



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SPAIN  
Office of the President  
Press Office

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### THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT UNDERScores SPAIN'S ROLE IN THE EU AND WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS ONE OF THE MOST CONSOLIDATED AND OPEN DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD

During the opening of the 26<sup>th</sup> World Law Congress, which takes place in Madrid between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February, the President of the Constitutional Court, Juan José González Rivas, has underscored the role fulfilled by Spain, a relevant and respected member of the European Union and the international community, as one of the most consolidated and open democracies in the world.

In his words, Spain is a country “*that protects, values and promotes its constitutive diversity*”, and its model of political decentralization is an example for many other nations. Likewise, he emphasized the high level of protection of rights and liberties enjoyed in Spain, which is one of the States in its region that has been least condemned by the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights.

During his intervention, President González Rivas pointed out that the protection and promotion of political pluralism is one of the essential values of the Spanish Constitution. Accordingly, the Constitutional Court, in its role of main protector of the fundamental law, and in order to secure a pluralistic society, must guarantee its normative supremacy: “*The Constitution protects us all, even those that dissent from its contents and, therefore, no authority established by the law may place itself over the fundamental law through an open and explicit challenge against the mandatory force of the Constitution and the legal order that is erected over it*”.

In relation with the theme of the World Law Congress, i.e. *Constitution, democracy and freedom. The rule of law, guarantor of freedom*, President González Rivas reflected on the importance of the democratic principle, the principle of legality and human rights, which are all concepts that form an inextricable matrix: “*There is no democracy without human rights, just as no human rights exist without an scrupulous respect for the democratic law, which is an expression of democracy itself*”.

He warned that “*these times of increasing inequalities require from us to live up to the challenge of an ever greater tolerance and mutual respect. Therefore, we must trust the law that refutes and refuses the need for abuses and tyranny and that guarantees the conditions for a pluralistic coexistence*”.

Finally, President González Rivas greeted the granting of the *World Peace & Liberty Award* to HM the King Felipe VI: “*In the framework of the constitutional and parliamentary Monarchy as the form of the State, and as a symbol of the unity and permanence of that State, the Crown embodies the recent successes of Spain as a country*”.

Madrid, 19 February 2019