



REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS - РЕПУБЛИКА КОСОВО - REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
GJYKATA KUSHTETUESE
УСТАВНИ СУД
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, PROF. DR. ENVER HASANI, DELIVERED AT THE
CEREMONY OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL YEAR OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
COURT**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
Honorable participants,**

Allow me, at the beginning of this Ceremony marking the Fifth Judicial Year of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, to thank you from the bottom of my heart, in my name and on behalf of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, for the time you have found to participate in this solemn ceremony of our Court.

From ceremony to ceremony, our friends from the region, Europe and around the World are increasing in number, and this makes us very happy.

I thank you all!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A bit of history: The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo was established in early 2009 and became fully operational in the autumn of 2009. I am not going to mention here the difficulties of the commencement, as each of you may easily imagine them.

It has been five years that the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo works and lives. Five great years of constitutional judiciary of the state of Kosovo. Five great years even for us, who gave away everything from ourselves to make the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, this ultimate authority of the constitutional order of the country stand on firm and sound grounds; this authority which has helped and is

helping the establishment of the democratic society of Kosovo based on the rule of law, respect of the human and minority rights and guaranteeing the complete separation of powers.

During these five years, our Court was guided by constitutional standards of the homologue European courts, and especially the standards of the European Court of Human Rights. So it shall be in the future as well. And, it is thanks to this that the Resolutions of our Court have given a valuable contribution to the respect of principles, guarantees and the protection of the constitutional values in the Kosovo society...

We have successfully implemented the Strategic Plan 2010-2013 and have commenced the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017. In the previous Plan, we faced a wide variety of challenges, but we successfully dealt with them. We will successfully deal with possible challenges in the future too.

Since its establishment until today, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo has received a total of 892 individual and collective Referrals addressed to it. Out of these, 839 Referrals have been resolved. The others are being proceeded. We were and shall be highly efficient.

Honorable participants,

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, owing to its good and fair work, enjoys respect and authority in the Republic of Kosovo. It enjoys respect and authority in the region, Europe and in the world as well.

This is proven also by its full membership to the World Conference on Constitutional Justice a month ago, and this membership of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo made possible following the activation of the membership of the Republic of Kosovo in the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

This fact obliges our Court to have an even greater commitment to keep pace with modern institutions of constitutional justice, not only in the region, but also in Europe and in the world.

Up to date, we have actively worked, in cooperation with the constitutional courts of other countries in exchanging the experience in order to develop the insight and range of the understanding of the constitutional justice practice and theory. Through this experience, our Court has been able to develop its capacities and create its reputation in rapport with the international legal community. The benefit from the presence of the international judges and the international legal advisors in the Court is further strengthened through these international cooperation projects.

Allow me to mention also the fact that thanks to the Embassy of Swiss Confederation in Kosovo, as the main donor, and the mediation of the Office of the Council of Europe in Prishtina, a project enabling the training of the legal advisors of the Constitutional Court

of Kosovo in the European Court on Human Rights, with its seat in Strasbourg, commenced this year.

The training of legal advisors of our Court in the Court of Strasbourg (with two advisors taking turns in staying in Strasbourg for a five-month period of time), aims at mastering the practices of the European judiciary and application thereof in the constitutional judiciary of Kosovo.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What we have achieved during the five years we are leaving behind would be impossible without the great commitment of the judges and all the other staff of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo; without the material support from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget, but they would have been impossible also without the generous help and assistance of the international donors: European Commission, Council of Europe, governments of friendly countries: United States of America, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, then the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), the International Civilian Office (ICO), Legal Reform Project (GIZ), German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the East-West Management Institute (EWMI), Effective Rule of Law Program in Kosovo (EROL), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey.

On behalf of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, I heartily thank them for the support they have provided.

Honorable participants,

We, at the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo, have taken an oath to persistently continue to carry out our holy mission in ensuring the functionality of the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, in compliance with the Constitution and the protection of the individual rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

We have been and will be completely independent, and the principle of impartiality in rendering our resolutions has been and shall remain our only way.

Thank you for your attention!

Prof. Dr. Enver Hasani, President

Prishtina, 15 October 2014