

SYNOPSIS

National constitutional heritage and European integration: From the Aranybullá (Hungarian Magna Carta, 1222) to the European constitutional values

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In this year Hungary celebrates the 800th anniversary of one of the country's most emblematic constitutional regulations. The Golden Bull (Aranybullá) was adopted by Andrew II of Hungary in 1222. In its own time, the document symbolized Hungary's independence and sovereignty along with the confines of the king's power. But it remained symbolic throughout the subsequent stages of the country's history and formed an integral part of its historic constitution. As the Fundamental Law acknowledges, it is among the constitutional achievements and legacy of the nation that connects every Hungarian.

However, this is not unique to Hungary. Every other European country has their own significant constitutional legacy that has been shaped by their distinctive historical path. For example, the United Kingdom has the heritage of the Magna Carta Libertatum from 1215, while France commemorates the legacy of Saint Louis, the Edict of Nantes or the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen from 1789. Poland adopted the second oldest written constitution of the world, the first written constitution proposed on 3 May 1791. It is no coincidence that each European nation pays much attention to the anniversaries of their fundamental and founding constitutional documents. Members of various political communities cannot isolate themselves from this constitutional heritage. These documents create cohesion in political communities and their commemorations have a mythic force in upholding the standard characteristics of a civilization. The anniversaries have a sacred power as they reveal aspects of a country's history and yields a sense of identity for the present and future generations. A glorious history promises a vision and a successful future even if the reality of the present is rather dim.

In this spirit, the conference on the *The Role of National Constitutional Heritage in the European Integration* aims to explore the significance of the constitutional traditions in the European integration, the founding role of national constitutions in the European cooperation along with the role they are playing in the formation of the European value system. The national constitution heritage creates the framework and sets the priorities of the European cooperation as only this heritage can serve as a common basis for the integration. Bringing together various stakeholders from the public sector as well as from academia, the conference will take a comparative approach and reveal the core of the national constitutions and their significance in the European cooperation as well as the threats unification. The conference will also address the relevance of national constitutions in the dialogue on the future of Europe.