



CONFERENCE

“Social rights in today’s Europe: the role of domestic and European Courts”

Nicosia, 24 February 2017

PROGRAMME

Venue: Filoxenia Conference Centre, 17 Thrakis Street, 1311 Nicosia, Cyprus

Organised by the Supreme Court of Cyprus in cooperation with the Council of Europe, in the framework of the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers, the Conference is held as part of the Turin Process launched by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the High Level Conference on the European Social Charter which took place in Turin, in October 2014.

9.00 Registration of participants

(Before the opening session a "Family photo" will be taken)

9.30 Opening Session

Chair: Myron NICOLATOS, President of the Supreme Court of Cyprus

Interventions by:

- ❖ Ionas NICOLAOU, Minister of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus
- ❖ Gabriella BATTAINI DRAGONI, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- ❖ Stella KYRIAKIDES, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable development

10.00 Keynote speech:

- ❖ *"Safeguarding social rights in times of austerity"*
by Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, Director, Directorate of Human Rights – DGI
Council of Europe

10.15 Coffee break

10.45 Session I:

Social rights in the case-law of the European Courts

Chairs:

Constantinos LYCOURGOS, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union, and
Georgios SERGHIDES, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights

- ❖ *How the ECHR and the EUCJ ensure the protection of fundamental social rights: methods of interpretation and judicial techniques employed*
by Ioannis SARMAIS, Member of the Greek Court of Auditors
- ❖ *Social rights in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights*
by Françoise TULKENS, Former Vice President of the European Court of Human Rights
- ❖ *Social rights in the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union*
by Luis JIMENA QUESADA, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Valencia, Member of the Academic Network on the European Social Charter and Social Rights
- ❖ *Social rights in the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union: an insider view*
by George ARESTIS, former judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union

12.00 Discussion

Introduction by discussant:

- ❖ Giuseppe PALMISANO, President of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe

13.00 Lunch break

14.30 Session II

Social rights in the case-law of national jurisdictions: selected examples

Chair: Claire BAZY-MALAUURIE, Member of the Venice Commission and of the Constitutional Council of France

- ❖ *Social rights litigation: constitutional issues?*
by Ninon COLNERIC, Former judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union
- ❖ *Social rights litigation before the Italian Constitutional Court in Times of Economic Crisis*
by Giovanni GUIGLIA, Professor of Public Law, University of Verona, General Coordinator of the Academic Network on the European Social Charter and Social Rights
- ❖ *Employment litigation and the European Social Charter*
by Carmen SALCEDO, Professor Law Faculty at the Department on Employment and Social Security of the University of Valencia
- ❖ *Rights of persons with disabilities: the appropriation by the French judge of the concept of reasonable accommodation*
by Fabienne JEGU, Advisor, General Secretariat of the Defender of Rights
- ❖ *Direct effect-primacy of the more protective standard: Social rights litigation before Greek Courts*
by Sophia KOUKOULIS SPILIOTOPOULOS, Attorney at law, Member of the Athens Bar, Member of the Academic Network on the European Social Charter and Social Rights
- ❖ *The right to health: a thin line between social rights and positive obligations of the State*
by Pavel MOLEK, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Czech Republic

16.00 Discussion

Introduction by discussant:

- ❖ Eliane CHEMLA, General Rapporteur of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe

16.40 Coffee break

17.00 Session III:
Support and training on Social Rights for Legal Professionals

Chair: Anna RURKA, President of the Council of Europe's Conference of International non-governmental organisations

- ❖ *The HELP Programme of the Council of Europe and Social Rights*
by Tatiana TERMACIC, Head of Human Rights National Implementation Division
of the Council of Europe
- ❖ *Supporting legal professionals in implementing social rights: first stocktaking*
by Petros ALIKAKOS, Judge of the Court of General Jurisdiction of Thessaloniki,
Member of HELP Consultative Board

17.30 Closing Session

Chair: Myron NICOLATOS, President of the Supreme Court of Cyprus

Closing remarks:

- ❖ Giuseppe PALMISANO, President of the European Committee of Social Rights of
the Council of Europe

18.00 End of Conference