



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SPAIN
Office of the President
Press Office

PRESS RELEASE No. 120/2018

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANISH CONSTITUTION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT CELEBRATES THE ACHIEVEMENT OF LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

The President of the Constitutional Court, Juan José González Rivas, has relied on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Spanish Constitution to emphasize the value of this fundamental law. In particular, he underscored the achievements in relation to liberty, unity in diversity, human rights and social progress that have been accomplished in Spain since its promulgation back in 1978.

During the event that took place at the premises of the Constitutional Court, President González Rivas underlined that “*the Constitution reflected fundamental decisions concerning the form of the State and Government, democratized the relations between society and State, laid out the mechanisms whereby Spain expressed its diversity and allowed for a political life within the framework of liberty*”.

On the occasion of this event that has commemorated the creation of the Constitution, as well as the accomplishments achieved under its rule, many authorities of the State, politics, civil society and the legal community have attended the premises of the Court, thus displaying an expression of unity and closeness to the institution.

José Pedro Pérez-Llorca Rodrigo and Miquel Roca i Junyent, two of the so-called *fathers of the Constitution*, have also participated in the event, which has paid tribute to their contribution to the process that led to the enactment of the Constitution. Likewise, the President of the Court reminded other actors’ efforts towards the achievement of that goal, including the essential role played by the Crown and the seven original authors of the draft version of the Constitution, all of whom endeavoured to commit their intellectual capacities by means of a rigorous and honest effort.

President González Rivas saluted the constitutional agreement and the so-called Transition to democracy, “*a period that arose out of three conducts that are more necessary than ever nowadays, namely dialogue, concord and consensus. Likewise, the Transition demonstrated how difficult it is to reach an agreement to promote a democratic cohabitation, but also how vital and important it is to make such an effort for our society*”.

Likewise, the President has underscored that the Constitution, the most stable and consensual of Spanish history to date, paved the way for Spain’s incorporation to the European Union, and has enabled our country to overcome the most serious challenges and obstacles that it has had to confront. Therefore, he paid tribute to “*what the Constitution has allowed us to achieve during the last 40 years, and what it will continue to make possible during the following ones to come*”.

On the same vein, the President made a reference to the possibility to reform the Constitution in order to adapt it to the Spain of today, “*based on the preservation of its accomplishments and as long as we agree on the purpose and object of those reforms, in accordance with its principles and with loyalty*”.

Among others, the following authorities attended the event: the Presidents of the Congress of Deputies (Ana Pastor) and of the Senate (Pío García-Escudero); the Vice-President of the Government (Carmen Calvo); the Minister of Justice (Dolores Delgado); the Minister of the Interior (Fernando Grande-Marlaska); the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Luis Planas); the President of the Council for the Judiciary and of the Supreme Court (Carlos Lesmes); and a former President of the Spanish Government (Felipe González).

The event also served to host the presentation of the book *Comentarios a la Constitución Española. XL Aniversario* [Commentary to the Spanish Constitution on its 40th Anniversary], which assembles the main legal, scholarly and jurisprudential contributions generated during the 40 years of existence of the fundamental law. This book, which has been directed by two Presidents *Emeritus* of the Constitutional Court – Miguel Rodríguez-Piñero and María Emilia Casas Baamonde –, is closely linked to the Constitutional Court since, according to the current President’s words, “*its role is to interpret, update and defend the fundamental law*”.

Madrid, 04 December 2018