

Editorial Note

The first issue of the fourth number of the *Católica Law Review* includes a set of articles and commentaries systematically related to Public Law. More particularly, this volume includes contributions that delve into themes of administrative law (namely, one on the nullity of administrative contracts, and another on energy and regulation), constitutional law and political theory, and public international law, as well as a commentary to a judgment from the Court of Justice of the European Union.

In light of the maturity that the *Católica Law Review* has already achieved, it was decided to open a call for papers and wait for the feedback of the scientific community, even though one of the contributions resulted from a challenge directed to the authors (followed by a peer review). The immediate relevance of the topics developed in each of the articles and commentary of this volume, coupled with the institutional and geographic diversity of their authors, reveal the positioning of the *Católica Law Review* as a relevant player in the national and international legal context.

In the doctrinal part, this issue of the *Católica Law Review* includes contributions from Bruno Reynaud de Sousa (Porto & Minho), Christos Kypraios (Max Planck Heidelberg), Hugo Aparício (lawyer), Luís Pereira Coutinho (University of Lisbon), Vera Karam de Chueiri (Federal University of Paraná), Angela Couto Machado Fonseca (Federal University of Paraná), Thiago de Azevedo Pinheiro Hoshino (Federal University of Paraná) and Rachid El Bazzim (Ibn Zohr Agadir University). In the commentary part, this issue of the *Católica Law Review* includes a contribution from Inês Quadros (Católica – Lisbon).

The article submitted by Bruno Reynaud de Sousa and Christos Kypraios is a reflection on the activity of outer space mining and aims at providing insights on the role of the State and of private miners on the exploitation of those mineral resources. For its part, the article submitted by Hugo Aparício analyses the current legal regime of administrative contracts' nullity. Then, the article written by Luís Pereira Coutinho lies at the intersection of political theory and constitutional

law, aiming to provide an innovative perspective on the impact of the political thought of Thomas Hobbes on the constitutional thought of Carré and Malberg. In its turn, the article submitted by Rachid El Bazzim is a case-study analysis of the impact of the establishment of independent regulatory agencies on the dynamics of a state, adopting as object of study the Moroccan case. For its part, the article written by Vera Karam de Chueri, Angela Couto Machado Fonseca and Thiago de Azevedo Pinheiro Hoshino is a profound reflection about the intersection between constitutional right and theories of political action in the 21st century. Finally, the commentary to a recent judgment from the Court of Justice of the European Union, written by Inês Quadros, analyses the controversial issues of the compatibility of the judicial reforms in Poland with the necessary guarantees of independence and irremovability of judges, and the possibility of an infringement proceeding against Poland.