

FOREWORD

In cooperation we can create something new, forward-looking and enduring



We have eventful years behind us. At the onset of a new era the first experiences are always of utmost importance. On the one hand, they provide a first opportunity to form an opinion about the initial fulfilment of the expectations and the realisation of the fears we formerly, on the basis of our “old” knowledge had. On the other hand, their importance lies in the fact that at this stage we still cannot, and need not, say anything definitive. The onset of a new era is quite naturally characterised by a search for new ways and this feature does, in comparison to other periods, allow greater leeway to modify our ideas and to alter our initial directions. Summarising and evaluating the first experiences is an indispensable station in any conscious search for new ways. The Curia’s 2013 Yearbook is an imprint of the second year of a period full of changes: while 2012 was, in the President’s words, The Year of Initiatives for the Curia, the chronicle of 2013 already includes the first experiences and results of those initiatives.

The past years have been characterised by a comprehensive re-regulation of Hungary’s legal system, including its public law regime. When the readers take the Curia’s 2013 Yearbook in their hands, one of the most decisive questions of the transformation of our public law system comes to the fore: how will the bastion of the rule of law, the highest forum of justice find its place in the changed circumstances. The period we have left behind us has demonstrated and attested that the supreme judicial body is indeed capable of searching for answers to the newly faced challenges with remarkable *élan* and initiative. This kind of openness and dynamism is of especially great value in these days, when enduring answers to widespread challenges can only be provided through a successful cooperation of several actors. Naturally, for me a search for ways by the courts and the Constitutional Court is of utmost importance.

It is my firm conviction that we are doomed to jointly search for new ways. In the process of the transformation of our public law system the amendment of the rules governing the operation, competences and procedures of the courts, headed by the Curia, and of the Constitutional Court went together hand in hand. This has only made even more evident that “in the new world” we can only be successful together, by jointly finding answers. By saying this I do not, primarily, mean that we have to create effective relationships in the everyday work processes, though it is also very important, but rather that without each other we cannot

accomplish the goals of our professional calling, namely the protection and enforcement of our country's constitutional order and rule of law. Instead of following foreign examples of "war of judges", which is a dead-end, only joint work capable of preserving the spirit of cooperation despite disagreement can be meaningful and valuable. This is the kind of work through which we can create something new, forward-looking and enduring.

I sincerely wish that the Curia's 2013 Yearbook and the coming Yearbooks can report among the achievements our joint successes as well. For we are doomed to each other.

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