



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SPAIN
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FIRST JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS OF SPAIN, ITALY, PORTUGAL, AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL OF FRANCE

The President of the Constitutional Court emphasises the importance of maintaining a *"mutual constitutional loyalty"* and reminds of the *"compelling obligation to respect and comply with"* the decisions of the Court

The Constitutional Court of Spain, presided by Juan José González Rivas, has organized in Seville the first Joint Meeting between the Constitutional Courts of Spain, Portugal, Italy and France. It was the first participation of the Constitutional Council of France in these regular and formerly trilateral meetings, organized since 1999.

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty, this first Joint Meeting was dedicated to *"Human rights in the European Union and in national legal systems"*.

The Presidents of the four constitutional courts, as well as the members of each delegation, have had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Autonomous Government of Andalucía, Susana Díaz, among other authorities.

During the reception, the President of the Constitutional Court, Juan José González Rivas, highlighted the fundamental role fulfilled by European democratic constitutions regarding the protection of human rights. He pointed out that *"without Constitution, there is no valid or existent democracy and without a fundamental law, the rights of citizens are exposed to the arbitrary of uncertainty and time"*.

He also stated that the purpose of the Spanish Constitution is to protect and defend *"political pluralism and the variety of ideas and sensibilities"* expressed in the society, so that *"the ideal conditions for the free aspirations of all only lie within the Constitution and the laws of Spain"*.

President González Rivas finally stressed the importance of maintaining a *"constitutional loyalty among all the constituent parts of Spain"*, especially when it is intended to *"alter the regulatory framework established by the Constitution"*. In this vein, he recalled *"the fundamental obligation to fully respect and comply with the decisions of any Constitutional Court"*.

During their 18 years of existence, the Conferences have dealt with a wide range of legal issues: from aspects related to the multi-level protection of human rights or the European

Union to the application or effectiveness of constitutional rulings, or civil law matters.

Seville, 27 October 2017.