

LAUDATIO: PROF. CHRISTIAN STARCK

THEODORA ANTONIOU*

Hoch verehrter Herr Professor Starck,

Lieber Herr Starck,

Dear Member of the European Group of Public Law,

IT IS a great pleasure for the Organization to award you with this well-deserved honor and for me personally to say a few words about your work and your personality.

As an Expert in constitutional law, comparative public law, state and church, state and constitutional theory, the main areas of the scientific and research activity of Christian Starck are

- Public law
- Financial law
- Tax Law
- Legal philosophy

and especially comparative law, in which he showed his progressiveness in law and his original contribution to it.

Furthermore, a large part of his work is dedicated to the democratic constitutional state.

Some of his well-known works to this direction are:

1. *Legal Scholars and Scientific Institutions* / 2016
2. *Where does the Right come from?* / 2015
3. *The attachment of the Judge to the Law and the Constitution* / (German Edition) Reprint 2013

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4. *Law and Arbitrariness* / 2012
5. *Achievements of the Law Culture: Human Rights and the Division of Power* / 2011
6. *Constitutions: Formation, Interpretation, Effects and Protection* / 2009
7. *Constitutional Law*, ed. by Christian Starck, processed by Thorsten Ingo Schmidt, with the participation of Rolf Blechschmidt / 2008
8. *The Kurhessische constitution of 1831 within the framework of the German constitutionalism* / 2007
9. *Corporate publicity and Protection of Personal Data: does a GmbH or a GmbH & Co. KG with a small Group of Shareholders have to fully disclose their financial statements?* / 2007
10. *The Democratic Constitutional State: Form, Fundamentals, Hazards* / 1995
11. *Administrative Discretion in the Modern State: National Reports*, General Report of the Conference for Comparative Law by Prof. Starck 1985 in Göttingen
12. *State, School, Church in the Federal Republic of Germany and in France* / 1982
13. *About the Foundation of the Basic Law* / 1979
14. *School and Constitution* / 1977
15. *The Federal Constitutional Court in the political process of the Federal Republic of Germany* / 1976
16. *Freedom and Organization: Speech held on 10 April 1976 at his Appointment to the Rectorate of the Georg-August-University of Göttingen* 1976
17. *Broadcasting Freedom as an organizational problem: to the composition of Broadcasting Bodies* 1973
18. *The legal concept of the Basic Law / A contribution to the legal concept of law* 1970

Of course he has written many articles and has published many collective volumes; however, time does not allow us to refer to all of them.

He is particularly well-known among lawyers for his contributions to the *Grundgesetz* (Basic Law) *Commentary* of "von Mangoldt

/ Klein" as well as the "Götz / Starck", a collection of study-relevant Lower Saxony law. He is also co-editor of the *Juristenzeitung* (JZ), a very known journal of particularly theoretical level in all areas of law.

- 1978-1992 he was Member of the Television Station ZDF
- 1981 he was Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law
- 1982 he became Full member of the Academy of Sciences Göttingen
- 1991 he was nominated Judge of the State Court of Lower Saxony
- 1991-2000 he was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Board of ARTE-Germany
- 1991-1992 he became Member of the Constitutional Committee of Saxony-Anhalt
- 1991-1993 he brought once again his constitutional experience, this time as Member of the Constitutional Commission of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Between 1998-1999 he was President of the Association of German Lawyers

When in November 2013 Christian Starck gave me his book *Freedom and Institutions*, I understood that he belonged to the post-war generation of constitutionalists who founded democracy, freedom, and institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany. His research has been expanding in addition to specific research areas, such as collective labor law, the protection of the professions, the real equality of men and women, the artificial fertilization in humans, manipulation in embryos, and treating the fetus as a thing and to generally established constitutional law issues such as freedom of opinion and science in the areas of the universities, the mass media, the message block, the origin and development of the concept of general laws, the dignity of man, Christianity and the Churches in their importance for the identity of the European Union and its Member States, constitutional state and democracy, all of them issues which we are still debating today.

Christian Starck is the soul and the spirit of the Essener Conversations on state and church, an issue that concerns Greece today in the context of a new revision of the Constitution.

Christian Starck is modern due to his scientific depth based on his humanitarian education.

According to Article 20 para. 1 Basic Law, the Federal Republic of Germany is a democratic and social federal state. Christian Starck gave meaning and substance through his work and praxis to this provision. In today's European Union, many of these values may be questioned.

Today we are talking about democracy beyond the state, about legality rather than legitimacy and about territoriality rather than sovereignty.

But there are some classical principles that have served scientists and intellectuals as Christian Starck, that will last for time.