



UNIO
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Editorial

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Within the XX Anniversary of Minho University Law School (EDUM) celebrations, the Centre of Studies in European Union Law (CEDU) organized a colloquium entitled «*The courts' role in the construction of a Union based on the rule of law*» in honour of Judge Cunha Rodrigues. The colloquium took place in EDUM's noble auditorium, on 28 May 2013.

The texts published in this inaugural edition of *UNIO - EU Law Journal* (number 0, non-peer reviewed) correspond to some of the communications presented on that day. As the reader can see, some of the texts reproduce the oral speech then presented, in a direct dialogue with the Honored.

Cunha Rodrigues was a Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) for 12 years. In spite of stating that the judgments he reported, good or bad, aren't his but the Court's, the truth is his sagacity and clarity marked indelibly CJEU's jurisprudence in the first decade of the XXI century – and even the integration process. As a Member of CEDU' Scientific Advisory, it is only fair we paid him this simple homage, during the EDUM's XX Anniversary celebrations.

From some material domains of the EU law in which Cunha Rodrigues intervened during his passage through the CJEU – especially EU citizenship, EU fundamental rights, judiciary cooperation, internal market –, the colloquium intended to focus attention on the application of EU law by the courts which integrate the EU judiciary structure (mainly the Member-States courts, while functionally European courts). In today's society so much is discussed about the current crisis – and if it reveals a crucial dysfunction between the European citizen's expectations and the institutional mechanisms of political integration at their disposal. It is important to know if the development of a broadened notion of «*citizenship of rights*» (built by the CJEU after the national courts incitements) performs any role in this scenario.

The initiative was supported by the Jean Monnet Chair «*Citizenship of rights: European citizenship as the fundamental status of nationals of the Member-States*», also by the Portuguese Judges Union Association and by the Public Prosecutors Union. The speakers who joined the homage are CEDU's Researchers and Lecturers at EDUM's Master Degree in European Union Law of University of Minho, as well as Judges and Public Prosecutors who are confronted with the growing application of EU law in the daily life of our courts.

We would like to genuinely thank everyone who contributed to this inaugural issue, especially Authors. The vast majority of them are magistrates who have dedicated their precious time to dialogue (we believe promising and essential!) with the academy. Special thanks to Professor Luís Couto Gonçalves and Professor Maria Miguel Carvalho, as well as the Vice-Rector José Mendes and *TecMinho*, for the commitment in the registration of the Community brand *UNIO - EU Law Journal*. We would also like to thank the current Portuguese Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union (and Member of CEDU' Scientific Advisory), José Luís da Cruz Vilaça – as well as all his caring office staff –, who has kindly joined the Tribute through a video released during the colloquium and now with a text which reproduces its content in this inaugural edition.

And finally, let us express our heartfelt appreciation and sincere gratitude for Judge Cunha Rodrigues – because he exists...and inspires us all.