Shifting the Convention System: Counter-dynamics at the National Level

Seminar, University of Antwerp, Thursday 30 October 2014 and Friday 31 October 2014

On 30 and 31 October 2014, the University of Antwerp Research Group on Government and Law and the KULeuven Institute for Human Rights and Critical Studies will be organising a seminar on Shifting the Convention System: Counter-dynamics at the National Level. The seminar aims to map out to what extent criticism on the European Court of Human Rights and its case law is being translated into counter-dynamics at the political or judicial level. The focus is not solely put on countries that are known to have highly critical voices. Rather, the seminar will explore whether the translation of criticism into (the demand for) concrete changes in the dynamics between national fundamental rights protection and the Convention system is a pan-European reality or merely limited to a few countries. To enable comparison, the country reports presented at the seminar are based on a questionnaire drafted by the organisers.

Time: 13:00 – 17:40 with a reception afterwards
      9:15 – 12:45 with lunch afterwards

Place: Hof van Liere (Prentenkabinet), UAntwerp
       Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium

Participation: Free

Registration until Friday 24 October 2014
Via sarah.lambrecht@uantwerpen.be

Organising Committee: Patricia Popelier (UAntwerp), Koen Lemmens (KULeuven), Paul Lemmens (ECtHR & KULeuven), Sarah Lambrecht (UAntwerp) and Catherine Van de Heyning (UAntwerp)

Government & Law
University of Antwerp
Programme Thursday 30 October 2014

13.30 Registration
13.50 Welcome address by Patricia Popelier (UAntwerp)

Session 1: Shifting dynamics (Chair: Patricia Popelier)
14.00 Sarah Lambrecht (UAntwerp & Belgian Constitutional Court)
   Overarching Strategies
14.20 Eva Brems (UGent)
   The Impact of Counter-dynamics on the Legitimacy of the ECtHR
14.40 Koen Lemmens (KULeuven)
   Criticising the ECtHR or Misunderstanding the Dynamics of Human Rights Protection?
15.00 Discussion
15.30 Coffee break

Session 2: Strong Voices of Criticism vs Strasbourg Friendly Voices
(Chair: Judge Paul Lemmens)
15.50 Roger Masterman (University of Durham) - UK
16.10 Tilmann Altwicker (University of Basel) - Switzerland
16.30 Janneke Gerards (Radboud University Nijmegen) - Netherlands
16.50 Patricia Popelier (UAntwerp) - Belgium
17.10 Discussion
17.40 Reception
19.00 Conference dinner with speakers

Programme Friday 31 October 2014

Session 3: Strong Judicial Review Mandate vs Weak Judicial Review Mandate
(Chair: Catherine Van de Heyning)
9.15 Katharina Pabel (Johannes Kepler University of Linz) - Germany
9.35 Giuseppe Martinico (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna) - Italy
9.55 Anna-Sara Lind (Uppsala University) - Sweden
10.15 Discussion
10.45 Coffee break

Session 4: Criticism on the ECtHR, an East and Central-European Perspective
(Chair: Koen Lemmens)
11.05 Joseph Marko (University of Graz) - Bosnia and Herzegovina
11.25 Lubomir Majercik (Czech Constitutional Court) - Czech Republic
11.45 Armen Mazmannyan (Center for Constitutional Studies Yerevan) - Russia
12.05 Discussion
12.35 Closing words by Catherine Van de Heyning (UAntwerp)
12.50 Lunch