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CONFERENCE REVIEW

XXI INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
- VALJEVO 2018

## **DAMAGE, COMPENSATION AND INSURANCE LIABILITY**

The XXI international scientific conference "Liability for Damage, Damage Compensation and Insurance" was held from the 20th to 22nd September, at the OMNI hotel in Valjevo as organized by the **Association for Damage Compensation Law**, the Institute for Comparative Law and Belgrade Judicial Academy.

The words of prof. Dr Wolfgang Rorbach, academician and Chairman of the Scientific Committee of this traditional Conference most clearly illustrate the essence of the interaction between the scientific and practical factors of highest relevance, that is, the exchange of ideas and experience in insurance and damage compensation.

High quality, up-to-datedness, continuity, criticality and recognition are some of the features that have adorned the Conference for a long period of two decades of its existence. Now, at the threshold of the third decade, we can claim that this Conference has gained maturity, but, strange as it may sound, also become young. Namely, in the last few years, there has been a growing number of young insurance researchers who joined the Conference with their work and fresh ideas.

**Prof. Dr Zdravko Petrović**, a lawyer from Belgrade and representative of the Association for Damage Compensation Law, opened the scientific Conference and wished participants a warm welcome. In the introductory speech, he recalled the fact that two thirds of disputes in the Republic of Serbia arise in the field of damage compensation, starting from collisions and traffic accidents with fatal outcome to ordinary collapses down the stairs and/or on ice.

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– It is a fact that the fields of insurance and damage compensation have been little addressed in the professional literature; therefore, this international scientific Conference, from year to year, provides the opportunity to show breakthroughs and/or repeat what is well known but has started to be forgotten, due to shift of generation in the judiciary and other judicial bodies - emphasized prof. Dr. Zdravko Petrović.

**Prof. Dr Vladimir Čolović**, director of the Institute for Comparative Law in Belgrade, emphasized the importance of all papers published in the Proceedings from this scientific Conference, which most reflects in the proposals for amendments in the legislative solutions regarding insurance. Bearing in mind the current trends in the Republic of Serbia, as well as a large number of foreign insurance companies on domestic market, he pointed out that the insurance situation, in general, is changing for the better.

**Dragan Obradović**, a judge of the Higher Court in Valjevo addressed the participants on behalf of the Judicial Academy, emphasizing the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences of representatives of eight European countries including, for the first time this year, the authors from Norway.

The mayor of Valjevo, **Dr Slobodan Gvozdrenović**, also welcomed the attendees, pointing out that this scientific conference is very important not only for Valjevo lawyers but also for all employees of the town administration, because the topics addressed are of general life significance.

On the first day of the Conference, the greatest interest of the participants was for the paper "Damage Compensation in the Form of Annuity in French and English Law", of **prof. Dr Nataša Mrvić Petrović**, scientific adviser of the Institute for Comparative Law in Belgrade, co-authored by **prof. Dr Zdravko Petrović**. Attention was also driven by the report of **Jelena Borovac**, a judge of the Supreme Court of Cassation, on the subject of "Cash annuity due to permanently increased medical requirements".

In the morning and afternoon sessions on the second day of the Conference, most of the papers were presented in two parallel sessions. One session was titled "Causing Damage and Liability, Damage Compensation and Other Issues", and was moderated by prof. Dr. Zdravko Petrović and the other one, "Insurance", was moderated by prof. Dr. Vladimir Čolovic.

On the third day of the Conference, a joint session was held, followed by a discussion and conclusions. The participants addressed most of their questions to **Ljubodrag Pljakic**, the retired judge of the Supreme Court of Cassation, who presented the paper "Legitimate Expectations of Successor in Process of Restitution of Seized Property and Compensation".

On the occasion of the jubilee, the twentieth anniversary of the Association for Damage Compensation Law, Dr. Zdravko Petrović handed over the certificates for contribution to strengthening of the profession and the continuity of participation

and presentation to the authors: **prof. Dr. Wolfgang Rorbach** from Austria, **prof. Dr. Berislav Matijević** from Croatia, **prof. Dr. Slobodan Stanišić**, lawyer from Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Jelena Borovac**, judge of the Supreme Court of Cassation of the Republic of Serbia and **prof. Dr Duško Medić**, judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republika Srpska.

It can be concluded that this year's XXI International Scientific Conference in Valjevo has shown the actual, current situation of insurance and simultaneously contributed to the evolution of theory and practice both for insurance and damage compensation. It also promoted the newly established International Insurance Institute (MIO), which aims to "raise awareness of people about insurance in the most general sense".

The success of the Conference was significantly added to by continuous discussions on the draft Civil Code of the Republic of Serbia as well as the presence of **Ratko Slijepcević**, a member of the Commission for drafting the Civil Code of the Republic of Serbia.

It can freely be concluded that the Association for Damage Compensation Law, during all these years of organizing the International Scientific Conference, created a roadmap to insurance and judiciary experts - a roadmap to the stability of a country's legal system.

*Translated from Serbian by: **Bojana Papović***