

FOREWORD

The book we are handing over to the readers touches upon issues in many legal fields and covers a genuine panorama of Polish law. It consists of 19 chapters prepared by authors from various research centres in Poland with the aim to contribute to the XXIst General Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law taking place in Asunción, Paraguay (23–28 October 2022). Its structure reflects the order of the topics of this Congress' sections. The publication forms part of a special series, set out in 1998 by Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska at the Lodz University Press, presenting Polish reports prepared for consecutive General Congresses of the Academy.

Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was the editor of the series (including this volume) until the end of her days. She died on 9 June 2022, aged 94.

With her passing away, we have lost an outstanding academic and a great expert in civil and comparative law. She was the author of publications of fundamental importance for the development of Polish private law, a co-founder of the Department of Civil Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Lodz, and one of the founders and unquestionable leaders of the Lodz school of civil law. At the University of Lodz, where she worked for 70 years, she educated many generations of lawyers and supervised numerous doctoral dissertations. She served as dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration for two terms (1981–1984 and 1993–1996). In 1997, she was elected judge of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Poland by the Parliament and held this position until 2006.

Fascinated by comparative research, Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was active in the international arena for many decades. She was a member of the *Association Henri Capitant des amis de la culture juridique française* as well as its secretary general (1998–2002). She remained involved in its activities even after her term ended. Furthermore, she was a member of the *Société de législation comparée* in Paris. Over the course of 30 years starting in 1976, Mrs Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was a professor at the International Faculty of Comparative Law in Strasbourg. Her lectures on civil liability were very popular with students. She received an honorary doctorate from the Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg.

Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska attached great importance to cooperation within the International Academy of Comparative Law. She was its titular member and the leader of the Polish group. Professor Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska selected the national reporters preparing Polish contributions for the General Congresses of the Academy and coordinated their work for many years.

Thanks to her encouragement, a number of Polish scholars are general rapporteurs for the Academy's XXIst General Congress.

The role of Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska in the development of legal research in Poland is unique. She inspired many generations of Polish scholars being their tutor, advisor and a most trusted person. Her impact on the academic community goes far beyond the intellectual dimension.

Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was not only an outstanding scholar, but also a person of great human virtues. During the Second World War, as a young girl she joined the Polish Home Army (AK). Under the communist regime, she always acted with great courage and in accordance with her convictions. During the martial law imposed in Poland in 1981, when students at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Lodz went on strike to protest against the regime, she managed to prevent the pacification undertaken by special forces and subsequently defended students against repressions.

We would like *Rapports polonais* to continue to be published for future General Congresses of the Academy in the format elaborated by Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska. We hope that this series, providing an overview of various legal and case-law developments in Poland, contributes to the comparative research in both the European and the global perspective.

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Co-editor of the publication