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ON THE FRONT-PAGE THE PAINTING “BIRTH OF THE CONSTITUTION”

The painting “Birth of Constitution” of the internationally recognized painter Rudik Petrosyan is unique both in terms of concept and implementation. Gregory the Illuminator and King Trdat are on the right side of the triptych. They symbolize adoption of Christianity as the state religion in Armenia and systemic-value orientation of the Armenian people. In the center of triptych the portrayal of abstract representation of perception of Ashtishat Assembly dated 365 A.D. is presented which with unique skills portrays: a) people with an unwavering will to self-knowledge and life in accordance with constitutional canons, b) harmony of the symbol of justice with public mood, c) creation of the Constitution by the wise men in the current social environment. These summarize the definition of the notion “constitution” presented in the New Haikazyan Dictionary of the Armenian Language published in 1837 in Venice as “Determination of borders and the Divine Providence”. On the left side of triptych is portrayed the Armenian historian Movses Khorenatsi, who assessed the canonical Constitution adopted by the Ashtishat Assembly as “established mercy through canonical constitution” which is inscribed on the parchment hold by the angels.



Dear Colleagues,

“The Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center (CCIAC) opens a new world: the world of civilized co-existence and the world of dignified life through establishment of constitutional democracy.

The “Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center was established in 2016. The Constitution is the first and foremost fundamental law of the civil society. The main aim of our activity is to turn the constitutional axiology into the rule of life; to overcome the constitutional deficit; to guarantee sustainable and dynamic progress of public life.

Our greatest desire is to assist young generation to establish a dignified environment for them and not allowing accumulations of negative social energy, which may lead to the social explosions and destructions. These are first of all the consequences of the deficit of constitutionalism and deformation of constitutional values, principles and norms in real life.

We are looking forward for a sincere dialogue. Let’s try to go hand in hand for making our human environment prettier, safer and equivalent to human dignity.

Yours Sincerely,

**Prof. G. Harutyunyan,
the President of the Board of Trustees
of the “Constitutional Culture”
International Analytical Center**

**CONCEPT ON FORMATION
of “The Constitutional Culture”
International Public Analytic Center**

Prevention of social cataclysms, overcoming of the deficit of constitutionalism, the establishment of the rule of law, guaranteeing sustainability for the development of public life are the most significant challenges of the new millennium.

They can be achieved through constitutionalization of the social relations, by guaranteeing the supremacy of Constitution in reality and ensuring a necessary level of the constitutional culture.

The constitutional culture is a culture of civilized cohabitation, which is more typical for the states and nations which have achieved a certain level of the democratic development. Its elements form and develop throughout history. However, it reaches systemic integrity at a certain level of development, when along with the Constitution the necessary and sufficient level of constitutionalism is guaranteed while implementing the fundamental constitutional values and principles when the rule of law becomes dominant.

Nevertheless, in the contemporary world, the deficit of constitutionalism reaches a dangerous scale; the corruption reaches dangerous dimensions, the displacement of millions of people by force, social polarization and coalescence of the political, economic and administrative potential.

The experts face a serious problem to propose more sufficient solutions for the establishment of the necessary and sufficient level of constitutional culture in the public life and guaranteeing constitutionalism.

The latter requires mobilization of resources and continuous, systemic and consistent work.

Establishment of the international public analytic center “The Constitutional Culture” pursues this aim.

The initiative group targets to:

a) develop an annual action plan regarding the presented fundamental issues which will include thematic discussions with the involvement of international experts and make the results accessible to the international community;

b) pay particular attention to the development of the principal elements of transitology and its implementation in this sphere;

c) based on international fundamental documents, conclusions of the Venice Commission, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, suggest functional and institutional solutions for the introduction of a functional system for conducting constitutional diagnostics and constitutional monitoring;

d) elaborate and publish resolutions regarding the real state of constitutional culture in some countries;

e) support institutes of civil society for undertaking efficient measures in this sphere;

f) contribute to the achievement of consistent knowledge regarding constitutional culture among youth;

g) organize youth festivals, Olympiads and scientific-practical discussions regarding the fundamental issues of the constitutional culture;

h) ensure that the subject of the constitutional culture be widely taught in the specialized educational institutions, for that purpose prepare necessary programs and educational guidebooks;

i) publish “Constitutional Culture” multilingual journal.

The initiative group:

Gagik Harutyunyan - *President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe, Doctor of Law, Professor*

Armen Harutyunyan - *Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Doctor of Law, Professor*

Vardan Poghosyan - *Substitute Member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe, Constitutional Law expert*

THE MAIN GOALS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER

The aim of the Center is to develop and implement programs which will contribute establishing the necessary and sufficient level of constitutional culture in public life.

The goals of the Center are:

1. with the involvement of international and national experts, to elaborate and enforce the annual action plan regarding the study on the fundamental issues of the constitutional culture and urgent issues of that sphere,
2. with the involvement of international and national experts, to elaborate and implement the principal elements of transitology in the sphere of constitutional culture,
3. to elaborate functional and institutional solutions for the introduction of a functional system for conducting diagnostics of constitutionalism and constitutional monitoring, based on international basic documents, conclusions of the Venice Commission and case law of the European Court of Human Rights, with the involvement of international and national experts,

The main functions of the Center are:

1. With the involvement of international and national experts, to elaborate and publish the resolutions regarding the real state of constitutional culture in a number of countries,
2. to support the institutions of civil society for initiating efficient measures in the field of constitutional culture,
3. to contribute to the achievement of consistent knowledge regarding constitutional culture among the youth,
4. with the involvement of international and national experts, to organize and conduct youth festivals, Olympiads and scientific-practical discussions regarding the fundamental issues of the constitutional culture,
5. to undertake efficient measures for the introduction of the subject "Constitutional Culture" in the programs of the specialized educational institutions and

preparation of necessary programs and educational manuals,

6. to publish of "Constitutional Culture" multilingual journal,
7. to publish significant works in the field of constitutional culture,
8. to contribute the implementation of significant programs in the field of the constitutional culture,
9. to contribute the organization, training and requalification of the specialists in the field of constitutional culture,
10. to support programs aimed at ensuring the development of young scientists in the field of constitutional culture.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

On October 21, 2016 a reception on behalf of H.E. Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia was organized at the Receptions House of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in honor of the Participants of Yerevan International Conference, organized by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, European Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), Conference of the Constitutional Control Organs of the Countries of New Democracy, Center of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia (with the support of the Armenian Office of the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).



During the reception, the Solemn Ceremony of Establishment of the Foundation "International Public Analytical Center "Constitutional Culture"" took place.

Mr. G. Harutyunyan, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of

Armenia mentioned the necessity of establishing the Center and its main functions.

The idea of establishing the Center was widely supported and received an offer of cooperation from a number of international analytical centers and individual experts, and it will carry out its functions with a wide involvement of the latter. In particular:

- conducting analytical work on issues of constitutional culture, as well as organization of international conferences, scientific and practical discussions;
- functional and institutional arrangements in different countries on the implementation of effective systems of diagnostics of constitutionalism and constitutional monitoring;
- preparation and publication of opinions about the real situation in connection with the constitutional culture in individual countries;
- active cooperation in this field with a number of international and regional organizations;
- support for civil society institutions on the issue of establishment and acceleration of constitutional culture, conduct of youth festivals and Olympiads;
- publishing the “Constitutional Culture” multilingual journal.



SPEECH OF DR. GAGIK HARUTYUNYAN ON THE OCCASION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

*Your Excellency Honorable
Mr. President of the Republic of Armenia,
Distinguished Guests,
Colleagues,*

The international experience of the constitutional justice, as well as the developed discussions within the framework of ongoing pan-European conference convened in Yerevan indicate the level of urgency that the matters of establishment of constitutionalism and guaranteeing the rule of law have obtained throughout the modern world. It is undeniable, that in each state the main guarantee for achieving sustainable development is the establishment of constitutional democracy. The latter, in its turn, requires consistent constitutionalization of public affairs, as well as necessary and sufficient level of constitutional culture. Taking into consideration the urgency of the respective matter and the necessity to consolidate professional potential for withstanding the existing challenges, we have launched the process of founding the “Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center. I would like to express the words of gratitude to all our partners, who have actively reacted to the initiative and have expressed their willingness to become co-founders of the Center alongside with us. In particular, among the list there are individuals from various states who have had

outstanding contribution in the field of constitutional studies. In coming days the Center will be registered in the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the law and will carry out its activities on the basis of its recently developed statute. Among the main functions of the Center are, particularly, with the involvement of international experts: - to conduct scientific-analytical activities, organize international conferences, scientific-practical discussions regarding the fundamental issues of constitutional culture; - to elaborate functional and institutional solutions for the introduction of a functional system for conducting diagnostics of constitutionalism and constitutional monitoring; - to draft and publish resolutions regarding the real state of constitutional culture in a number of countries; - to actively co-operate with various international and regional organizations in the mentioned sphere; - to support the institutions of civil society with the issues of rooting and developing constitutional culture, to organize and conduct youth festivals, Olympiads; - to publish "Constitutional Culture" multilingual journal, etc. It is planned to convene an international conference "Present Challenges of Deformation of the Spiritual and Legal Human Behavior and the Imperatives of their Overcoming" in 2017. Taking into account that 2018 will be announced as a cultural year in Europe, it is planned to convene the 2018 International Conference on the topic "The Challenges of the Culture of Co-Existence in the Modern World and the Imperatives of their Counteraction". Within the frames of the latter the axiological and constitutional-legal prerequisites of the civilized co-existence and tolerance will be especially touched upon. I am sure that many of you will have an opportunity to be an active participant of the initiatives of the Center, to introduce your experience and knowledge to the effective realization of the efforts for the development of constitutional culture in the modern world. Once again expressing gratitude to all our colleagues joined to this initiative, let's wish a successful start and productive activities to the newly established Center. Thanks for your attention!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER

A BOOK WHICH DESERVED PAN-EUROPEAN ATTENTION



On January 26, 2017 in the premises of the Council of Europe, the event dedicated to the issues of constitutional culture organized together with the International Analytical Center "Constitutional Culture", the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and permanent representation of the Republic of Armenia was held.

H.E. Mr. T. Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. G. Buquicchio, President of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, Mr. A. Sajó, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights, judges of ECHR, members of diplomatic corps accredited to the Council of Europe, members of Armenian and foreign delegations and other officials were present at the event.



Dr. G. Harutyunyan, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia, President of the Board of Trustees of **International Analytical Center "Constitutional Culture"**, member of the Bureau of the Venice Commission, Doctor of Law, Professor

held an opening speech. He informed that in the framework of the 16-th anniversary of membership of Armenia to the Council of Europe, this event was dedicated to the foundation of International Analytical Center “Constitutional Culture” and publication of **“Constitutional Culture: Lessons of History and Modern Challenges”** monograph (in English), publication of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia in four languages and almanac of the materials of Pan-European Conference held on October 20-23, 2016 in Yerevan.

In his address H.E. Mr. T. Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe emphasized the active participation of the Republic of Armenia in all initiatives of the Council of Europe. “We are devoted to the Armenia which is stable, prosperous and looking to the future,” said Mr. Jagland, “Our relations are bilateral, and I appreciate the strong commitment of Armenia to dialogue and cooperation ... We appreciate the honest and engaged way by which Armenia is approaching various proposals.”

The English monograph **“Constitutional Culture: Lessons of History and Modern Challenges”** was presented by Ms. Alvina Gyulumyan, Member of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia who emphasized the practical and scientific importance of the book in the establishment of constitutional culture in the member states of Council of Europe.

Mr. Vardan Poghosyan, Head of the Legal Project of the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), substitute member of the Venice Commission presented the recently published the 2015 edition of the amended Constitution in four languages.



NEW BOOK OF ENCYCLOPEDIA VALUE

At the initiative of Professor G. Harutyunyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Analytical Center “Constitutional Culture”, and with the blessing of Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, the author’s team is preparing to publish the two-volume book **“Axiological Origins of Constitutional Culture in the Millennial Chronicle of the First Nation to Adopt Christianity as a State Religion”**.

Secular and ecclesiastical specialists are involved in the preparation of the publication, and their regular working meeting was held on June 21, 2017.

The work of the author’s group and the editorial team is coordinated by Professor G. Harutyunyan. The editorial staff includes Arthur Vagharshyan, Head of the Chair of Theory and History of State and Law of the Yerevan State University, Artak Movsisyan, Acting Head of the Chair of the History of Armenia, and Supreme Archimandrite Shahe Ananyan, representative of the Supreme Patriarch.

Themes of the sections of the two-volume book will be presented by Artak Movsisyan, Azat Bozoyan, Aleksan Hakobyan, Ashot Voskanyan, Arman Yeghiazaryan, Gagik Harutyunyan, Gegham Badalyan, Grigor Tananyan, Hayrapet Margaryan, and Narine Mirzoyan.

This voluminous work will include various pages of the history of development of social relations, beginning with the ancient Armenian kingdoms (from Aratta to Urartu) to our times. In this work, the authors will disclose the historical necessity of convening the Secular Assemblies and then the National Ecclesiastical Assemblies, the peculiarities of their organization, as well as the scientific and legal role and significance of the adopted canonical constitutions. In the framework of a comprehensive comparative analysis, the National Ecclesiastical Assemblies of Vagharshapat, Ashtishat, Shahapivan, Dvin, Karin, Aghvank, Partav, Manazkert, Shirakavan, Ani, Hark, Lori, Dzagavan, Shugri, Homkla, Tarson, Sis, and Adana, as well as the “Armenian Book of Canons”, the scientific and legal heritage of Sahak Partev, David Alavkavordi, Nerses the

Gracious, Mkhitar Gosh, and Smbat Sparapet, as well as the Lawcode of Polish Armenians, the Lawcode of Astrakhan Armenians, "The Snare of Glory" by Shahamirians, and the National Constitution of the West Armenians will be presented.

The two-volume book will also be presented in English, and the broad international community will have an opportunity to get familiar with the formation and development of the Armenian legal and constitutional culture.

The book will be published in spring of 2018.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"CHALLENGES OF SPIRITUAL AND LEGAL BEHAVIOR OF
CONTEMPORARY INDIVIDUAL AND IMPERATIVES
OF THEIR OVERCOMING" ROME**

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2017



PONTIFICIUM
INSTITUTUM
ORIENTALE

CENTENARIO
1917
2017

"The Constitutional Culture" International Analytical Center and "The Center of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia", by the support of **the Holy See** and **the Pontific Oriental Institute** are co-organizing an international conference titled "Challenges of Spiritual and Legal Behavior of the Contemporary Individual and Imperatives of Their Overcoming", to be convened in Rome on 17 - 18 November 2017.

It is also scheduled to organize two Round Table discussions within the framework of the Conference with wide international representation on the following topics:

- a) **The Role of Constitutional Culture in the Spiritual Character of Contemporary Individual;**
- b) **The Spiritual Values in the Axiological System of Contemporary Constitutions.**

The key note speakers of the conference are prominent experts of constitutional law, such as Dr. Andras Sajó, Dr. Bostjan Zupancic, former Judges of European Court of Human Rights, Dr. Robert Spano, the Judge and President of Section of the European Court of Human Rights, Dr. Ann Power, the Judge of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, Dr. Christoph Degenhart, Professor at the University of Leipzig, Dr. Bakhtiar Tuzmukhamedov, the former Judge of the Appeal Chamber of International Criminal Tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as other prominent constitutionalists.

Dr. Gianni Buquicchio, the President of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe will participate in the Opening Ceremony of the Conference.



THE WEB-SITE OF “THE CONSTITUTIONAL CULTURE” INTERNATIONAL ANALYTICAL CENTER

By the Decision of the Board of Trustees of “the Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center the official web-site of the Center was created after the official registration of the Foundation. It is available at www.constculture.org.

The web-site contains:

- Basic information about “the Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center, including concept of its formation, the Charter, its general provisions, legal status, Members of the Board of Trustees and Executive Director;
- Information about the ongoing and upcoming activities of the Center;
- News of the Center;
- Information about Varujan Burmian Supporters Center.

In the Information Center of the web-site the visitors may find also:

- Informative materials about the activities of the Center published in press and mass-media;
- Publications of the Center, including essential bibliography;
- Electronic gallery of the Center.

The visitors may also subscribe to the news of the Center to stay in touch with the ongoing and upcoming activities of the Center.



“THE CONSTITUTIONAL CULTURE” ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

In 2018, “the Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center starts to publish an electronic journal, “Constitutional Culture”. The first thematic volume of the electronic journal will include the materials of **the International Conference on “Challenges of Spiritual and Legal Behavior of Contemporary Individual and Imperatives of their Overcoming”** to be held in Rome on November 17 - 18, 2017. The International Editorial Board of the Electronic Journal is approved by the Decision of the Board of Trustees of “the Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center and includes:

Dr. Gagik Harutyunyan (Chairman), Armenia,
Dr. Otto Luchterhandt, Germany,
Dr. Boštjan Zupancic, Slovenia,
Dr. Anita Rodina, Latvia,
Dr. Nikolai Bondar, Russian Federation,
Dr. Konstantin Vardzelashvili, Georgia,
Dr. Victor Malinovsky, Kazakhstan,
Dr. Myroslaw Wyrzykowski, Poland.
Dr. Anahit Manasyan, Armenia

“The Constitutional Culture” electronic journal will be published on the official web-site of “the Constitutional Culture” International Analytical Center
<http://www.constculture.org>

VARUJAN BURMAIAN'S SUPPORTERS COUNCIL

Honorable Mr. Varujan Burmaian was one of the unique personalities, who from the very first day of independence of the Republic of Armenia served his lawyer's experience, decent human characteristics, moral and material all recourses to the establishment of truly democratic, independent and secured Armenia.



In particular, upon the support and initiative of Mr. Varujan Burmaian "the Center of Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia" was established. Furthermore, the Center has become the co-founder of the "Constitutional Culture" International Analytical Center. The International Center with its unique mission has long way to proceed. During all the further activities of the Center the Burmaians' family headed by Honorable Mrs. Diruhi Burmaian will be with us, being one of us.

Mr. Varujan Burmaian was the first official delegate of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil visited Armenia. Mrs. Diruhi Burmaian is the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in the Federative Republic of Brazil. With no doubt, the new generation of Burmaians', being committed to their identity, will become worthy successors of the undertakings of Mr. Varujan Burmaian, the great humanist and patriot. We strongly believe that the other like-minded supporters will also join them, since the "Constitutional Culture" Center is implementing an international mission.

THE ORDERS OF "THE CONSTITUTIONAL CULTURE" INTERNATIONAL ANALYTICAL CENTER

1. ORDER FOR THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD OF LAW

The Medal is awarded for the contribution in the field of law, for the implementation of legal initiatives and programs of distinguished importance and for the outstanding contribution in the field of promotion of constitutional culture on international level.



2. ORDER OF HONOR FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

The ORDER is awarded for the continuative meritorious contribution in the humanitarian service to strengthen the ideas of mutual understanding, love and solidarity amongst human beings and for the essential contribution in promoting the constitutional culture.



The orders are awarded annually in the framework of international conferences held by "the Constitutional Culture" International Analytical Center.

The candidates are nominated by the members of the Board of Trustees of "the Constitutional Culture" International Analytical Center.

If there is only one nominee whose candidacy is supported by at least ten members of the Board and there is no objection by any other member of the Board, the candidacy of the nominee is considered as approved. In the case of objection the voting is performed and the Decision is approved in accordance with the order prescribed by the Charter.

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Professor, Member of the Presidium of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia



Dr. Hayk Sargsyan,

Professor, Dean of the Department of Economics and Management of the Yerevan State University



Dr. Igor Rogov

Professor, President of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Dr. Janis Pleps

Professor, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Latvia



Dr. Konstantine Vardzelashvili

Professor, Ilia State University Law School. Former Vice-Chair of the Constitutional Court of Georgia, Former Member of the UN Human Rights Committee



H.G. Levon Zekiyán

Archieparch of Catholic Armenians of Istanbul and Turkey, Professor at the Pontifical Oriental Institute



Dr. Luigi Vero Tarca

Full Professor at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Director Emeritus of Cestudir (Centre for Human Rights)



Dr. Luis Maria Lopez Guerra

Section President at the European Court of Human Rights, Spain



Dr. Mahkam Mahmudzoda

Professor, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Tajikistan



Dr. Marija Draškić

Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade



Dr. Matthias Hartwig

Professor, Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg, Germany



Dr. Meergul Bobukeeva

Judge-Secretary of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic



Dr. Milan Stanić

Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia



Dr. Minas Lourian

Director of the Armenian Culture and Documentation Center of Studies- Venice, President of the Armenian Italian Community



Dr. Mirosław Wyrzykowski

Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland



Dr. Nikolay Bondar

Professor, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation



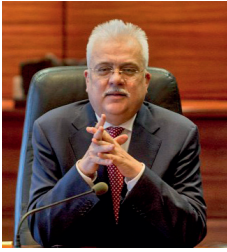
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*Retired Member of the Constitutional Court of the Republic
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Dr. Vardan Poghosyan

Team Leader Armenia, GIZ Program “Legal Approximation towards European Standards in the South Caucasus”



Dr. Victor Malinovskiy

Professor, Member of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Vladimir Vardanyan

Advisor to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia





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