



ÚSTAVNÝ SÚD
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY

YEARBOOK 2019





CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

JUDr. Ivan Fiačan, PhD.



Dear readers,

The year 2019 was a turning point in the history of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. From 1st January to 16th February, the Plenum of the Constitutional Court worked in full composition, with thirteen judges of the Constitutional Court. Subsequently, the term of office of nine judges expired and only four judges covered the decision-making.

On 17th April 2019, three new constitutional judges were appointed, including the President and Vice-President of the Constitutional Court. The fourth term of office at the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic therefore began with an incomplete Plenum, with only seven out of thirteen judges.

This insufficient state was also reflected in the statistical overview of 2019. From 1st January to 31st December 2019, the Constitutional Court registered 2,373 submissions (motions and complaints), 1,581 of which were processed and 1,490 were not processed as of 31 December 2019. Of the given number of unprocessed submissions, the Plenum of the Constitutional Court had the competence to decide in 39. The average length of proceedings before the Constitutional Court was almost seven months (6.86 months).

The Plenum became complete on 10th October 2019. In a short time, it adopted two important documents, the new Rules of Procedure of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, which among other things defined a new approach to communication with the media, and the Work Schedule of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic for 2020. A total of 1,062 submissions which had not been allocated due to the incomplete number of judges were redistributed among the constitutional judges.

In 2019 interesting decisions by the Constitutional Court included decisions taken in proceedings on the conformity of legal regulations, e.g. the ban on publishing pre-election poll results 50 days before the elections, the so-called pre-election silence (PL. ÚS 26/2019, Rvp 2211/2019 – Judge-Rapporteur Miroslav Duriš, ruling admitting the case for further proceedings, suspension of part of the challenged legislation); vetting procedures for judges and judicial candidates (PL. ÚS 21/2014, Rvp 11061/2014 - Judge Rapporteur Peter Brňák, finding, non-conformity); hate speech (PL. ÚS 5/2017, Rvp 15155/2016 - Judge Rapporteur Lajos Mészáros, finding, non-conformity); the entitled person (creditor) could not recover the interests and charges related to his claim from the debtor in distraint proceedings (PL. ÚS 6/2016, Rvp 4938/2016 – Judge Rapporteur Rudolf Tkáčik, finding, non-conformity); and also decisions taken in proceedings in electoral matters, e.g. electoral complaints concerning the constitutionality and legality of elections to the European Parliament (PL. ÚS 15/2019, Rvp 990/2019 – Judge-Rapporteur Peter Molnár, complaint denied).

In 2019 the Plenum of the Constitutional Court also engaged in several important international activities. After ten years another bilateral meeting was held with judges of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany (December 2019, Karlsruhe) and the Plenum continued in the traditional working meetings with judges of the Constitutional Courts of the Czech Republic (October 2019, Brno) and Hungary (October 2019, Košice), as well as in cooperation with major judicial bodies at home and within Europe.

We can conclude that the year 2019 was notable for major changes in the Plenum of the Constitutional Court, numerous interesting decisions of the Constitutional Court and effective international cooperation. All details are given further on in this publication.

The presented Yearbook provides the professional and lay public with all relevant information on the decision-making and organizational activities of the Constitutional Court, as well as information on the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. At the same time, it is also an expression of gratitude to the judges of the Constitutional Court and to all the employees of the Chancellery for fulfilling their duties and tasks, thereby creating a good environment for the decision-making activities of the judges.



JUDR. IVAN FIAČAN, PHD.

The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic

DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

I. DECISIONS ON THE COMPLIANCE OF LAWS WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

PL. ÚS 6/2017 OF 9TH JANUARY 2019 – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter “Constitutional Court”) reviewed several provisions of the Law regulating the proceedings in the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter “Rules of Procedure”).

This concerned provisions which a) regulate the length of speeches of deputies in debates in the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter “the National Council”); (b) prohibit the use of various technical devices in the National Council; (c) regulate the speeches of the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Council, the President of the Republic and members of the Government in debates; and d) allow a deputy to be ordered out from the Chamber.

According to the group of Members of the National Council who filed the motion at the Constitutional Court, the challenged provisions were allegedly in conflict with the rule of law [Art. 1(1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the “Constitution”), the right to freedom of expression (Art. 26 of the Constitution) and free political competition in a democratic society (Art. 31 of the Constitution).

Review of internal relations in the National Council in general

The National Council is a representative of the electorate, who are the holders of state power. The Constitutional Court therefore recognises the special position of the National Council and also the fact that it has the right to adopt such Rules of Procedure which enable the smooth course of its functions.

On the other hand, it should be recalled that the National Council

is also bound by the Constitution. The Constitutional Court therefore has the competence to review the Rules of Procedure adopted by the National Council and decide on violations of the Constitution. However, the Constitutional Court intervenes only when necessary.

The Constitutional Court must intervene, for example, in cases where the rights of deputies are violated, especially when it concerns the protection of deputies who are in the minority.

Freedom of expression of deputies in general

The Constitutional Court recalled that freedom of expression under Art. 26 of the Constitution is a freedom of private persons with regard to the state. However, the deputies are themselves representatives of state power, and their right to speak in debates is a prerogative resulting from that. Freedom of expression of deputies is therefore protected by Art. 78(2) of the Constitution, according to which deputies may not be prosecuted for statements during the performance of their activities in the National Council or in its bodies.

Despite the fact that the contested legislation does not concern Art. 26 of the Constitution, the Constitutional Court also made some observations on this part of the motion.

The length of deputies’ speeches in debates

The contested legislation provided that deputies registered for a debate in writing should have a maximum of 20 minutes for their speeches; a deputy authorized to speak on behalf of a parliamentary caucus has a maximum of 30 minutes and a deputy registered orally has a maximum of 10 minutes (these time limits may be extended under certain circumstances). The time limit does not include the time required for reading a written amendment.

The Constitutional Court stated that setting time limits on speeches in debates restricts the rights of deputies, but does not deny their rights. During debates, any deputy may comment on every matter in each reading, either by written or oral registration

(i.e. twice). In addition, they may submit amendments and factual remarks. At the same time, setting time limits in debates is also relatively common from an international point of view.

Ban on technical devices

The relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure prohibit the use of audio-visual presentation or recording devices during a deputy's speech in a debate. In addition, it is forbidden to bring posters, leaflets or other similar items into the Chamber.

The Constitutional Court emphasized that this restriction does not affect the content, only the manner of the deputy's expression. In the opinion of the Constitutional Court, the ban on various devices does not deny the deputies their freedom of expression, because the core of a deputy's right to free expression is oral speech.

The purpose of representing citizens is not embodied in posters brought into the Chamber, but in the deputies' option to express themselves freely on the subject of debates in the National Council under the same conditions as other deputies. The Rules of Procedure do not interfere with this.

Speeches by other persons in debates

Provisions allowing the President of the National Council, the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister to speak in debates at any time and without time limit were also challenged. In addition, these provisions entitle the Vice-Presidents of the National Council and members of the Government to speak in debates at any time, but with a time limit of 20 minutes (there is no time limit for a motion of no confidence directed at a member of the Government).

The Constitutional Court founded the legal regulation justified and appropriate, taking into account the powers and special position of the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Council, whose role is to organize and lead the activities of the legislature. Likewise, the constitutional status of the President of the Republic justifies his/her generally-established right to speak before the National Council.

In relation to members of the Government, and the Prime Minister in particular, the Constitutional Court pointed out that the National Council has the right to require members of the Government (including the Prime Minister) to attend its sessions. In order to maintain the separation and balance of powers, it is therefore appropriate for members of the Government to have the opportunity to speak before the National Council upon their request. Unlimited time is granted only to the Prime Minister due to his/her special position.

Ordering a deputy out of the Chamber

The applicants argued that the reasons for ordering a deputy out of the Chamber, consisting of "exceeding the boundaries of good

behaviour" or "disrupting the proceedings", were not sufficiently clear and were therefore contrary to legal certainty and the rule of law.

The Constitutional Court stated that, from the point of view of legal certainty, the determining factor is whether the deputies are able to reasonably predict the consequences of their actions from the wording of a legal norm. The Constitutional Court considered that this requirement was met and pointed out that similar provisions are contained in the Rules of Procedure of foreign legislatures.

In addition, to order a deputy out of the Chamber is not possible without prior notice, and only if the deputy does not respect that notice. The deputy concerned may also request for the objectivity of the order to be reviewed by the National Council or its constitutional committee.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Constitutional Court denied the motion to commence proceedings, because the restrictions on the freedom of expression of deputies pursued a constitutional aim, i.e. the proper functioning of the National Council, and were not disproportionate. At the same time, the provisions in question did not deny the rights of deputies who are in the minority in the National Council.

PL. ÚS 5/2017 OD 9TH JANUARY 2019 – HATE CRIMES

In a motion to commence proceedings, a group of deputies of the National Council claimed that the Criminal Code contains provisions which are contrary to the Constitution. These included the crime of inciting hatred against "another group of people" and provisions concerning the crime of defamation and incitement to hatred and violence based on "political beliefs".

Basis of the decision

According to the Constitutional Court, the reviewed crimes fell under the protection of freedom of expression and they restricted this freedom.

In accordance with the restriction of other constitutional rights and freedoms, it was necessary to determine whether it was a restriction imposed by law, whether the restriction pursued a constitutional aim, whether it was appropriate and necessary, and possibly also the significance of the aim in relation to the limited right.

Constitutionality of the term "another group of people"

The Constitutional Court focused on whether the restriction imposed on the freedom of expression met the condition of legality. In this context, it considered whether the legal regulation was clear and could be used in criminal law in a way that it was not

in violation of the Constitution. The Constitutional Court took into account the nature of criminal law, which places high demands on the wording of legal norms, since convictions in criminal proceedings have very serious consequences.

The Constitutional Court emphasized that law enforcement bodies need to have clear rules when considering this type of crime. Although criminal law naturally involves terms which require interpretation, in the opinion of the Constitutional Court the interpretation itself of the term “another group of people” already borders on the creating of legislation.

The National Council can resolve urgent problems in society through criminal law, but it is responsible for clearly setting the rules of this resolution. If the purpose of the disputed legislation is to penalize hatred against certain groups, then the legislature should properly identify those groups.

On the basis of the above, the Constitutional Court considered the challenged parts of the Criminal Code to be in violation of the Constitution, because freedom of expression cannot be restricted so vaguely, a crime cannot be defined in such a general way, and the State must have a proper basis for interfering with citizens’ freedoms, who on the other hand have to have their responsibilities set out clearly.

The condition of legality was therefore not observed, whether from the point of view of restricting the constitutional right to freedom of expression, or from the point of view of the certainty of criminal law, nor finally from the point of view of the rule of law.

Defamation and incitement to hatred and violence for political beliefs

The Constitutional Court also considered these provisions as insufficiently clear, for reasons similar to those in relation to “another group of persons”. In addition, there were concerns about the possible restriction of free political debate and the unclear connection between international rules and national criminal law. The Constitutional Court emphasized that political beliefs are generally protected in the case of individuals who should be extradited to another state where they might be at risk of persecution due to their political beliefs.

Consequently, these provisions of the Criminal Code did not meet the requirements for the quality of a law restricting freedom of expression or the requirements of the rule of law, and were therefore deemed to be in violation of the Constitution.

FINDING IN PL. ÚS 21/2014 OF 30. JANUARY 2019 – SUBSTANTIVE CORE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE VETTING PROCEDURE FOR JUDGES

Substantive core of the Constitution and the competences of the Constitutional Court

In the given case, the Constitutional Court examined the obligation imposed on judges and judicial candidates to submit to vetting procedures in order to establish whether they meet the preconditions for the position of a judge. For the first time, in addition to several laws, some articles of the Constitution themselves became the subject of decision-making.

According to the motion to commence proceedings, the constitutional and legal regulation of vetting was contrary to the independence of the judiciary. The reasons for this included the fact that the assessments were decided by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the “Judicial Council”) on the basis of documents provided by a representative of governmental power, the National Security Authority.

Firstly, the Constitutional Court had to answer the question whether, in addition to laws which have lower legal force than the Constitution, it can also review some provisions of the Constitution itself; in other words, whether it is possible to declare that one provision of the Constitution is not in line with other constitutional provisions. In this context, it pointed out that, compared to other states (such as the Czech Republic or Germany), our Constitution does not contain any provision stating that some of its articles are unamendable, while other articles may be subject to amendment.

However, the Constitution is based on values which protect the rights of citizens and limit state interference with these rights. The values on which the Constitution is based are extremely important, because they distinguish the current Slovak Republic from the non-democratic governments of the past, which directly suppressed or paid mere lip-service to citizens’ rights.

The values on which the Constitution is based are expressed in the constitutional principles enshrined in individual constitutional articles. These principles determine the character of the Slovak Republic.

This raises the question of the so-called “substantive core of the Constitution”, i.e. such constitutional principles which cannot be amended or annulled because that would undermine the very foundation of the Constitution and of the State. According to the Constitutional Court, this does not even have to be in conflict with the powers of the National Council, which adopts and amends the Constitution. By enshrining the unamendable principles in the Constitution, the National Council can restrict itself, and such restriction can be understood as the highest manifestation of the sovereignty of the National Council.

Based on these considerations, the Constitutional Court came to the conclusion that specific articles of our Constitution enshrine such constitutional principles, the violation of which would mean

an interference with the very foundation of the Constitution and thus the character of the Slovak Republic as a state governed by the rule of law. These principles form the substantive core of the Constitution, which cannot be interfered with, not even by amending the Constitution itself. The content of the substantive core, i.e. the constitutional principles and articles which form it, is established through the decision-making activities of the Constitutional Court, which is entrusted with the protection of constitutionality.

It follows that there are constitutional articles with different legal power, and even a constitutional law can be unconstitutional if it violates the substantive core of the Constitution. If it is sufficiently serious, such violation gives rise to unconstitutionality. The Constitutional Court has the power to find this contradiction because, according to the Constitution, it is an independent judicial body for the protection of constitutionality. If it did not intervene in the case of violation of the substantive core of the Constitution, it would cease to fulfil this role. In this context, the Constitutional Court also referred to the oath of a judge of the Constitutional Court, whose task is, inter alia, to protect the rule of law.

Compliance of the impugned legislation with the rule of law

The Constitutional Court stated that Art. 1(1) of the Constitution is the basis for the substantive core of the Constitution, because it characterizes the Slovak Republic as a democratic state governed by the rule of law. A sufficiently serious violation of this article is always a violation of the Constitution. The separation of powers is an integral part of the rule of law and the impugned legal regulation interfered with it in an unconstitutional manner.

According to the Constitutional Court, this regulation granted the National Security Authority (a representative of governmental power) inappropriate status. In practice, the Judicial Council could not examine the documents which were critical for the judicial review, as submitted by the Authority. This follows from the fact that the National Security Authority obtains some information in a classified manner from various sources. Based on these facts, the legislation was deemed to violate the rule of law.

Compliance of the impugned legislation with judicial independence

Judicial independence, which is enshrined in Art. 141(1) and Art. 144(1) of the Constitution, is also part of the substantive core of the Constitution. The impugned legal regulation interfered with this constitutional principle in an unconstitutional way.

The Constitutional Court stated that comprehensive assessments of judges with the possibility of their recall represent a unique, quite exceptional measure in a democratic state governed by the rule of law, which can only be taken immediately after a change

from a non-democratic government to democratic one. In the present, there are no grounds for introducing such assessments of qualification of already-appointed judges.

At the same time, judicial independence does not mean that judges cannot be scrutinized, but this scrutiny must be balanced and proportionate. The method of scrutiny introduced by the legislation at issue did not meet those requirements, since sensitive information obtained by the National Security Authority could be misused in order to influence judges. The usual methods for scrutinizing the activities of judges (disciplinary, civil and criminal liability) are currently available, but they need to be used consistently.

Regarding those interested in the office of judge, the Constitutional Court did not reject the idea itself of assessing the preconditions of their qualification. In the opinion of the Constitutional Court, it was not the vetting of the candidates which was contrary to the substantive core of the Constitution, but the manner in which it was done.

It would be in accordance with the Constitution if the Judicial Council had a real opportunity to assess the documents submitted to it by the state authorities and, on the basis of this assessment, decided whether the preconditions of qualification of a particular candidate for judicial office were met. The Constitutional Court therefore annulled the provisions concerning the vetting procedure of candidates in so far as they concerned the role of the National Security Authority.

Under the current legislation, the Judicial Council continues to scrutinize the preconditions of the qualification of judges. This is not a comprehensive assessment however, and when procuring documents it has the opportunity to request the cooperation of relevant public authorities, and is not dependent on the National Security Authority.

At the same time, the Judicial Council scrutinizes the preconditions of the qualification of all candidates to the office of judge, in a similar way as in the case of judges themselves.

PL. ÚS 10/2019 OF 30TH JANUARY 2019 – DECISIONS OF JUDICIAL CLERKS

The motion to commence proceedings was submitted by a district court, according to which the legal regulation of civil court proceedings was partially unconstitutional. The grounds for the claim were that, according to the Code of Civil Contentious Proceedings, the decision on the amount of reimbursement of costs incurred in court proceedings (costs of proceedings) is issued by a judicial clerk.

The applicant claimed that this is in violation of Art. 142(2) of the Constitution. According to this article, it is possible for court employees to decide on certain issues, but they can only do so on the basis of a special authorization issued by a judge. In this case the judicial clerk decides not on the basis of an authorisation, but directly on the basis of the law. Furthermore, according to the applicant, this means that the decision on the amount of costs of proceedings cannot be issued by a judge.

Decisions by judicial clerks

In Slovakia, the office of judicial clerk was established in 2004 following the example of other European countries. The aim was to help quicken court proceedings. For this reason, judicial clerks are authorized to perform certain acts and also to issue certain decisions in court proceedings.

Regarding their position they are employees of the court, but unlike judges they cannot be considered independent. It is important to note that an appeal is admissible against any decision by a judicial clerk.

It is possible to lodge a complaint against a decision on the amount of costs of proceedings and subsequently the amount is always reviewed by a judge. The complaint allows the judge to amend the impugned decision. Such a complaint is therefore considered as an effective means of redressing possible errors.

In reviewing the challenged law, the Constitutional Court considered it crucial that the right of the participants to court proceedings before an independent and impartial court (Article 46(1) of the Constitution) should remain inviolate. The impugned legislation was therefore found to be in accordance with the Constitution.

PL. ÚS 6/2016 OF 30TH JANUARY 2019 – DISTRAINT PROCEEDINGS

The motion to commence proceedings was submitted by a district court, which considered certain provisions of the Code of Distraint Proceedings unconstitutional. The Code of Distraint Proceedings regulates the enforcement of court decisions (distraint). One of the preconditions for distraint is a valid and enforceable court decision. The enforceability of the decision means that the period during which a debtor could settle his/her debt voluntarily has elapsed.

The district court challenged the legal provision according to which the entitled person (creditor) could not recover the interests and charges related to his claim from the debtor in distraint proceedings if he filed a motion to initiate distraint proceedings after three years from the date of enforceability of the court decision.

In addition, the district court also challenged another provision of the Code of Distraint Proceedings, according to which the above-mentioned rule was to apply to all proceedings initiated after 31st May 2014. According to the applicant, this provision was in violation of prohibition of retroactive application of laws.

Recovering the interests and charges related to a claim

Interests and charges related to a claim are defined as interest or late fees and costs associated with recovering the claim. The debtor must pay interest and fees for the time period between the due date and the day the debt is actually settled. The total amount of interest and fees therefore increases over time. Regarding the costs associated with the claim, their amount does not depend on time

The Constitutional Court considered it essential to determine whether a particular interest or charge related to a claim depends on the passage of time. The impugned legal provisions were intended to protect the debtor from speculative conduct of the creditor. The law aimed to prevent the creditor from postponing the motion to initiate distraint proceedings in order to increase interest or late fees.

In general, the Constitutional Court did not rule out the option of the legislator to protect the debtor from possible speculation by the creditor, but this protection must be adequate. In this case, however, it was not appropriate, because the prohibition of recovery in distraint proceedings also applied to those interests and charges related to the claim which did not depend on the passage of time (i.e. on possible speculative conduct by the creditor).

The Constitutional Court found that it was a constitutionally inadmissible interference with the constitutional right of creditors to their property, and the provision in question was also in violation of the constitutional right to effective judicial protection and the rule of law.

Retroactive application of laws

Since the provision concerning the recovery of interests and charges related to a claim was to apply only to distraint proceedings initiated after 31st May 2014, this did not affect those distraint proceedings which were initiated before that date. The retrospective application was ruled out.

The situation was slightly different in relation to the distraint proceedings in which the contested provisions concerning the interests and charges related to the claim were to be applied. It should be noted that the Code of Civil Proceedings provides that the right conferred by a judicial decision is subject to a ten-year limitation period, which commences with the enforceability of that decision.

According to this rule, the creditor could commence distraint proceedings within the established period of ten years and expect that the interests and charges of the claim would also be recovered. The Code of Distraint Proceedings introduced an exception to this rule, setting the period for recovery of the interests and charges to three years. This could therefore affect creditors who already had an enforceable judicial decision, but waited more than three years to commence distraint proceedings because they relied on the Code of Civil Proceedings.

However, the Constitutional Court pointed out that the legal norm regulating the distraint of interests and charges was published in the Official Gazette on 29 April 2014, but did not come into force until 31 May 2014. In the time period from its publication to its effectiveness, creditors could file a motion to commence proceedings and avoid adversely affecting the interests and charges related to their claims.

In consequence, there was deemed to be no violation of the Constitution regarding the retroactive application of law.

PL. ÚS 12/2019 OF 6TH FEBRUARY 2019 – NOTARY PUBLIC AS JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER

The decision of the Constitutional Court in this case concerned probate proceedings. Specifically, it concerned the legal provisions according to which a notary decides in probate proceedings. The applicants in the motion to commence proceedings argued that this was in violation of the Constitution, according to which in civil matters, including inheritance, it is a court which makes the decision (Art. 142(2) of the Constitution).

Right to effective judicial protection

In particular, the Constitutional Court emphasized that the right to judicial and other protection is enshrined in Art. 46(1) of the Constitution, according to which everyone can claim his/her right before an independent and impartial court. This right to access a court does not mean that a court's decision in a particular case cannot be preceded by a decision by another body.

The power of a notary public to decide on inheritance follows from Art. 46 of the Constitution. Although a notary public is not a court, s/he exercises parts of its jurisdiction on the basis of law and authorization issued by the court. The aim of this legal regulation is to speed up and simplify deciding in probate proceedings.

It is important to point out that any decision by a notary public can be appealed and consequently reviewed by a court. The right of the parties to independent and impartial court therefore remains.

The legal regulation of probate proceedings was therefore found to be in accordance with the Constitution.

PL. ÚS 9/2017 OF 6TH FEBRUARY 2019 – CONTINUING CRIME

The motion to commence proceedings was filed by a regional court, which claimed unconstitutionality of that part of the Criminal Procedure Code concerning the prosecution of continuing crimes. A continuing crime is a crime which is committed by means of several consecutive attacks linked in time and the manner of their commission, as well as in the subject of the attacks. In addition, these attacks are unified by the offender's intention to commit the crime.

In proceedings before a regional court, a person was charged with some of the consecutive attacks forming a continuing crime. Criminal proceedings were conducted against this person in accordance with § 9(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

However, the person concerned had previously been convicted with a final decision in other criminal proceedings of another sequence of attacks within the same continuing crime. In this connection, the regional court pointed out that in accordance with § 122(10) of the Criminal Code, the criminality of individual attacks in a continuing criminal offence is considered as one criminal offence.

Therefore, if the person concerned has been previously convicted of some individual attacks within a continuing crime, he or she has been convicted of a continuing crime and, in the opinion of the regional court, can no longer be convicted of other attacks in the same continuing crime.

According to the regional court, this conclusion should result from the basic principle of criminal law, according to which no-one can be convicted again for a crime which s/he has already been legally convicted for. In other words, no one can be punished twice for the same crime. This principle is expressed in the Constitution, but also in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (also "the Convention"), which is binding for the Slovak Republic.

In view of the above, the regional court considered the wording of § 9(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code unconstitutional, as it allows prosecution for a continuing crime, even if the prosecuted person has already been convicted with a final decision of certain individual attacks within this continuing crime.

Continuing crime

The Constitutional Court emphasized, in particular, that the institution of continuing crime constitutes an advantage for the offender, as each of the individual attacks could be considered a separate crime. Since individual attacks are considered as one single crime, only one penalty is imposed on the offender, which is lighter than if several penalties were imposed for each consecutive attack.

However, if a sequence of attacks is considered to be a single crime, it is only a unity from the point of view of law, not a real unity. Section 9(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code is based on this concept of continuing crime.

Constitutionality of § 9(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code

When reviewing the constitutionality of § 9(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Constitutional Court also relied on the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights ("ECtHR") concerning the Convention. In these decisions, the ECtHR emphasized that the same infringement can be punished only if the same conduct of the offender is punished.

In consequence, the Constitutional Court followed up on the already-mentioned fact that a continuing crime involves several different acts, i.e. these are several proceedings which are not identical. It follows from the above that § 9(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code was not in violation of the principle that no-one can be convicted (punished) twice for the same crime. The Constitutional Court found against the motion.

II. DECISIONS IN ELECTORAL MATTERS

PL. ÚS 26/2019 OF 18TH DECEMBER 2019 - BAN ON PUBLISHING PRE-ELECTION POLL RESULTS

A group of deputies of the National Council challenged a provision of the Law on election campaigns before the Constitutional Court, which bans the publication of election poll results for 50 days before general elections and until the end of voting on election day. According to the applicants, this provision is contrary to the constitutional right to information and free political competition. The motion to commence proceedings included a motion to suspend the challenged provision, i.e. for this provision not to apply until the Constitutional Court decided on its compliance with the Constitution.

Suspending the ban

The Constitutional Court accepted the motion for further proceedings and set about deciding whether the ban on publishing poll results in the period of 50 days before general elections and during election day violates the Constitution.

At the same time, the Constitutional Court exercised its power and suspended the ban. It stressed that the ban came into force at a time when the election campaign for the National Council was already in progress. The adoption of this ban was therefore in violation of the necessary restraint in law-making, as in general the game rules should not change during the game.

PL. ÚS 27/2018 OF 23RD JANUARY 2019 – INVALID ELECTION RESULTS

The applicant objected to the result of the elections to the mayor's office before the Constitutional Court. She argued that the winner of the elections had been convicted with a final decision of a crime in the past, and this conviction had not been expunged.

Invalid election results

The Constitutional Court found that in the given case the election committee allowed a person who did not meet the conditions stipulated by law to apply for election to the mayor's office. According to the Law on electorals, conviction for a crime which has not been expunged is an obstacle to participation in mayoral elections.

The current legal system does not allow for such a failure of the election committee to be corrected before the elections. The only option is to challenge the results of the elections themselves. In the opinion of the Constitutional Court, that is an impediment which leads to invalidity of the election results.

PL. ÚS 35/2018 OF 23RD JANUARY 2019 – CLERK TO THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

The applicant raised several objections to the procedure of the mayoral elections. The most important point was that the clerk to the election committee assisted the election committee members in counting the votes.

Role of the clerk to the election committee

The Constitutional Court used the proceedings in question to comment on the role and activities of the clerk to the election committee. Previously the Constitutional Court had stated that active participation of the clerk in the counting of votes might affect the election committee and call into question the accuracy of determining the election results.

This opinion was further developed by the Constitutional Court in the manner that the role of the clerk in elections necessarily requires cooperation with members of the election committee, and can take various forms. However, it is always important for the election committee to make its own decisions on matters falling within its authority. In other words, the clerk must not usurp the activities of the election committee. Nevertheless, this does not mean that members of the election committee may not turn to the clerk for advice. For example, one part their role is technical assistance.

It was not sufficiently demonstrated in this case that the clerk had exercised a power which belonged exclusively to the election committee. The Constitutional Court therefore rejected the complaint.

PL. ÚS 1/2019 OF 23RD JANUARY 2019 – ELECTION OF A DEPUTY BY DRAWING LOTS

In this case, the Constitutional Court examined the course of municipal elections. The applicant alleged that the lawful procedure for electing the deputy in case of the same number of votes had not been followed.

Election of deputy by drawing lots

The record of the election results and the statements of members of the relevant election committee showed that the election committee had itself determined who would be the deputy out of two candidates with the same number of votes by placing them in alphabetical order.

This procedure was in violation of the electoral law, according to which in such cases the deputy was to be determined by drawing lots. The Constitutional Court therefore annulled this part of the election results and ordered the election committee to appoint the deputy by drawing lots.

PL. ÚS 33/2018 OF 6TH FEBRUARY 2019 – PROPER CONDUCTING OF ELECTIONS

In a complaint against the results of mayoral elections, several objections were raised against the course of the elections. These objections concerned irregularities in a) the evaluation of the validity of ballots (involving already sealed and cast ballots being re-opened); (b) counting of votes (there were two more ballots than envelopes); (c) casting ballots in portable ballot boxes (deficient electoral roll, which, moreover, was not signed by the voters); (d) verification of voter identities (some voted with invalid identity cards); (e) the alleged transportation of voters to the polling station (which was not confirmed), and (f) the activity of one member of the election committee (who supposedly helped her husband, who also ran for mayor in the same elections).

Proper conducting of elections

The Constitutional Court reviewed the course of the elections in detail and found that some of the objections corresponded to facts, but none of them individually, nor all of them together, were significant enough to considerably affect the election results. In addition, the identified shortcomings stemmed from inexperience and unpreparedness rather than malice.

The result of the elections therefore resembled the will of the inhabitants of the municipality, which was crucial. In such situations, the decision of the electorate should always take precedence over the pursuit of flawless elections (which, in reality, is not always possible).

III. DECISIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINTS

I. ÚS 277/2019 OF 15TH OCTOBER 2019 – DANGEROUS STALKING

The applicant was found guilty in criminal proceedings of dangerous stalking. He supposedly committed this crime by submitting various reports on the injured party which had to be examined by the competent authorities, and this went on for almost three years. As a result, the injured party spent a great deal of time before the state authorities, which resulted in interference with their private, family and professional life.

The applicant disagreed with the conviction and objected in the constitutional complaint that his conduct was not tantamount to dangerous stalking.

Dangerous stalking

The Constitutional Court drew attention to the fact that the crime of dangerous stalking can be committed, inter alia, by the perpetrator restricting the injured party in their usual way of life in a manner significantly deleterious to their quality of life.

It follows from the above that the perpetrator may also commit this crime by using other persons or even authorities for dangerous stalking, by means of various reports which these authorities must examine.

However, in such a case it is also very important to examine the reports submitted by the alleged offender submit and how these reports were handled by the authorities. Indeed, if the injured party's quality of life had deteriorated through the wrongful conduct of the authorities themselves, it would not be possible to blame the alleged perpetrator.

Nevertheless, these specifics were not properly determined in the criminal proceedings, so the conclusion that the complainant had committed a crime was not sufficiently proven.

The Constitutional Court consequently annulled the court's decision on the conviction and returned the case, instructing the court to consider it again, taking into account all the relevant circumstances of the case.

I. ÚS 331/2019 OF 19TH NOVEMBER 2019 – WAGE COMPENSATION IN THE EVENT OF INVALIDITY OF EMPLOYMENT TERMINATION

The applicant was unlawfully dismissed by his employer, as a result of which he became entitled to wage compensation for the period during which his employer did not allow him to work. However,

the court granted the applicant this wage compensation only for the first twelve months from the day he was given notice. It did not grant him compensation for the remaining period, basically because the applicant was already drawing a pension and was therefore not dependent on the compensation.

The applicant considered this decision to be incorrect and challenged it before the Constitutional Court.

Right to wage compensation

In its decision, the Constitutional Court noted that the applicant’s claim concerned correct interpretation of the Labor Code, according to which the courts have the option not to grant wage compensation for more than twelve months. However, it is important to specify the reasons for not granting further wage compensation.

In the opinion of the Constitutional Court, in the applicant’s case it was necessary to find out, in particular, why the employer did not allow the applicant to continue working, although the applicant challenged his dismissal as invalid and wanted to continue working. Based on the assessment of these facts, it was necessary to decide whether the complainant would be entitled to compensation for more than twelve months.

In addition, a pension is a social security benefit which does not affect entitlement to compensation. A pension cannot therefore in itself be a reason not to grant wage compensation, since that would result in different treatment of the recipient of a pension compared to other employees.

The Constitutional Court therefore upheld the complaint and found a violation of the complainant’s constitutional rights.

II. ÚS 168/2019 OF 21ST NOVEMBER 2019 – RIGHT TO EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL PROTECTION

In these proceedings the applicant challenged the judgment according to which he was not entitled to compensation for financial loss. The loss consisted of the costs spent on an alternative motor vehicle, which the complainant used instead of his own motor vehicle, which had been damaged in an accident.

The applicant argued that the court had not considered the evidence proposed by him, which was crucial for proving his claim.

Taking of proposed evidence

The Constitutional Court found that the

applicant’s claim of compensation for financial loss had not been granted on the grounds that he had received an accident investigation report according to which it should have been clear that the applicant was not entitled to use an alternative motor vehicle. The regional court concluded this based on the other party’s argument.

However, in the course of the proceedings, the applicant required the other party to prove that the above-mentioned report had been served, for example by means of postal records. However, the court did not consider the proposed evidence.

In the opinion of the Constitutional Court, the evidence proposed by the applicant was crucial for the decision on compensation for financial loss, and therefore, if the court did not take this evidence, it prevented the applicant from exercising his rights in the court proceedings, thus violating the applicant’s constitutional right to effective judicial protection.

The Constitutional Court annulled the contested court decision, stating that it was necessary to take the evidence proposed by the applicant in the case and, on that basis, to decide again on the compensation for financial loss.

STATISTICAL DATA ON THE DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITY

SUBMISSIONS, MOTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

IN 2019	3 123
BALANCE FROM 2014 – 2018	753
1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2019	2 370

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS DELIVERED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT IN 2019 BY TYPE OF CASE

Type of case	Submissions
A. Proceedings on conformity of legal regulations under Art. 125 of the Constitution	22
B. Proceedings on complaints by individuals and legal entities under Art. 127 of the Constitution	2 279
C. Proceedings on electoral matters under Art. 129(2) of the Constitution	10
D. Reopening of proceedings before the Constitutional Court under Art. 133 of the Constitution	2
E. Examination of decisions on the protection of the public interest and prevention of conflicts of interest	7
F. Procedural decisions in proceedings before the Constitutional Court	50
ALTOGETHER	2 370

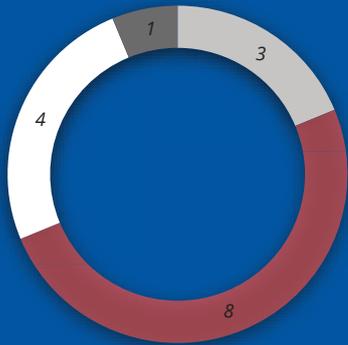
NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS PROCESSED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT IN 2019 BY TYPE OF CASE

Type of case	Submissions*
A. Proceedings on conformity of legal regulations under Art. 125 of the Constitution	16
B. Proceedings on complaints by individuals and legal entities under Art. 127 of the Constitution	1 477
C. Proceedings on electoral matters under Art. 129(2) of the Constitution	39
D. Reopening of proceedings before the Constitutional Court under Art. 133 of the Constitution	3
E. Examination of decisions on the protection of the public interest and prevention of conflicts of interest	6
F. Procedural decisions in proceedings before the Constitutional Court	92
ALTOGETHER	1 633

* The term "processed cases" includes cases in which the Constitutional Court decides on the submission by a finding or ruling, as well as cases in which the Constitutional Court shelves the submission under § 53 of the Law on the Constitutional Court. In the case of joint proceedings (a collection of several similar submissions), the Constitutional Court rules on several submissions (cases) with one decision.

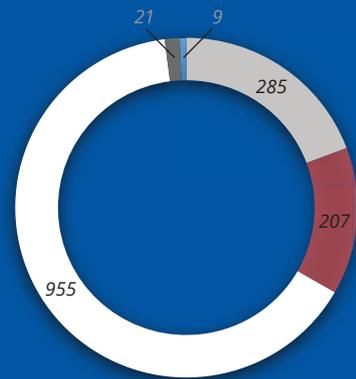
In 2019 the Plenum and Chambers ruled as follows:

Proceedings on conformity of legal regulations under Art. 125 of the Constitution



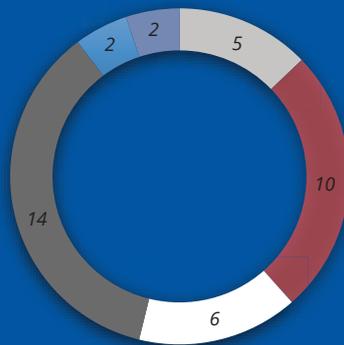
- Shelving
- Finding
- Ruling on rejection
- Ruling on stay of proceedings

Proceedings on complaints by individuals and legal entities under Art. 127 of the Constitution



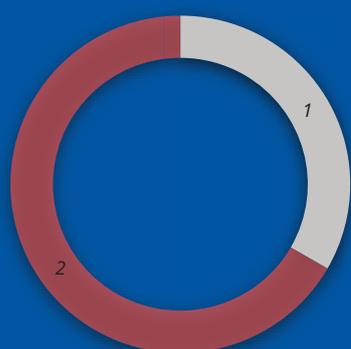
- Shelving
- Finding
- Ruling on rejection
- Ruling on stay of proceedings
- Ruling on joint proceedings

Proceedings on electoral matters under Art. 129(2) of the Constitution



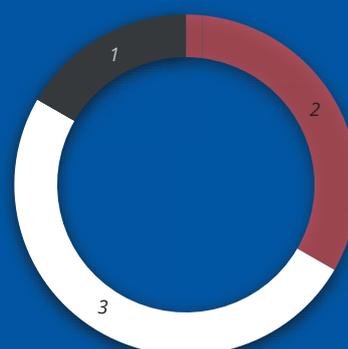
- Shelving
- Finding
- Dismissal
- Ruling on rejection
- Ruling on stay of proceedings
- Ruling on joint proceedings

Reopening of proceedings before the Constitutional Court under Art. 133 of the Constitution



— Shelving
— Finding

Examination of decisions on the protection of the public interest and prevention of conflicts of interest



— Finding
— Ruling on rejection
— Ruling on affirmation of decision

LIST OF PENDING SUBMISSIONS AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2019 (YEARS 2014 – 2019)

Year	Pending submissions – Plenum	Pending submissions – Chamber	Altogether
2014	-	1	1
2016	1	3	4
2017	7	21	28
2018	12	159	171
2019	19	1 267	1 286
ALTOGETHER	39	1 451	1 490

PROTOCOL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

in 2019

Protocol and international activities of the Constitutional Court are the core activity of the Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol, which ensures official interaction of the Constitutional Court with constitutional courts and similar institutions in the world, as well as with constitutional representatives and state and public authorities in the Slovak Republic.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN 2019 FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON:

- developing bilateral relations with European constitutional courts,
- participation in meetings of the European Commission for Democracy through Law,
- activities in the framework of membership in the Conference of European Constitutional Courts and the World Conference on Constitutional Justice,
- cooperation with European judicial bodies,
- organization of international conferences,
- participation in international conferences.

1. DEVELOPING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS

The focus is on international cooperation, which is a source of valuable inspiration in the form of exchange of information and experience with judicial protection of constitutionality. In this context, the activities of the Department are intended to build and develop bilateral relations with European constitutional courts, especially with the constitutional courts of central European countries.

In the second half of 2019, several bilateral meetings took place. We have to highlight the annual working meetings with the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, where both courts take turns in the role of host. In 2019 the meeting was held in Brno. In October a delegation from the Hungarian Constitutional Court was received in Košice. In early December the judges of the Constitutional Court visited the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany in Karlsruhe, which has the status of one of the most prestigious constitutional courts in the world due to its history and decision-making. The main objective of these meetings was the analysis of the most interesting recent decisions by both courts. They provided an exceptional opportunity to discuss the problems of specific institutions in constitutional law and played an invaluable role in the development of the constitutional courts' case law.



Photo from top to bottom

Bilateral meeting of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany

Bilateral meeting of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic

President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan and President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary Tamás Sulyok



2. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION)

The cooperation of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) is particularly important. Jana Baricová, judge of the Constitutional Court, is a member of the Venice Commission appointed by the government in 2019 as a representative of the Slovak Republic. If necessary, judge of the Constitutional Court Peter Molnár acts as a substitute member. The member and the substitute member, as well as the Director of the Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol, regularly attend plenary sessions in Venice. The goal of the lively activity within the Venice Commission includes informing the professional and lay public about the activities of the Venice Commission, to which the translations of opinions of the Venice Commission prepared by the Department and published on the Constitutional Court's website also contribute. In 2019 the Department translated four opinions, reports and their compilations, which are published on the website of the Constitutional Court. Liaison officers at the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, whose competence includes replying to questions from Member States within the Venice Forum, also work closely with the Venice Commission. The questions typically concern constitutional order and its aspects and serve the purpose of comparison in connection with specific proceedings before various constitutional courts. An important part of their activities is the preparation of abridged versions of decisions by the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic for publication in the CODICES database. Every year the Venice Commission organizes a so-called mini-conference for members of the Commission and liaison officers. In 2019 it was held in Rome and was attended by both liaison officers of the Constitutional Court (Tomáš Pliško, Igor Mihálik).

3. ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

The Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol arranges regular participation by a delegation of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in congresses of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts and the World Conference on Constitutional Justice, which are held regularly every three years. These Conferences promote the exchange of information between their members and provide an opportunity to share solutions to institutional, structural and practical problems in the field of constitutional justice, contributing to building lasting relations between constitutional courts and similar institutions, thus presenting a platform for strengthening the independence of constitutional courts.

The membership of the Constitutional Court in these associations and its participation in their congresses also depends on a requirement to prepare a "national report" in English, which forms part of the content of the proceedings of the congress, as well as the payment of an annual financial contribution.

In 2019 the World Conference on Constitutional Justice, under the auspices of the Venice Commission, organized a training session for liaison officers specialising in work with the CODICES database. The training took place at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic and was attended by liaison officer Tomáš Pliško.

Photo bottom left

*Meeting of the Venice Commission
from left: Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Peter Molnár, President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Jana Baricová*



Photo on the top right

President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan at the colloquium at the General Court of the European Union



4. COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN JUDICIAL BODIES

The Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol prioritises the improvement of cooperation with European institutions, such as the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg. Two visits to the Court of Justice of the European Union took place in September.

A meeting of correspondents from the European Judicial Network was held in early September, with the aim of setting up a network to promote the exchange of information on case law between the participating national courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic was represented by Igor Mihálik.

At the end of September the General Court celebrated its 30th anniversary. On this occasion a colloquium entitled “General Court of the European Union in the digital age” was organized at the Court’s headquarters in Luxembourg. The colloquium was attended by the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan, Judge Jana Baricová and the Director of the Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol Mária Siegfriedová.

In this area the Department has started cooperating with the Analytical Department of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic in translating factsheets and case-law guides on ECtHR case law, which are forwarded to the Constitutional Court judges and their advisers to ensure the application of ECtHR case law.

5. ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

On 1st October 2019 the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of Pavel Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, organized an international conference entitled “Constitutional and legal regulation of proceedings before judicial bodies for the protection of constitutionality in V4 – 8th Constitutional Days”, to which constitutional judges and important representatives of legal practice and the academic community accepted invitations, not only from the Slovak Republic but also from the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary.

6. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol ensures foreign business trips of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and other employees of the Chancellery contribution to the development of bilateral relations with foreign courts and institutions, as well as their participation in international conferences.

In 2019, judges and advisers of the Constitutional Court participated in several international conferences at home (Košice, Bratislava, Vyhne) and abroad (Santo Domingo, St. Petersburg, Rome, Luxembourg).

7. VISITS RECEIVED AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

The Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol oversees compliance with diplomatic protocol during visits by representatives of state authorities and ambassadors to the Slovak Republic received by the President, Vice-President and Judges of the Constitutional Court. Within this framework it is necessary to coordinate cooperation with diplomatic missions accredited in the Slovak Republic and to prepare documents for individual visits. In 2019 the Constitutional Court received the following officials in Košice and at its liaison office in Bratislava: President of the Slovak Republic Andrej Kiska, OSCE/ODIHR experts, Agent of the Government of the Slovak Republic before the European Court of Human Rights Marica Pirošíková, President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic Pavel Rychetský, President of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic Lenka Praženková, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of France to the Slovak Republic Christophe Leonzi, President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio, Minister of Justice Gábor Gál, President of the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic Soňa Pótheová, Public Defender of Rights Mária Patakyová, Head of the European Commission’s Representation Office in Slovakia Ladislav Miko, and experts from the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance.



Photos from top to bottom, left to right

from left: President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Jana Baricová, President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan

Meeting with the Public Defender of Rights Mária Patakyová at the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in Košice

Meeting with the Minister for Justice of the Slovak Republic Gábor Gál at the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in Košice

Experts from the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance in the Hall of Independence at the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in Košice



MEETINGS IN SLOVAKIA

11 th March	Visit of six-member OSCE/ODIHR Electoral Commission headed by Alexander Keltchewsky at the Liaison Office in Bratislava
29 th April	Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Peter Molnár participated in the 23rd Conference of Official Distainers
13 th May	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the Agent of the Government of the Slovak Republic before the European Court of Human Rights Marica Pirošíková
13 th May	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic Pavel Rychetský
14 th May	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the President of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic Lenka Praženková
21 st May	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to the Slovak Republic Christophe Leonzi
25 th June	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the Public Defender of Rights Mária Patakyová
26 th June	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic Gábor Gál
27 th June	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan took part in the celebrations on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Comenius University in Bratislava
28 th June	President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan and Judge Jana Baricová received the President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio
2 nd July	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan met with the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová
29 th Augustu	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan took part in national celebrations on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising
10 th September	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the President of the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic Soňa Pótheová
27 th September	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received the Head of the Representation Office of the European Commission in Slovakia Ladislav Mika
1 st October	International Conference "Constitutional and legal regulation of proceedings before judicial bodies for the protection of constitutionality in the V4 countries – 8th Constitutional Days "
16 th – 18 th October	Bilateral meeting with a delegation from the Constitutional Court of Hungary headed by its President Tamás Sulyok
18 th October	Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic participated in the conference "Slovak Days of Law" organized by the Slovak Bar Association
19 th November	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan took part in a discussion with students of Pavel Jozef Šafárik University in Košice on the occasion of the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day
20 th November	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan received experts from the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Ms Els Keytsman and Mr Vitalian Esposito
3 rd December	Meeting of the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan and Judges Ladislav Duditš and Martin Vernarský with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands to the Slovak Republic Henk Cor van der Kwast and Professor Jaap Willem De Zwaan
14 th December	Participation of the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan in the conference entitled "Truth, Lies and Freedom of Speech: 30 Years after the Fall of Totalitarianism", organized by the Faculty of Mass Media of the Pan-European University and the Institute of State and Law of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava

MEETINGS ABROAD

6 th – 10 th February	Liaison officer of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic with the Venice Commission Tomáš Plško participated in a seminar of the Venice Commission in Santo Domingo
14 th May	Participation of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Jana Laššáková and Miroslav Duriš in the international conference "National Identity and Universal Values - The Art of Balance", organized by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg
14 th – 17 th May	Participation of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Jana Laššáková and Miroslav Duriš in the 9th International Legal Forum in St. Petersburg
23 rd – 24 th May	Liaison officers of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic with the Venice Commission Tomáš Plško and Igor Mihálik participated in the 18th meeting of the Joint Council on Constitutional Justice of the Venice Commission
9 th – 10 th September	Participation in the meeting of correspondents of the European Judicial Network in Luxembourg
24 th – 25 th September	The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan, Judge Jana Baricová and Director of the Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol Mária Siegfriedová participated in a colloquium entitled "General Court of the European Union in the digital age" on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the General Court
7 th – 9 th October	Bilateral meeting with judges of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic in Brno
9 th – 11 th December	Bilateral meeting with judges of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany in Karlsruhe

TRANSLATIONS

Venice Commission

1. **Principles of the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution** ("The Venice Principles") CDL-AD(2019)005
2. **Report on Separate Opinions of Constitutional Courts** CDL-AD(2018)030 adopted by the Venice Commission at its 117th Plenary Session (Venice, 14-15 December 2018)
3. **Georgia – Urgent Opinion on the selection and appointment of Supreme Court judges** CDL-AD(2019)009 adopted by the Venice Commission at its 119th Plenary (Venice, 21-22 June 2019)
4. **Ukraine – Amicus Curiae Brief on separate appeals against rulings on preventive measures (deprivation of liberty) in first instance cases** CDL-AD(2019)009 adopted by the Venice Commission at its 118th Plenary Session (Venice, 15-16 March 2019)

European Court of Human Rights

1. Factsheet – Protection of reputation
2. Factsheet – Protection of journalists' sources
3. Factsheet – Access to internet and freedom to receive and impart information and ideas
4. Case-law guide on Article 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights - Limitation on use of restrictions on rights

PROVIDING INFORMATION AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA

PROVIDING INFORMATION

In 2019 the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic provided information concerning its organization and decision-making activities to the extent required by Law no. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information as amended (hereinafter the "Freedom of Information Law").

In 2019 it registered 230 requests under this law, which was almost 80 requests more than in 2018. However, this number is not consistent with the amount of information provided, as requests are usually divided into several parts. One request normally contains many various pieces of information, which moreover are not interrelated. At the same time, 740 requests were processed outside the above-mentioned law, which included informing the parties to proceedings and legal representatives, communication with courts, law enforcement agencies, legal aid centres or administrative authorities, and various other requests which did not fall under the Freedom of Information Law. In 2019 there were 31 more such requests than in 2018.

On its website (www.ustavnysud.sk), in the «Decision-making activity - Compulsorily published motions and complaints (pending cases)» section, in accordance with § 5 of the Freedom of Information Law, the Constitutional Court published received motions to initiate proceedings pursuant to Articles 125 to 126 and Articles 127a to 129 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic ("the Constitution"). Motions to initiate proceedings under these articles of the Constitution, on which the Constitutional Court has already validly ruled, were published in the «Requests and Decisions Retrieval - Requests Retrieval» section.

The Collection of Findings and Rulings of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, which was published for the year 2018 on the website of the Constitutional Court on 5 May 2019, and also published in book form at the beginning of June 2019, is the source of information on decision-making activities.

For the sake of transparency in informing the general public about the decision-making activities of the Constitutional Court, press releases from the sessions of the Plenum and the Senates of the Constitutional Court are regularly published. Press releases from the sessions of the Plenum of the Constitutional Court are published on the main page of the website of the Constitutional Court in the «Current information» section, and usually on the day of the session of the Plenum of the Constitutional Court. Press releases from the sessions of the Senates of the Constitutional Court are published in the «Media - Press releases from the Senates» section, usually within five days after the meeting of the relevant Senate.

The Constitutional Court also regularly publishes statistical reviews, in particular statistical reviews of decisions in which it has ruled on violation of complainants' fundamental right to have their case heard without undue delay pursuant to Art. 48 par. 2 of the Constitution, and their right to have their case heard within a reasonable time according to Art. 6 par. 1 of the Convention; review of decisions in which it has found violations of complainants' fundamental rights to judicial and other legal protection pursuant to Art. 46 par. 1 of the Constitution, and the right to a fair trial pursuant to Art. 6 par. 1 of the Convention; and review of decisions in which it has found violations of the fundamental right to personal freedom under Art. 17 of the Constitution, and the right to freedom and security pursuant to Art. 5 of the Convention.

Significant protocol events, official visits, work meetings, conferences, seminars and professional discussions are also presented in the form of press releases.

In 2019 the Constitutional Court issued 17 Plenary press releases, 104 Senate press releases, ten press releases with statistical reviews and 43 other press releases. A total of 174 press releases were issued in 2019.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA

In 2019 the Constitutional Court noticed increased media interest in its activities, especially in connection with the changes that took place at the Constitutional Court in that period:

- a) expiry of the term of office of nine of the 13 judges of the Constitutional Court on February 16, 2019;
- b) the transitional period of the Constitutional Court from February to April 2019,
- c) appointment of three judges to the Constitutional Court and the appointment of the President and Vice-President of the Constitutional Court on 17 April 2019,
- d) public hearing of the candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court (five rounds),
- e) completion of the Plenum of the Constitutional Court on 10 October 2019.

In 2019 the Constitutional Court carried out its activities in an incomplete Plenary composition for almost eight months.

On 4 December 2019 the complete and functional Plenum of the Constitutional Court adopted the new Rules of Procedure and Administration of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter the "Rules of Procedure and Administration"), which regulate relations with the public and media. According to § 8 sec. 1 of the Rules of Procedure and Administration, relations with the public and media are covered mainly

- a) by providing information according to the the Freedom of Information Law as amended, and Law no. 167/2008 Coll. on periodicals and agency news as amended (the "Press Law");
- b) by publishing information on the website of the Constitutional Court; and

(c) by enabling participation of the public and the media in oral proceedings, if they are open to the public.

A special organizational division of the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court is in charge of public relations. The spokesperson of the Constitutional Court provides general communication with the media, otherwise it is done by the President of the Constitutional Court, the President of the relevant Senate or a Judge authorized by him/her, usually the Judge-Rapporteur (§ 8 sec. 2 of the Rules of Procedure and Administration).

In 2019 the Constitutional Court and its decision-making activities were mentioned a total of 7,318 times in the media, and the President of the Constitutional Court Ivan Fiačan was mentioned a total of 3,078 times.

Of the given total number of mentions, the following numbers of information items about the Constitutional Court were broadcasted on Slovak Radio: 105 on Radio Slovensko and 7 on Regina Západ; on Slovak Television: 44 on RTVS Jednotka and 7 on RTVS Dvojka; and 45 on the TA3 news channel.

The occurrence of news in which the President of the Constitutional Court Ivan Fiačan was mentioned on Slovak Radio consisted of: 87 times on Radio Slovakia, 7 times on Radio FM and 3 times on Regina Západ; on Slovak Television: 46 times on RTVS Jednotka and 12 times on RTVS Dvojka; 74 times on TA3 news channel. Other information concerning the Constitutional Court and the President of the Constitutional Court was released in other classic (press, radio, television) and digital (online media, social media) private media.

Since 2016 the Constitutional Court has also been communicating with the public via Facebook (www.facebook.com/ustavnysud.sk). It publishes selected information there on decision-making activities, protocol events and interesting facts about its activities in relation to the public, e.g. information on the Open Day of the Constitutional Court and on competitions for pupils and students of elementary and high schools. The Facebook profile of the Constitutional Court is followed by 52% of women and 48% of men, most of them in the age range of 18-44, in Slovakia (mostly Bratislava and Košice), the Czech Republic, Austria, the United Kingdom, Poland, Germany, Ukraine, Switzerland, Denmark and Iceland. The followers on Facebook were mostly interested in the contributions on the addition of six judges to the Plenum of the Constitutional Court on October 10, 2019, in competitions announced by the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court for elementary and high school pupils and students, and in the participation of Ivan Fiačan, President of the Constitutional Court, in the discussion with students of the University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice on the topic: "*Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day - 17 November 2019*".

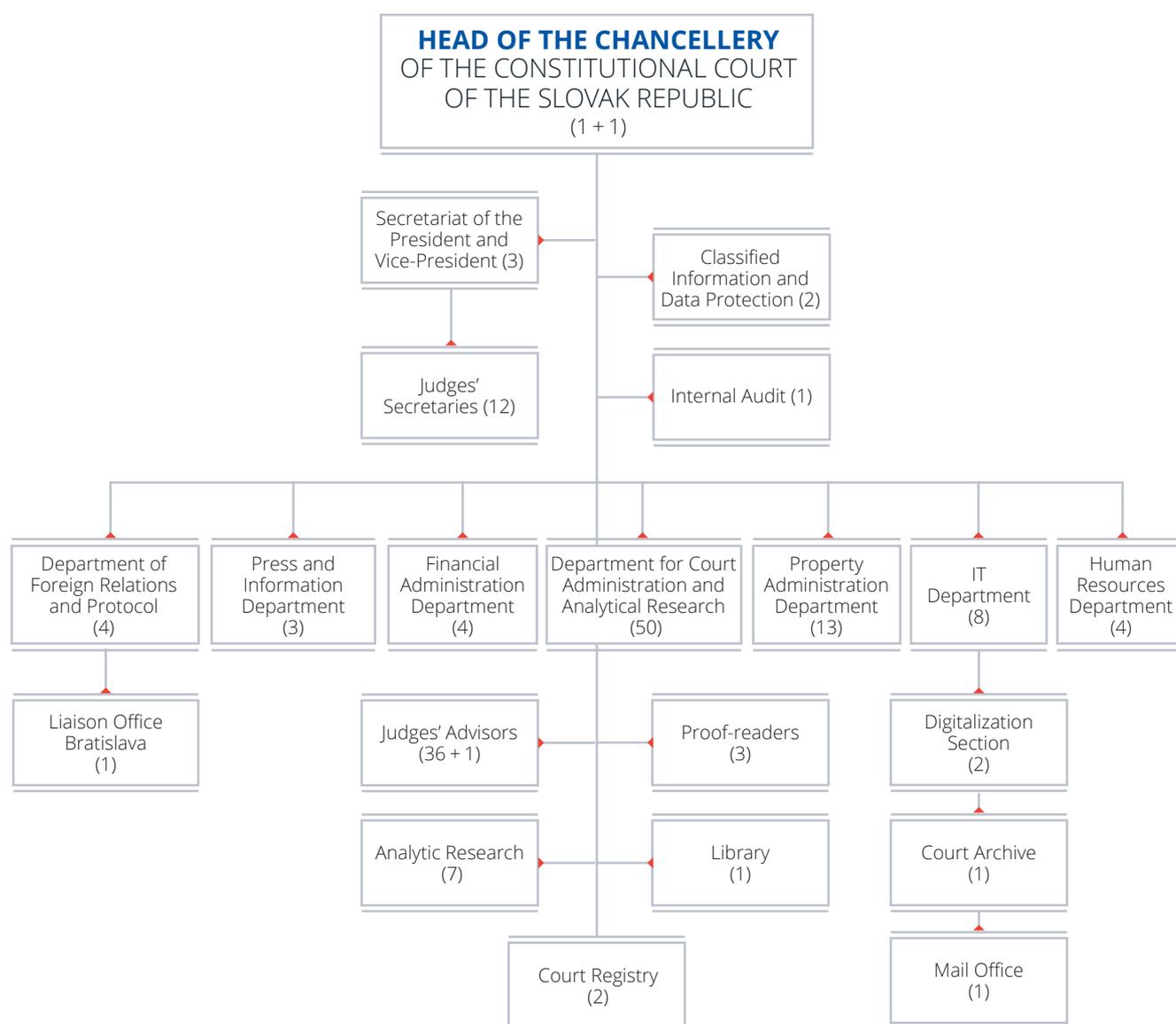
All press releases from the Plenary Sessions of the Constitutional Court are regularly sent to the media, as well as all other press releases published on the main page of the Constitutional Court's website in the "*Current Information*" section.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

In 2019 the organizational structure of the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic ("the Chancellery") was **approved for 107 employees** (of which 90 were state service employees and 17 were public service employees). **The organizational change implemented in 2019** concerned an increase of one state service position in the Financial Administration Department and one state service position in the Head of Chancellery's staff at the expense of the termination of two positions of senate secretaries in the Judges' Secretaries Department. The change was justified by the need to address the undersized situation and to ensure mutual substitutability of employees of the Financial Administration Department and the need to provide administrative activities for the Head of Chancellery.

As at 31 December 2019, the total number of occupied positions was: 86 state service employees and 17 public service employees.



SELECTION PROCESS

In 2019 the Chancellery conducted 16 selection procedures, of which nine were successful and seven were unsuccessful.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 2019 the Chancellery enabled its state service employees to participate in all types of competence-based training, a total of approximately 61 training activities, and it also gave state service employees sufficient space for self-study, as evidenced by evaluations of individual state service employees' competence-based training plans. These were handed over to the Human Resources Department by the state service employees at the end of the year 2019. In total there were fifty vocational training courses, three management courses, one course for personal development, and seven courses in the field of information technology. State service employees participated in training activities organized by providers of courses approved for state service employees.

EVALUATION OF EMPLOYEES

The Human Resources Department drew up a manual for the evaluation of state service employees, which set out the reasons and detailed conditions for their evaluation. The evaluation manual also included the preparation of a model of objectives and their regular evaluation. The evaluation was published on the intranet of the Chancellery.

AUDIT/SERVICE REGULATIONS

In 2019 an audit was carried out by the Ministry for Finance of the Slovak Republic. The audit *did not reveal any deficiencies* related to the activities of the Human Resources Department.

In 2019 the Human Resources Department prepared:

Manuals

- Manual for the management of systematisation of state service positions, which is kept according to the approved organizational structure of the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court.
- Instructions:
 - Instruction of the Head of Chancellery of the Constitutional Court no. 1/2019 on determining the rules for taking time off in 2019.
 - Instruction of the Head of Chancellery of the Constitutional Court no. 2/2019 on the conditions for home office.

- Instruction no. 3/2019 on the protection of health against heat stress in the workplace.

Directives

- Directive no. 1/2019 on detailed conditions for providing legal support and the procedure for the preparation and publication of internal documents of the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court.
- Directive no. 6/2019 on the internal system for verifying notifications from natural persons concerning antisocial activities.

Guidelines

- Guideline for claiming the recreation allowance.
- Guideline for recording and taking time off for overtime and loss of time.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Contracts for the performance of judges' external advisor activities as at 31 December 2019: 37 contracts.

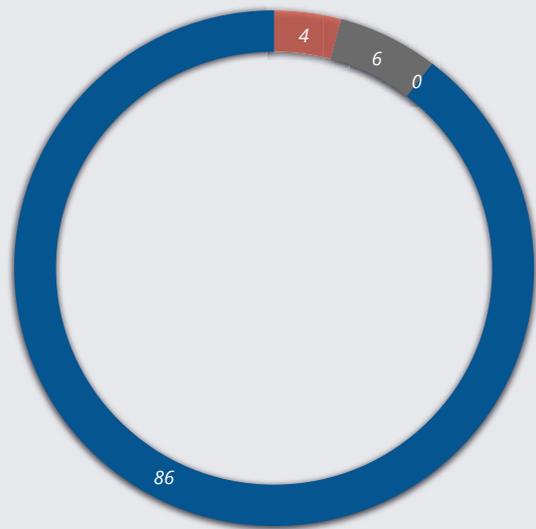
Work agreements outside of permanent employment relationships for 2019: 17 agreements.

Contracts

- On 11 September 2019 a contract for the provision of services was signed - **English language teaching** for a period of one year.
- On 10 April 2019 a contract was signed for the provision of occupational health services for a period of four years.
- On 2 September 2019 **an internship contract** was signed with Pavel Jozef Šafárik University in Košice for the duration of one academic year.
- On 30 September 2019 a contract was signed for the provision of services by the Benefit System Slovakia s. r. o. company (**Multisport cards**).
- On 15 October 2019 a contract for work on **the attendance system** was signed by the Information Technology Department in cooperation with the Human Resources Department.
- On 20 December 2018 **the Collective Agreement** for 2019 was signed between the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court and the Local Organization of the Slovak Trade Union for Public Administration and Culture at the Chancellery of the Constitutional Court.

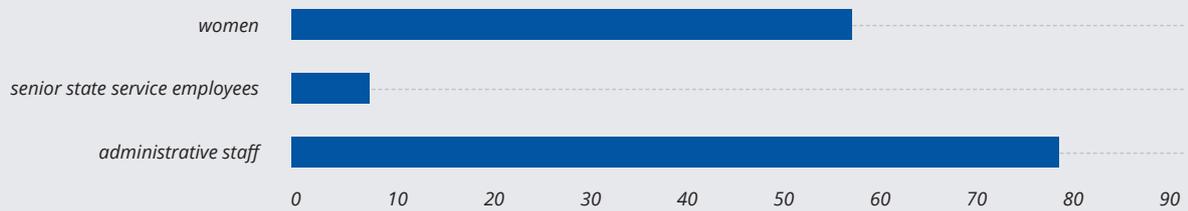
EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

1. DATA ON STATE SERVICE EMPLOYEES



- Current number of state service employees
- Number of vacant state service positions
- Number of newly-hired employees entering state service
- Number of hired graduates successful in selection procedure

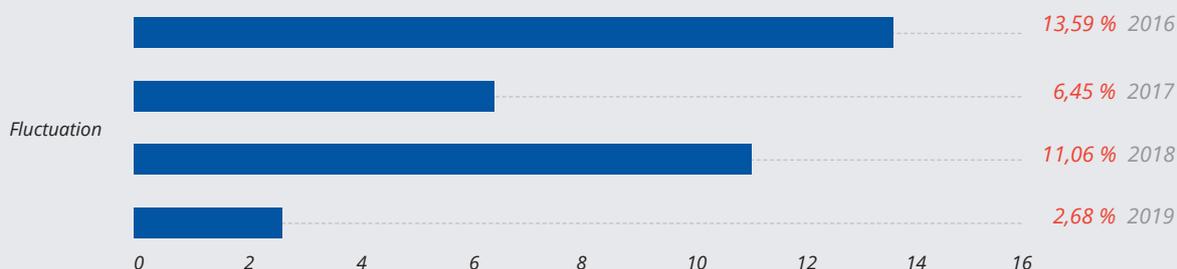
of the current number of state service employees



2. TOTAL NUMBER OF STATE SERVICE POSITIONS CREATED:

6

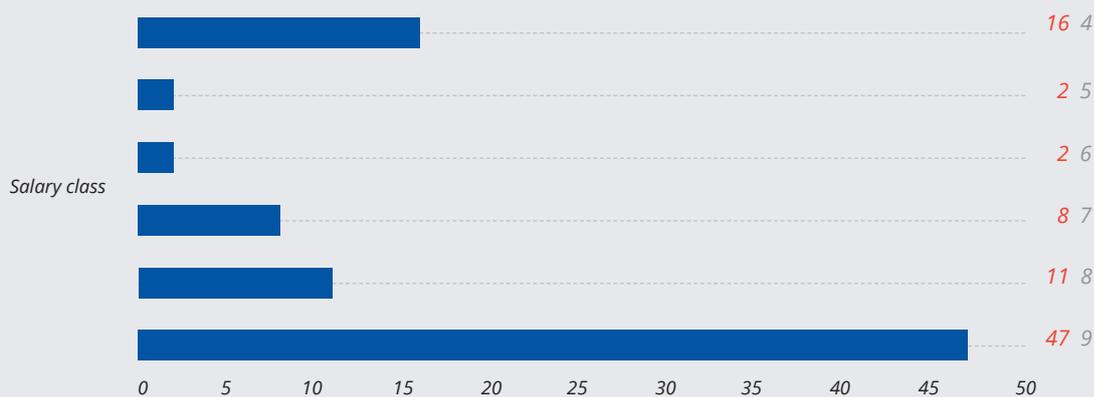
3. FLUCTUATION IN THE GIVEN YEAR IN %*



4. TERMINATION OF STATE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT IN 2019



5. NUMBER OF STATE EMPLOYEES IN INDIVIDUAL SALARY CLASSES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019



6. NUMBER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED IN 2019:

0

* Number of terminated state service positions/average number of state employees in the given year x 100

BUDGET OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

The Constitutional Court, as an independent judicial body for the protection of constitutionality, carries out its activities in accordance with Law No. 314/2018 on the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic ("Law on the Constitutional Court"). The Chancellery of the Constitutional Court has an individual chapter in the state budget and is the legal entity performing tasks related to the organization, staff, economic, administrative and technical support of the activities of the Constitutional Court.

EVALUATION OF THE FULFILMENT OF MANDATORY BUDGET INDICATORS

The budget of the Chancellery chapter for 2019 was approved by Law no. 370/2018 on the state budget for 2019 ("Law on the State Budget for 2019").

Incomes

The approved budget of incomes for 2019 with a total amount of 12 100 € (of which: income with source code 111 with a total amount of 12 000 € and income with source code 72e with a total amount of 100 €) was adjusted through a budgetary measure to the final amount of 4 468,89 € based on underflow of income with resource code 111 with an amount of 7 631,11 €, and consisted of:

- 1.1** source code 111 (mandatory indicator) with a total amount of **4 368,89 €**;
- 1.2** source code 72e with a total amount of **100 €** [income under § 17 (4) of Law no. 523/2004 on budgetary rules of public administration as amended ("Law no. 523/2004")];
- 1.3** source code 1311 was not budgeted;
- 1.4** source code 111 (excluding the mandatory indicator).

Achieved income in 2019 with a total amount of **10 669,36 €** consisted of:

- 2.1** source code 111 with a total amount of **4 368,89 €** representing 100 % of the modified budget;
- 2.2** source code 72e with a total amount of **1 805,74 €** (income under §17(4) of Law no. 523/2004) representing 100 % of the approved budget;
- 2.3** source code 1311 with a total amount of **1 925,74 €**;
- 2.4** source code 111 with a total amount of **2 568,99 €**.

Classification of income was as follows:

2.1.1 Source code 111

Income from rent of accommodation to judges and employees in the residential building of the Chancellery at 110 Hlavná Street in Košice with a total amount of **4 368,89 €** was budgeted and its amount was definitive;

2.2.1 Source code 72e

Income from indemnity received with a total amount of **1 805,74 €** and its amount was not definitive;

2.3.1 Source code 1311

Income with a total amount of **1 925,74 €** consisting of income from meal vouchers purchased in 2018 and rent of accommodation and furnishing, its amount was not definitive;

2.4.1 Source code 111 (excluding the mandatory indicator)

Income with a total amount of **2 568,99 €** consisting of income from meal vouchers purchased in 2018, paper collection, occasional accommodation and back payment for services related to accommodation in 2018, credit for meal vouchers purchased in 2018, payments for fuel, car insurance, magazines, and compensation for lost books and damage from employees.

Expenditure

The approved expenditure budget with an amount of 5 676 618 € was increased during 2019 through 16 budgetary measures to a total amount of **6 159 112,29 €**; the budget of common expenditure increased to the amount of **5 510 313,09 €**, of which salaries, wages, emoluments and other allowances were adjusted from the originally approved budget to the total of 3 110 811,29 €; the approved budget for capital expenditure was increased to the amount of **648 799,20 €**. The **total** expenditure in 2019 amounted to **6 047 280,68 €**, which represented 98.18% of the adjusted budget for 2019.

Classification of expenditure was as follows:

Main category 600 common expenditure

In 2019 the common expenditure amounted to a **total of 5 403 516,02 €**, which represented 98.06% of the adjusted budget for 2019.

- Category 610 Salaries, wages, emoluments and other allowances

In 2019 this expenditure with a **total amount of 3 017 354,38 €** included salaries, personal bonuses and other allowances for judges of the Constitutional Court and the Head of the Chancellery, and salaries and bonuses of employees of the Chancellery, representing 97 % of the adjusted budget.

The mandatory indicator in the category 610 Salaries, wages, emoluments and other allowances determined in the chapter of mandatory indicators established by the Law on the State Budget for 2019, including budgetary measures, was complied with.

By means of Annex no.1 to Resolution no. 453 of 10 October 2018, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the limit of **120 persons** employed by the Chancellery in 2019 (13 judges of the Constitutional Court, 17 public employees and 90 state employees). The average statistical number of employees in 2019 was **111,62 persons**.

- Category 620 Insurance and contributions to insurance companies

The total expenditure in this category in the monitored period amounted to **915 877,33 €**, which represented 100 % of the adjusted budget.

- Category 630 Goods and services

The total expenditure in this category in 2019 amounted to **1 076 017,64 €**, which represented 98.78% of the adjusted budget.

The expenditure included: domestic and foreign official trips; electricity and gas supplies; water and sewerage; postal services; communication infrastructure and telecommunications services; access to and use of the SANET computer network; acquisition of interior equipment, operational machinery and apparatus (office machines, electrical appliances, tools, other machinery and equipment); supply of everyday materials (office supplies, paper, cleaning and hygiene supplies, printed forms, wreaths); books, magazines and newspapers; work clothes, footwear and working aids; groceries; representation expenses, including material gifts and flowers for domestic and foreign delegations; acquisition of software, computers and telecommunications equipment; fuel,

emollients, oils and special fluids; servicing, maintenance and repair of cars; insurance; cards, stamps and related fees; shipping fees; maintenance of interior equipment, operating machinery, devices and apparatus; technology and tools (office machines, electrical appliances, boiler-room apparatus and boilers); maintenance of other special devices; repairs and maintenance of administrative buildings including winter maintenance of courtyards and sidewalks, painting of buildings, repairs to facades and lawn-mowing in the courtyard; maintenance and annual support for comprehensive financial software, attendance records and Confluence software, Cosmotron library software and use of the ASPI electronic legal information system, CH Beck commentaries, the EPI electronic legal information system and others on contract basis; maintenance of IT and telecommunications equipment; maintenance and year-round support for hardware in accordance with concluded SLAs; year-round support for the new information system focusing on providing electronic services and digitization of buildings, to ensure smooth operation of the system in accordance with concluded SLAs; post-office boxes; rental of art works; rental of mats and parking spaces; rental of smart TV boxes; rental of library software; training courses, conferences and seminars; promotional material and expenses related to «Open Doors Day»; general services (printing services, reproduction and binding work, rodent control, washing, monitoring, photo services, interpreting and translation activities, external teaching, revision and inspection of equipment, craftsmen's services, gardening and houseplant services, advertising and other services); special services (activities of external court advisers, costs of legal assistance, consultancy, fire protection and safety, assessments, recreation, preventive rehabilitation of judges, travel allowances for witnesses, compensation of wages and salaries for witnesses, bank charges, handling fees and other charges); meals; insurance of movable property and immovable property; contributions to the collective fund; differences in exchange rate; bonuses for personnel not in direct employment; fines and penalties; property tax; local charges for municipal waste and concession fees; payments for representation consisting of expenses for accommodation, meals, interpreting and cultural programs for foreign and domestic official visits.

- Category 640 Standard transfers

Expenditure with a total amount of **394 266,67 €**, which represented 100 % of the adjusted budget.

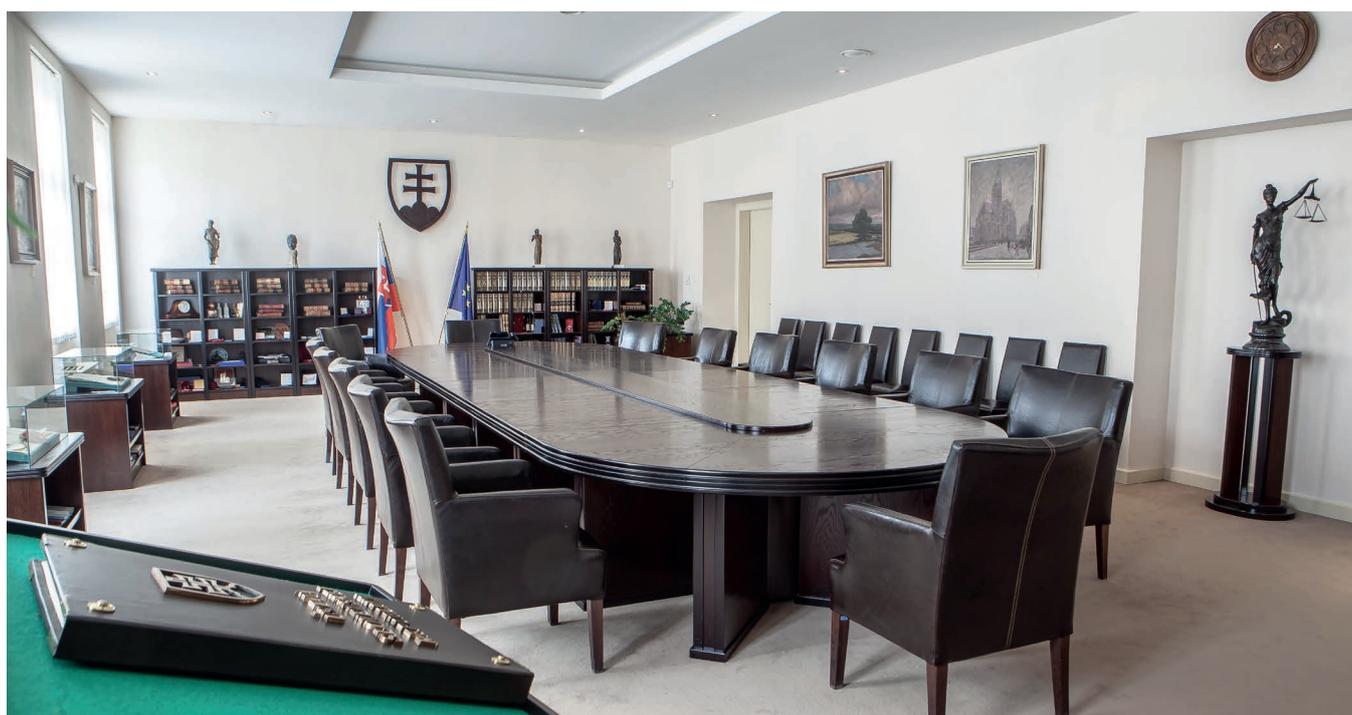
This expenditure consisted of expenses for severance pay (three salaries for judges of the Constitutional Court), insurance sickness benefits and payments of pension bonuses for performance of the office of judge of the Constitutional Court under the Law on the Constitutional Court.

Main category 700 capital expenditures

This expenditure amounted to **643 764,66 €**, which represented 99,22 % of the adjusted budget.

The expenditure consisted of: acquisition of personal motor vehicles; drafting of project documentation; installation of air conditioning units and related statics report; drafting of project documentation; reconstruction of entrance area in building B3; ensuring cyber security of office systems; acquisition of servers, backup sources and RFID stations; extension and modernization of the existing unified integrated information system of the Chancellery regarding the new eForm (2nd stage).

The Chancellery transferred unspent funds with a total amount of **398 937 €** to the 2020 budget, reserved for the installation of air conditioning units in buildings B1, B3 as well as B2, including its reconstruction; purchase of a personal motor vehicle; thermal insulation of building B1; backup and virtualization of hardware and software; "RON" attendance system; and extension of the financial information system with a new MIS module.



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

PHOTOGALLERY

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Photo from top to bottom

Appointment of judges of the fourth term of office of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, April 2019



Photo from top to bottom

Inauguration of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová, June 2019

The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan takes the oath of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová during her inauguration, June 2019

The President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová received the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava, July 2019





Photo from top to bottom

The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic Ivan Fiačan took part in a national celebration on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising

The President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic addressed the National Council of the Slovak Republic, September 2019



Photo from top to bottom

Appointment of judges of the fourth term of office of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, October 2019

Appointment of judges of the fourth term of office of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, October 2019

Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic during a meeting with judges of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany in Karlsruhe, December 2019





Photo from top to bottom

Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic during a closed session of the Plenum of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic



*Photo from top to bottom
Judges of the Constitutional
Court of the Slovak Republic
during a closed session of the
Plenum of the Constitutional
Court of the Slovak Republic*



Fotografie zhora nadol

Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic during a closed session of the Plenum of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic



Fotografie zhora nadol

*International Conference
"8th Constitutional Days",
1st October 2019*

*International Conference
"8th Constitutional Days",
1st October 2019*

*Tamás Sulyok, President of the
Constitutional Court of Hungary,
at the International Conference
"8th Constitutional Days"*





IMPRINT

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Contact person:
Mgr. Andrea Nagyová (andrea.nagyova@ustavnysud.sk)

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