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ON ORIGATION AND COOPERATION OF THE INSURANCE LAW ASSOCIATION OF SERBIA WITH DUNAV INSURANCE COMPANY

INFORMATIVE ARTICLE

In order to understand the origin and development of cooperation between the Insurance Law Association of Serbia and Dunav Insurance Company, it is necessary to briefly acquaint the readers with the origins of the professional association for insurance law, as an institution. Since its emergence, the insurance business has always been a faithful companion of important social activities and a custodian of the economic values of individual and social property. Different social circumstances determine the direction in which economic activities and trade services will develop and, to that extent, insurance is no exception. With the emergence and development of joint stock insurance companies, the market has followed the economic and general social development by expanding the offer of insurance services.

It was not until the adoption of civil and commercial codes during the 19th century that insurance contracts were more comprehensively regulated in the attempt to provide a legal framework for this important area and thus reduce the impact of business practices. In the second half of that century, the Insurance Institute in Manchester was established in 1873, as the first in that field, with the aim of providing an environment for the social exchange of knowledge and ideas on the subject of insurance, with a particular focus on fire insurance, given the number of textile manufacturers in the city.² In the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the development

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² Cockerell, H. A. L. (1957). *Sixty Years of the Chartered Insurance Institute*. London: Chartered Insurance Institute, pp. 14–15.

of insurance business took place under the strong influence of foreign capital, because out of a total of twenty-eight insurance companies, nineteen of them were established by foreign capital.³ However, in the sources available to the author there were no mention of the existence of any association or institute founded with the goal to study insurance law and exchange knowledge and ideas about that industry.

One such association was established at the international level in 1960 under the name the International Association for Insurance Law (*Association Internationale de Droit des Assurance – AIDA*), as a non-profit international organisation promoting and developing collaboration between its members to help increase the study, knowledge and understanding of international and national insurance laws and related issues. The task of AIDA is to propose regulations and measures related to the activities to be adopted at the national and international level in order to harmonize insurance laws and models of resolving insurance disputes. The Yugoslav Association for Insurance Law, and its legal successor, the Insurance Law Association of Serbia, first presented itself to the Serbian legal and other professional public in 1971 (the first and second conferences were held in 1964 in Zagreb and in 1969 in Ljubljana), as the national section of the aforementioned International Association for Insurance Law, long before most of today's specialized legal associations in Serbia.⁴ In 20 and 21 April of the same year, in the building of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the mentioned Association organised the Conference on legal regulation of contractual relations in the field of insurance. The above-mentioned International Association for Insurance Law and the national sections of this association, perform their activities in close cooperation with the industry. The goals of each insurance law association concerning the study of insurance law, making proposals, launching initiatives for the reform of legal framework, and connecting experts by providing educational and professional assistance overlap with insurance industry to a certain extent. Therefore, the predominant source of support for the activities of these associations comes from the insurance business. This is also the case with the domestic market, which steadily supports the work of the Association.

According to Zoran Radovic, PhD, a scientific advisor to the Institute for Comparative Law in Belgrade and for some time a secretary of this association, the importance that the Insurance Community of Property and Persons Dunav attached to the activities of the Yugoslav Association for Insurance Law is shown by the fact that it received financial support for its operations from the Yugoslav Insurance Association, and later from the Insurance Community of Property and Persons Dunav.⁵

³ Ogrizović, D. (1985). *Ekonomika osiguranja*. Sarajevo: ZOIL „Sarajevo“, pp. 352.

⁴ Šulejić, P, Slavnić, J. (2013). „Od jugoslovenskog Udruženja za pravo osiguranja i Saveza udruženja za pravo osiguranja Jugoslavije do Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije“, Slavnić, J. (ur.) u: *Pola veka Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije (1961–2012)* (167–182), pp. 173–174.

⁵ Šulejić, P, Slavnić, J. (2013). „Od jugoslovenskog Udruženja za pravo osiguranja i Saveza udruženja za pravo osiguranja Jugoslavije do Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije“, Slavnić, J. (ur.) u: *Pola veka Udruženja*

The Insurance Community of Property and Persons Dunav was founded in 1971, by the merger of the Insurance and Reinsurance Institute Beograd and Insurance and Reinsurance Institute Yugoslavia into the Insurance Community of Property and Persons Yugoslavia– Beograd which, on 1 July 1974 was renamed the Insurance Community of Property and Persons Dunav (ZOIL „Dunav“).

The next stage in the history of cooperation between the Association for Insurance Law and Dunav Insurance Company began in the former Yugoslavia, when the independent Association for Insurance Law of the Socialist Republic of Serbia was founded. That association was founded on 21 March, 1983 by ten founders: professor Borislav Blagojević, PhD, professor Vladimir Jovanović, PhD professor Predrag Šulejić, PhD professor Ivica Jankovec, PhD professor Jovan Slavnić, PhD, Nikola Nikolić, PhD Zoran Radović, PhD Vojislav Sokal, PhD Dušanka Kafol, and Jovan Petković. In those days, the Insurance Community of Property and Persons Dunav (legal predecessor of present Dunav Insurance Company a. d. o.), provided significant support to this Association by the fact that since 1982, for several years, the seat of the Association had been located in the Dunav's premises in Belgrade, at Makedonska 4.⁶

The activities of the Association for Insurance Law, its members and employees of legal predecessors of Dunav Insurance Company were numerous and intertwined. Thus, in 1983, in addition to the paper by professor Ivica Jankovec addressing the general topic of *Co-insurance as a Legal Relationship*, and the paper of professor Predrag Šulejić on *Concept of a Motor Vehicle in terms of Regulations on Compulsory Liability Insurance*, professor Branko Rajičić, MA, a former director of the Directorate for Insurance of Property and Agriculture, also presented his papers. Some of these papers were later published in the journal *Insurance of Associated Labour of the Insurance Community for Property and Persons Dunav* (presently the journal *Insurance Trends*).⁷ In addition, the contribution of other highly respected insurance experts, who worked in the legal predecessors of Dunav Insurance Company, is immeasurable. These were: professor Vladimir Jovanović, PhD professor Jovan Slavnić, PhD Vojislav Sokal, PhD Dušanka Kafol and Jovan Petković, who were also the co-founders of the Association for Insurance Law of SR Serbia.

Realizing the seriousness of the new situation that emerged in the early 1990s and was reflected in the adverse economic conditions in the country, huge inflation and economic blockade, as well as possible negative consequences for the insurance business in Serbia, in 1993, the Joint Stock Insurance Company Dunav engaged the prominent members of the Serbian Association for Insurance Law, Professor Ivica

za pravo osiguranja Srbije (1961–2012) (167–182), pp. 169.

⁶ Šulejić, P., Slavnić, J. (2013). „Od jugoslovenskog Udruženja za pravo osiguranja i Saveza udruženja za pravo osiguranja Jugoslavije do Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije“, Slavnić, J. (ur.) u: *Pola veka Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije (1961–2012)* (167–182), pp. 176.

⁷ Šulejić, P., Slavnić, J. (2013). „Od jugoslovenskog Udruženja za pravo osiguranja i Saveza udruženja za pravo osiguranja Jugoslavije do Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije“, Slavnić, J. (ur.) u: *Pola veka Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije (1961–2012)* (167–182), pp. 176–177.

Jankovec, Professors Predrag Šulejić and Dobrosav Ogrizović in drafting the Statute of the Association of Insurance Organisations of Yugoslavia.⁸

The annual conferences of the Association for Insurance Law resumed in 2001, whereas the publishing of the *Insurance Law Review* (now: *European Insurance Law Review*) started in 2002. Dunav Insurance Company was among the first and most important domestic insurance companies to support the activities of the Yugoslav Insurance Law Association from its very beginnings. This is evidenced by the advertising messages in the proceedings of the annual conferences and in each issue of the mentioned journal. In addition, members of the Association actively participated in the conference on insurance fraud, organised on 16 September, 2002 by Dunav Insurance Company and the Institute of Comparative Law in Belgrade. The papers were presented by the members of the Association, Jasna Pak, PhD Zoran Radović, PhD and Branko Rajčić.

The 21st Annual Conference of the Association for Insurance Law of Serbia in association with the Association of Serbian Insurers was organised in 2020 and held from 25 to 27 September in Šabac. Given the circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic, foreign lecturers were allowed to participate via video calls, while domestic experts and professors dealing with insurance practice and theory had the opportunity to exchange the latest information, ideas and knowledge of law and practices fully observing the prescribed protection measures. For many years now, it has been a well-established practice that before the start of the round tables in the annual conferences of the Serbian Association for Insurance Law, one of the members of the Dunav Insurance Company Management Board gives an opening lecture. This year, the introductory speaker of the Company was Dragica Janković, PhD, a member of the Executive Board.

Since 2010 to date, Dunav Company has continued to assist and support the work of the Serbian Association for Insurance Law in different ways, for which the author of this text expresses his deep gratitude. This confirms the commitment of the Association for Insurance Law of Serbia to the goals that are complementary to the interests of insurance business, and the fact that in the decades of its existence, those interests have always been recognized and supported by Dunav Insurance Company.

Translated by: Zorica Simović, Grad. Philol.

⁸ Cerović, M. (2013). „Saradnja Udruženja osiguravača Srbije i Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije u periodu od 1991. do 2011. godine“, Slavnić, J. (ur.) u: *Pola veka Udruženja za pravo osiguranja Srbije (1961–2012)* (167–182), pp. 132.