that they will become geographical divisions and will be increasingly less visible. The participants were moved to the issues of climate security by a joint speech by Dr. Kamila Doktor-Bindas and Dr. Ilona Grądzka from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The presentation covered the issue of security from the perspective of climate threats. The authors talked about forced ecological migration, the problems of inhabitants of small islands in the Pacific Ocean and the need to adapt international regulations to this relatively new phenomenon.

Other speakers in this session were Prof. Maciej Serowanec, professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Prof. Gabriele Fattori from the University of Foggia, Dr. Alessandro Nato from the University of Teramo, Dr. Marta Simoncini from the LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome, and Dr. Dobrochna Ossowska-Salamonowicz from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

On the second day, the meeting was held in the auditorium of the Faculty of Economics in Foggia and was opened by the Vice-President of the Regional Council of Apulia, Raffaele Piemontese. Then the speakers were the President of the Province of Foggia, Giuseppe Nobiletti, the Prefect of Foggia, Maurizio Valiante, and the Rector of the University of Foggia, Lorenzo Lo Muzio. On that day of the conference, the speakers from Italy were the representatives of the University of Foggia and the LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome. The Polish side was represented by

researchers from such centres as the University of Gdańsk, the University of Warsaw and the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. The participants discussed institutional changes in the area of security and democracy.

The meeting was summarised by Prof. Zbigniew Witkowski from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and Prof. Gian C. De Martina from LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome.