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European Consortium for Church and State Research: 29th Congress, Tallinn (Estonia), November 2017

The 29th Annual Congress of the European Consortium for Church and State Research took place from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th November 2017 in *Tallinn*, the capital city of Estonia. The Congress was dedicated to the topic *Religion, Society, State: Securitization of Religious Freedom – Religion and Scope of State Control*. The Congress was organized with help of

- Ministry of the Interior of Estonia,
- School of Law of University of Tartu (Estonia),
- Conference of European Churches (CEC),
- Estonian Council of Churches, and
- Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE).

Most participants were accommodated at the Santa Barbara Hotel in Tallinn. The conference took place at the *National Library of Estonia*. The conference was attended by approximately 30 members and correspondents of the Consortium and over 100 other participants. They were students and PhD students from Tallinn and Tartu, Estonian central government officials and representatives of Estonian churches, especially the Lutheran, Orthodox and Catholic Church, as well as some churches from Europe and the United States.

The Czech Republic was represented by *Prof. Jiří Rajmund Tretera* and *Assoc. Prof. Záboj Horák* of the Consortium and of Charles University in Prague as well as *Ing. Pavla Bendová*, Director of the Department of Churches of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

Prof. Merilin Kiviorg of the University of Tartu was the main organizer of the meeting. The Congress and the Consortium meetings took place side by side in several meeting halls of the National Library of Estonia. English and Estonian were official languages of the

conference, real-time translation was provided. The conclusion of the meeting was summarized by *Prof. Mark Hill QC* from London.

On Saturday night, the Rector of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, *Prof. Mart Kalm*, presented the memories of development of science in the Republic of Estonia, from proclaiming of independence in 1918, to the present day. It was followed by the General Meeting of the Consortium led by the current President *Prof. Achilles Emilianides* from Cyprus. During the meeting new members of the Consortium were accepted – *Prof. Piotr Stanisz* (Lublin, Poland), *Prof. Matthias Pulte* (Mainz, Germany), *Prof. Vincent A. De Gaetano* (Valletta, Malta) and *Prof. Philippe Poirier* (Luxembourg, Luxembourg). The next conference will be held in Sienna (Italy) in November 2018. At the end, the General Meeting elected *Prof. Merilin Kiviorg* (Estonia) President of the Consortium for the next year.



From the 29th Congress of the European Consortium for Church and State Research.

Photo Zábaj Horák

Church Law Review No. 69–4/2017 Just Arrived

The fourth issue of the Church Law Review of year 2017 has just arrived from the printers and will be delivered to members and friends of the Church Law Society in the following days.

From New Publications

Journals

Caritas et Veritas, Journal for Christian Reflections in the Context of Social Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Theology, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, ISSN 1805-0948,

No. 1/2017,

including:

PŘIBYL, Stanislav, *Canon Law and Spirituality*, pp. 205–217.

Ecumeny and Law, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, Katowice, ISSN 2353-4877,

Volume 3 (2015),

including:

KROCZEK, Piotr, *Does the Catholic Vision of the Principle of Subsidiarity Pertain to Polish Family Law*, pp. 327–341,

NĚMEC, Damián, *Protection of Minors in the Current Canon Law*, pp. 197–215,

PŘIBYL, Stanislav, *The Sacrament of Confirmation: From Being Educated in Faith to Christian Maturity*, pp. 217–228.

Volume 4 (2016),

including:

NĚMEC, Damián, *Conscientious Objection in Current Czech Law*, pp. 249–273,

PŘIBYL, Stanislav, *Freedom of Conscience in the Code of Canon Law*, pp. 127–143.

Law Briefs, Office of the General Counsel of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC,

October 2017,

including:

USCCB and Other Catholic Groups File Joint Amicus Brief in Masterpiece Cakeshop, pp. 2–3:

On September 7, the USCCB filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, involving the free speech and free exercise rights of a baker, Jack Phillips, who was found liable for unlawful sexual orientation discrimination by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for his decision, made for religious reasons, not to create a custom-made cake for a same-sex wedding. The Colorado Catholic Conference, Catholic Bar Association, Catholic Medical Association, National Association of Catholic Nurses-U.S.A., and National Catholic Bioethics Center joined the brief.

The brief's Introduction and Summary of Argument state as follows:

American citizens should never be forced to choose between their religious faith and their right to participate in the public square. This fundamental vision of our constitutional government is embodied in the First Amendment, which guarantees that all citizens, whether of a particular religious faith or no faith at all, are free both to speak and to act in accord with their conscience.

That vision is clearly at risk when government attempts, with increasing intensity, 'to reduce religious freedom to mere freedom of worship without guarantees of respect for freedom of conscience.' In an apostolic exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel, Pope Francis recently insisted that 'no one can demand that religion should be relegated to the inner sanctum of personal life, without influence on societal and national life, without concerns for the soundness of civil institutions, without a right to offer an opinion on events affecting society.' This 'right to religious freedom,' declared the Second Vatican Council in its *Declaration on Religious Freedom*, 'has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person' and is 'to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed' as 'a civil right.'

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