



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SPAIN  
Office of the President  
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### THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN SPAIN AND ITALY ON THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANISH CONSTITUTION

The President of the Constitutional Court, M. Juan José González Rivas, has praised during a solemn ceremony held at the premises of the institution the "*decisive, intense and permanent*" dialogue existing between the fundamental laws of Italy and Spain on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spanish Constitution.

During the presentation of the book "*La Constitución Española en el trigésimo aniversario de la Constitución Italiana. Una reflexión 40 años después*" (The Spanish Constitution on the thirtieth anniversary of the Italian Constitution. A reflection 40 years later), President González Rivas has emphasized the sharing of ideas, the influences and the deep historical connections developed between the constitutional systems of both countries.

This work provides an update of the homonymous study published in 1978 following two working sessions held in Bologna in parallel with the debate of the Spanish constituent period. It consists of a bilateral study which contrasts the experiences of the Italian Constitution of 1947 and the Spanish Constitution of 1978.

The Italian professors who were responsible for the direction and release of the new edition – Fabio Rovarsi-Monaco, Giuseppe de Vergottini and Luciano Vandelli – participated in this event together with the President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court, Francisco Pérez de los Cobos Orihuel, and Magistrates Emeritus Rafael Gómez-Ferrer Morant and Jorge Rodríguez Zapata.

In President González Rivas's words, we can observe numerous and diverse similarities between both fundamental laws such as the mandate for social transformation, the political parties as a fundamental instrument for participation in politics or the regulation of the Decree-Law. Nonetheless, there are also significant differences between both systems. For instance, the relations between the Congress of Deputies and the central Government, the asymmetrical bicameralism system, the organisation of the State or the parliamentary Monarchy regime that has been chosen by the Spanish constituent.

The President of the Constitutional Court has also vindicated the effectiveness of the two Constitutions, two fundamental norms that "*still have a lot to offer*", in addition to the "*relevant and necessary*" dialogue between the two nations. According to him, "*Spain and Italy are now two consolidated democracies, allied within the European Union and two of the major economies of the Eurozone. Our relations are intense because we share the same values and fight for the same principles*".

Finally, President Gonzalez Rivas paraphrasing Professor La Pergola went on to affirm that a constitutional text is the mirror of a democracy over time; and that we can still recognize ourselves in the mirror of the Spanish Constitution and in the mirror of the Italian Constitution.

Madrid, 11 December 2018