

## Editorial Note

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The consolidation of the *Católica Law Review* over the years and its increasing notoriety have resulted, in this edition, in a significant raise in the number of contributions submitted by both national and foreign authors, in Portuguese and English. This increase has implied a considerable extension of the peer review process which involved several reviewers whom, not being able to name all of them individually, we thank the attention, consideration and speed put in their work. The cooperation of external reviewers reinforces the credibility of the peer review process which in turn contributes to ensure an adequate selection of articles and guarantees the academic quality of this issue.

This time, the result of that process materializes in the publication of five articles and one case comment dealing with fundamental areas of public law: constitutional law, administrative law, European law and International law.

In particular, Luísa Netto writes on the topic of the fundamental right to science, exploring the interactions between its normative recognition at the national and international levels, specially in light of the Brazilian decision-making practice, therein arguing for the need to affirm an autonomous right to science also as a way to respond to different societal and environmental issues.

Juliana Ferraz Coutinho deals with an administrative law matter, notably the arbitral procedure involving pre-contractual administrative acts and the question of excessive duration of proceedings that may jeopardize their usefulness. It is therein discussed, in particular, the relevance of the regime of objective modification of the procedure foreseen in the national Administrative Procedural Code as a means to ensure a functionally adequate judicial protection.

On European law, Joana Gomes Beirão reflects on the issue of hate speech by politicians in light of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights – in particular on the application of Articles 10 and 17 of the European Convention – and the balance between the need to ensure a high level of protection of political speech, on the one hand, and the need to protect people and groups of all forms of discrimination and intolerance, on the other.

Lastly, two articles on public International law issues – which highlight the increasing guarantistic dimension of International law namely from the point of view of individuals – are published. In the first, Kata Dozsa discusses the role of children and young people in the defence and protection of the planet from climate change, appealing and promoting a concept of “environmental citizenship”. In the second, Filipe Venade de Sousa calls attention to the statements and recommendations by the United Nations committees on human rights issues, in particular their implementation in the Portuguese legal system, an issue that has not been addressed by national literature so far.

For the sake of simplicity, articles are published by alphabetical order of the authors’ names.

At the end, the review includes a case comment by José Alberto Azeredo Lopes and Maria Isabel Tavares, which deals with the decision of the International Court of Justice of 16 March 2022, on provisional measures in the procedure involving allegations of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, initiated by Ukraine against Russia. Also mentioning the implications of the war in Ukraine at the level of the International Criminal Court and the European Court of Human Rights, the comment appeals to the most dramatic events occurred in Europe since the II World War, therein discussing the possible forms of reaction at the legal and political levels.

The final outcome – two articles in Portuguese and three in English highlighting the bilingual character of the review, together with a case comment on a particularly up-to-date matter – leaves open a bright future for the *Católica Law Review* and for its strengthening as a reference in the context of the Portuguese legal periodicals.

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