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## **Editorial: Analysis of the Provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland from 1997**

The recent 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption and coming into force of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland from 1997 is an inspiration for reflections on the Constitution and on the content of its rules. It seems that the most important content of the constitutional rules includes introduction of the catalogue of basic human and citizen rights and freedoms, creation of the fundamentals of state functioning by formulating the key constitutional principles and often very detailed description of the role and mutual relations of the most important organs of the state authority. During the period of 20 years, establishment of a specific *acquis constitutionnelle* based on the Constitution could be observed: legal acts (adopted or deeply amended after the adoption of the Constitution), extensive case-law and numerous research publications. Discussions concerning the interpretation of the particular rules of the Constitution or the evaluation of the Constitution as a whole have been permanently conducted among researchers, politicians and publicists. They sometimes lead to postulates indicating the necessity of the introduction of amendments or even of adoption of a new constitution. However, it should be emphasized that the opinions on the Constitution or on its particular rules are very often strongly politically motivated, which means that they are not unbiased. Nevertheless, it seems that irrespective of different

opinions on the Constitution there is a general consensus on its fundamental influence on the evolution of the Polish legal-political system. The basic aim of the publications in this issue of "Horizons of Politics" is a careful, unbiased, honest but also critical reflection on the content of the rules of the Polish Constitution from 1997 and on the effects of the adoption of its particular rules.

The reflections on the rules of the Constitution follow two basic directions. One approach is to interpret these rules and to establish the meaning of legal norms contained therein. Another approach is to evaluate the influence of the particular constitutional rules on the shaping of various institutions of the legal-political system of the Third Republic of Poland or on the shaping of the whole system. The combination of both approaches towards the analysis of the rules of the Constitution is possible and even desirable.

Among the authors of articles published in this issue of "Horizons of Politics", who represent legal and political sciences, the rules that regulate the functioning of the public authority organs and the constitutional principles that concern the functioning of these organs have met with special interest. Such approach seems to well represent the mainstream discourse on the possible introduction of amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland from 1997. Therefore, if a serious and substantive public debate on introduction of such amendments will take place in a close or far future, it should be hoped that the articles published in this issue will be taken under consideration by the political decision-makers.

Tomasz Litwin  
theme issue editor