



SATVERSMES TIESA THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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Riga, 16 October 2026 No 1-02/196/2026

Mr. Oleksandr Petryshyn
Acting Chairman of the
Constitutional Court of Ukraine

On the 30th Anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

*Honourable Acting Chairman,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,*

An anniversary acquires its meaning not from the number of years that have passed, but from what an institution has been called upon to endure, protect and carry forward during those years. For the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, these thirty years encompass the building of constitutional statehood, the gradual anchoring of Ukraine in the European legal tradition and, now, the extraordinary responsibility of preserving constitutional continuity while the very existence of the democratic state is being defended. This is why your thirtieth anniversary is not simply a moment to look back. It is a moment to recognise the strength Ukraine has built through its Constitution and the responsibility with which your Court carries it into the future.

Ukraine's independence today stands for far more than the sovereignty of one nation. It has become a test of Europe's ability to defend freedom, democratic statehood and the rule of law when they are challenged by force. In this historic period, a strong and independent Constitutional Court of Ukraine is called upon not only to safeguard the Constitution of today, but also to help shape the legal foundations of the Ukraine that will emerge from this war – European, democratic, resilient and governed by law. Ukraine's strength has already changed Europe. Its constitutional strength will help determine what kind of Europe emerges from this period.

For Latvia, this is also a deeply personal anniversary. The Ukrainian flag has flown beside the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia since the first day of

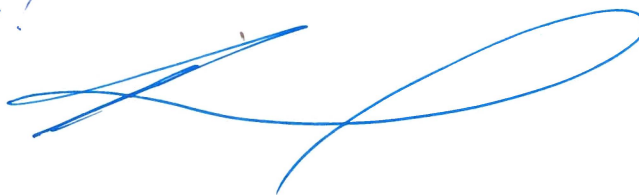
Russia's full-scale war. It has never been merely a symbol of solidarity. It is a daily reminder that the defence of Ukraine concerns the constitutional order of Europe itself – the right of a nation to determine its future, the inviolability of democratic statehood and the principle that law, not force, must govern relations between states and within them. Ukraine has shown the human price of defending these principles and given them a human face. Your colleagues have continued the work of constitutional justice while living through a reality in which the Constitution is not an abstraction, but part of what the country is fighting to preserve.

Our cooperation has allowed us to witness this strength at close range. Through the European Union and Council of Europe project supporting the development of constitutional justice in Ukraine, judges, legal advisers and members of our staff have worked side by side on matters ranging from constitutional complaints and judicial reasoning to European legal standards and the everyday institutional mechanisms that make an independent court function. Yet the most important result cannot be measured in the number of meetings, recommendations or activities. What began as professional cooperation has become trust. Latvia has shared the experience of its own return to the European legal space, but we have received no less in return. Ukraine has reminded us that institutional resilience is built not only through legal rules, but through courage, professional integrity and the quiet determination to continue doing one's constitutional duty when circumstances make that duty exceptionally difficult.

On behalf of the Constitutional Court of Latvia, I congratulate the Constitutional Court of Ukraine most warmly on its thirtieth anniversary. I wish your Court the peace in which constitutional justice should ordinarily be administered, the independence without which it cannot exist, and the authority that comes from remaining faithful to the Constitution in the most difficult of times. We look forward to continuing the path we have begun together – not simply as partner institutions, but as colleagues and friends who belong to the same European constitutional community. May the day soon come when the Ukrainian Constitution no longer needs to be defended under the shadow of war, but can guide a free, peaceful and flourishing European Ukraine.

Слава Україні!

Yours sincerely,



Irēna Kucina

President of Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia