

■ PREFACE

Hedwig Unger

Prof. Dr.Dr.h.c. Wolfgang Mantl at the occasion of his 70th Birthday

For the first time, the ICL Journal takes the chance to congratulate an eminent Austrian scholar by dedicating him the articles of this issue of the journal. Em.o.Univ.Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Wolfgang Mantl celebrated his 70th birthday in March 2009 but is still active in research and teaching. Born in 1939 in Vienna, Mantl studied law at the Vienna Law Faculty. He started his academic career as the assistant of Prof. Dr. Gustav E. Kafka at the Vienna University of Economics and followed his master at the University of Graz. There he presented his habilitation (1974) which was published in 1975 under the title "Repräsentation und Identität" (Forschungen aus Staat und Recht vol. 29), got the *venia docendi* in Austrian Constitutional Law, General Theory of State and Political Science and became a full professor at the Law Faculty of Graz University in 1979 (Emeritus in 2007). From the beginning Mantl focused not only on questions of Constitutional Law but tried to combine issues of political science and general theory of state within its research based on a broad historical, cultural and general knowledge, always convinced of the European integration (cf. his initiatives in L'viv National Ivan Franko-University, Ukraine, and South East Europe in recent years). He has always been a gifted researcher and at the same time a passionate teacher with a big heart for his students and assistants – as the author of this preface can confirm with big thanks and respect. Although Mantl never entered directly in politics he offered his competence and advice when needed, e.g. 2003-2005 as the first chairman of the newly established Austrian Science Board (Österreichischer Wissenschaftsrat). In recent years Mantl has been active as a full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (since 1999). He has dedicated important parts of his research to the German lawyer Carl Schmitt and published a collection of his articles under the title "Politikanalysen" (Böhlau 2007). Issues of democracy have always been among his favourite subjects.

It is therefore a big pleasure for us to present in this issue three articles which reflect to a certain extent the research interests of Prof. Mantl. Meinrad Handstanger and Joseph Marko who were both assistants of Prof. Mantl in early years and combine practical experience as a judge at the Austrian Administrative Court (Handstanger) and theoretical reflection as a professor of Constitutional Law (Marko) highlight the special approach

■ PREFACE ■

of Prof. Mantl in his work which he called himself the approach of a "Juristenpolitologie" – convinced of the necessity to combine the perspective of practical political science knowledge with the tackling of Constitutional law problems. Christoph Konrath, member of the scientific staff of the Austrian Parliament, knows Prof. Mantl for several years and dedicates his contribution to theory and practice of parliamentarism in Austria. Finally, Tímea Drinóczi and József Petrétei, analyse an important aspect of democracy in the light of its status quo in Europe: the financing of political parties as the main players of the democratic process. Their object is the current as well as the projected regulation in this field in Hungary.

In the category of Austrian Constitutional Developments we thank Harald Eberhard for the organisation of the three articles to the subject of self-government in Austria which focus – after a short introduction about this important institution of the Austrian political system – on the recent developments of the jurisdiction of the Austrian Constitutional Court in this field. Thereby, the Court developed and specified a set of criteria which the legislator has to observe when it comes to the establishment of self-governing bodies. Ulrich E. Zellenberg, Erich Pürgy and Metin Akyürek give us a concise outline about this important development.

Thanks to Elisabeth Handl who took care of the category book reviews so that we can read a summary of Darius Rejali's recent book about "Torture and Democracy" as well as of Alexander Somek's interdisciplinary analysis of problems of European Union Law at the crossroads of law, political science and political philosophy ("Individualism: An Essay on the Authority of the European Union").

We hope that this issue of the ICL journal may find your interest after the summer break. Especially we would like to congratulate on behalf of the editors-in-chief and the editorial board Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mantl once more to his 70th birthday and wish him all the best for a prospering time. Ad multos annos!

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