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## ENSURING THE OPERATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC DURING CRISIS SITUATIONS: CURRENT POSSIBILITIES, LIMITS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS (BRATISLAVA, 20 APRIL 2022) / Daniel Takács, František Pažitný

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On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law, Department of Constitutional Law and Constitutional Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic organized an international scientific conference named „Ensuring the operation of the constitutional bodies of the Slovak Republic during crisis situations: current possibilities, limits and possible solutions“. It was organised in the National Council building. This event was supported by French Institute in Bratislava.

One of the aims of the conference was to propose solutions to the problems that come with the current legislation in the form of the Constitutional Act on State Security.

The second but no less important goal was to gain valuable knowledge about foreign regulation in the field of state security through contributions presented by foreign guests.

The first part began with the introductory word of Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Marián Giba, PhD. and the Chairman of the Constitutional Law Committee of the National Council JUDr. Milan Vetrák PhD. The first presentation has Prof. Ján Svák from the Faculty of Law of Comenius University. In his contribution, he analysed the legitimacy for determining the occurrence of a crisis situation. Two important foreign guests spoke after him. The first foreign guest who presented his contribution was Prof. Douglas McKechnie from United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, USA. He focused mainly on aspects of the independence of the Constitutional Court in a crisis situation. The second foreign guest was Prof. Basile Ridard from Université de Poitiers, France. In his contribution, he examined the effects of the pandemic on the functioning of parliaments in Europe.

The second part began with a presentation of the Constitutional Court judge JUDr. Róbert Šorl, PhD. He focused on law-making in Slovakia during a pandemic. His contribution was interesting mainly because it offered a view of a judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic on regulations adopted by the Public Health Office of the Slovak Republic during a pandemic. The second speaker was JUDr. Petra Příbělská, PhD, judge of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic. In her contribution, she analysed the possibilities of using the powers of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic, for example judicial review of regulations issued by the Public Health Office of the Slovak Republic. The third speaker in this part was a foreign guest, Prof. Karel Klíma from the Metropolitan University in Prague. In his contribution, he focused on examining the activities of the European Union institutions and bodies in crisis situations. The last speaker of the second part was Prof. Gabriela Dobrovičová from the Faculty of Law of Pavel Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. In her interesting contribution, she sought an answer to the question: "Who should make important decisions in the coronavirus crisis?"

The third part of the conference was devoted to the national constitutional anchoring of crisis situations and the subsequent procedures following their duration. The section was opened by Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marek Káčer, PhD. from the Faculty of Law of the University of Trnava who dealt with the issue of extending the state of emergency in the pandemic year 2020. The specific situation that occurred in 2020 in connection with the extension of the election period was very critical mainly due to the circumstances that accompanied this process. The second speaker was Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Kamil Baraník, PhD., LL.M. from the Faculty of Law of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica who dealt with the constitutional process in crisis situations.

The fourth part of the conference focused on individual aspects related to the duration of crisis situations. Participants from the home Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava spoke within this section. The introductory lecture was given by Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Marek Domin, PhD., who presented a paper focused on the responsible relationship between the executive and the legislature in times of crisis. Another speaker was Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Jozef Valuch, PhD., whose contribution was focused on a very interesting and at the same time important topic of disruption of the operation of not only the constitutional bodies of the state by cyber operations from the point of view of international law. Then, the word was given to JUDr. Stanislav Gaňa, PhD. and his contribution focused on the possibilities of exercising public power by means of long-distance communication during a pandemic. The fourth section was closed by Mgr. Vincent Bujňák, PhD., who focused on a specific law on the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Council.

The final section was attended by doctoral students from the Department of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava, and the Institute of State and Law of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, whose contributions focused on specific areas related to their research. The section was opened by Mgr. Daniel Takács, who dealt with the issue of extending the term of the National Council of the Slovak Republic during the crisis situation. He pointed out the absence of such a possibility in the constitutional regulation of war and the state of war. The following contributor was Mgr. František Pažitný, who focused on other aspects of the constitutional responsibility of constitutional bodies during the war and the state of war. Another contribution was presented by Mgr. Samuel Cibík, who focused on the budgetary responsibility of constitutional bodies in crisis situations. The last section was closed by Mgr. Mária Bezáčková, who provided a general overview of the issue of the impact of crisis situations on the development of the principles of a democratic state and rule of law.

As part of the closing speech, the conference was closed by Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Marián Giba, PhD. who especially emphasized the conviction that the conclusions resulting from this conference should be reflected in the legislative activities of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and especially the parliamentary constitutional law committee in cooperation with which this conference took place.

