EDITORIAL

ITALIAN CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

Marta Cartabia*

1956-2016: the Italian Constitutional Court just turned 60, as her first decision was issued in June 1056.

It was a momentous event for the Italian Republic. Not only did a new institution move her first step in the new constitutional framework, but also she spoke with authority. She affirmed her jurisdiction over the old legislation enacted before the Republican Constitution; she acted as a guardian of citizens' freedom and stroke down a fascist provision very restrictive of freedom of speech.

Since then, the Constitutional Court has gained a robust position in the domestic legal order and a distinguished recognition among her counterparts. The second part of the 20th century was the day of constitutional adjudication: all over Europe, and beyond, Constitutional courts were established in the new constitutional democracies. The Italian and the German one were the pioneers, together with the Austrian prototype; all of them became models for other younger experiences.

Anniversaries are occasions to look back and reconsider the historical developments, the achievements, the weak points, the new perspectives. In the present issue of the IJPL a number of scholars discuss about the "Italian style in constitutional adjudication", moving from the first book on the Italian Constitutional Court published for an English speaking audience, recently published for Oxford University Press (Vittoria Barsotti, Paolo Carozza, Marta Cartabia, Andrea Simoncini, *Italian Constitutional Justice in a Global Context,* OUP, 2016).

*Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Milan "Bicocca", Vice-President of the Italian Constitutional Court

They were invited to single out the "Italian voice" in the choir of the constitutional adjudicators - touching upon a broad range of topics, from fundamental rights and liberties, to the allocation of governmental powers and regionalism - and to discuss its distinctive features, among many actors.