

LAUDATIO: PROF. AGUSTÍN GORDILLO

JOSÉ ESTEVE PARDO*

DURING this brief intervention, I would like to emphasise the relevant contribution of professor Agustín Gordillo to the relationship and mutual knowledge between European and Latin American Law. Afterwards, professor Isaac Damsky from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) will offer a wider exposition regarding Agustín Gordillo's life and work.

Everybody knows that Argentina is a country with strong European roots: history, culture, values, and literature. If we talk about Buenos Aires, these mentioned roots are even deeper. New York and Buenos Aires are probably the most European cities of America. From there, from the Gran Buenos Aires, the Big Buenos Aires, comes Agustín Gordillo, a real *porteño* one.

With his native background he has built up a bridge between Latin America and Europe in the field of public law. It all began once he had accomplished a successful academic career in Argentina where, while he was very young, he became a full professor in the prestigious University of Buenos Aires (UBA). Then he went to Paris, where he worked closely with professor Jean Rivero in the best tradition of French Administrative Law. It was in Paris where he met professor Flogaitis. Gordillo was then able to expand his relationship with different European countries.

It was around 1982 when I first heard and read Agustín Gordillo's work. It appeared first in Spain and later in Italy. It was his seminal book *La Administración paralela* known as *The Parallel Administration*. Furthermore, he has also written very relevant books about the mutual understanding of European Law and Latin American

* Professor at the University of Barcelona

Law. Among them, we find *An Introduction to Law* (For Lawyers and Non-Lawyers. A Unified Version of Common Law and Continental European Law. Public and Private Law. National, Supranational, and International Law), *The Future of Latin America. Can the European Union Help?* and, finally, his monumental *Tratado de Derecho Administrativo*.

I would like to underline how those books pay special attention to the political, sociological and economic elements, which make the frame, and sense, of legal regulations.

Additionally, other achievements of professor Gordillo in his wide experience in Europe are, among the many he must have, that he is a member of the Honorary Board of the Academy of European Public Law, he is a Judge at the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization in Geneva and he is also the promoter of the Gordillo Scholarship for the Latin-American students to attend the EPLO Academy of European Public Law.

All in all and for these reasons, he deserves this *Laudatio* as a constructor of a firm bridge in the legal culture between Europe and America.