Environment - Private Property Protection, Conflict and Limit Setting of Two Constitutional Rights

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Introduction

The problem of protecting the environment is not new¹. Since man first appeared on earth, he started to intervene in the environment and cause ecological changes. His aim has always been to conquer nature, in order to satisfy his needs and defend himself against the dangers of his own surroundings. But continuous intervention in the environment, especially in modern times, with the developed technology, has started to cause harmful effects on the ecosystem².

The marvelous ability to revitalize the earth, something that could always offset the repercussions of human activities on the environment, seems to be exhausted little by little. Today, the bad effects on the environment are such that our health and the quality of our life are threatened, and our very existence is in danger. So, it is the duty of the international community³, of the various Countries but also of the social groups and individuals, to cooperate together and find ways to protect the great good, which the environment is.

In Greece, the problem had started long ago. Domestic migration and urban pull that have appeared in our Country during the decade of 1950-1960, had grown two decades later and, beside other negative repercussions, they have become a cause for great pressure to be exerted for a change in the use of forests or forest areas which are mostly

^{1.} See A. Kanellopoulos, Ecology and Economics of the Ancient Greeks' Environment, 1985. Theophrastos, a pupil of Aristotle, dealt with Ecology and he is considered its first founder.

^{2. «}A complex of biological elements (animal, vegetable and bacteriological populations) and non-biological elements connected among themselves with energy flows».

^{3.} The United Nations founded in 1970 the organization for the protection of the environment (United Nations environmental Agency) within the framework of which, an international congress was convened in June 1992, as well as other organizations (International Bank) and the European Union, are very active in the protection of the environment.

in Attica, but also around the great urban centers, in order to save building space to cover the housing needs of the people who had moved away from the countryside. Meanwhile, after the middle of the seventies and while those phenomena were prominent, the plague of forest fires appeared in the same dimensions. Every summer, thousands of acres of forest areas, are delivered to the flames and they are destroyed. There is no doubt that a great number of fires in those forests, are due to arsons with the aim of destroying the forest, in order to facilitate thus all illegal activities of those, whose final goal is land-grabbing and the illegal and arbitrary construction⁴. It is evident that the most important factor that enters here, is the financial gain, for which individuals harm the environment. The conflict between the interests of private individuals and the general interest, which is the protection of the environment, but also the need of protecting that precious good thing have created a system of rules of justice regulating the relevant topics. Those rules set the limits of human activity, whether it is personal or collective, and the pursue to achieve a balance between the environment and human activities.

Setting the Problem

The question is posed, whether the constituent legislator with the provisions about protection of the environment which require increased State intervention, there is a danger of limiting other rights, such as equality, economic freedom and particularly the right of private property which requires limitations in State intervention. Is it possible that the right to environment should prevail over the right of land ownership, and up to what point? Could something like that question the use of the right to land ownership, a right which has been so far a very powerful social institution; an institution safeguarded constitutionally, with tremendous dynamics?

The question of conflicting constitutional rights⁵ is a matter that can arise in case that it is no possible to have a simultaneous implementation of two or more rights, since exercising one of them may exclude wholly or partly, exercising the other one. However, the State organs must, according to Article 25, paragr. 1 of the Constitution in each case, ensure an unhindered exercising of fundamental rights, that is, they are obliged to lift those conflicts. Besides, the hierachy of right at a general level, is not conceivable⁶, given that it could lead to subjective opinions and, therefore, to them becoming relevant. Therefore, the lifting of conflicts can be carried out only, by weighing up the conflicting interests and selecting the most prevalent one in each case⁷. Of course, that selection should be made at the discreet case of the competent State organ, whereas the choice should always be made according to objective criteria, in order to ensure the greatest possible exercise of all conflicting rights⁸.

^{4.} See Parliament Minutes (Plenary Session) session RLG, May 1993, during which an interparty parliamentary committee was set up, to study the problem of fires in depth and suggest ways of organization and means for a long term and effective coping with them, pages 6949-7027.

^{5.} See A. Raikos, Lectures on Constitutional Law, Volume B, Issue A', page 22.

^{6.} See A. Raikos, op. cit. pages 38, 223; also G. Vlachos, the Constitution of Greece, page 75, Manessis, op. cit. page 65.

^{7.} See A. Manessis, Individual Liberties, Vol A', page 64.

^{8.} See K. Hesse, Gundzüge Des verfassungsrechts der B.R.D., 8th edition, pages 28, 134, 1975.

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Meaning and purpose of Protecting the Environment

The environment presupposes and shapes the framework of life in which human society develops. The term «environment» is significant⁹. Determining the meaning of «environment» is a primary case of any scholar, since on the basis of the content of this term, any system of its legal protection is founded and specialized. The Greek Law 1650/1986¹⁰ contains a remarkable legal approach to this term. According to this Law (Article 2, paragr. 1) «environment» means «the total of natural and human factors and elements which interact with each other and influence the ecological balance, the quality of life, the health of the people, the historic and cultural tradition, and the aesthetic values». This definition¹¹ records, without further specialization, the generally accepted distinction of the meaning «environment» into natural and human. These two forms of environment have been determined both at a domestic (The Constitution and the Laws) and international level¹².

Besides, the constituent legislator of the Greek Constitution of 1975, makes also this distinction when he speaks about the obligation of protecting the «natural and cultural environment» by the State (Article 24). Also Law 360/1976 «on land planning and environment», Article 1, paragr. 5, considers that, as environment is understood «the land, sea and air space surrounding man together with the flora, fauna and the natural resources surrounding it», whereas as cultural environment, it stipulates the following: «The human elements of culture and characteristics, such as these have been shaped by the intervention and relations of man with the natural environment including historic sites and the artistic and cultural heritage of the country in general».

However, we should stress that this distinction tends to be inadequate under the present conditions. In most cases, the natural environment co-exists with human factors and vice versa, in a way that environmental goods of a mixed nature are produced which need special legal protection, since there is an attempt to attack them every day. Indicative of this is the problem for legal protection of urban green areas which, organically, belong in the natural environment, but functionally, they are connected to the human, that is, cultural environment¹³.

The protection of the environment requires an approach to the ecological damage by many branches of the law. But the role of public law is primary, both as regards the object of protection, and the legal framework posed by the legislator, which framework is mainly at the disposal of public administration. That results directly from the constitutional provision of Article 24, paragr. 1, which speaks of the obligation of the State to protect the environment, an obligation which is accomplished by taking

^{9.} See G. Karakostas, Environment and Givil Law, 1986, page 14.

^{10.} Government Gazette 160/Issue A'/16.10.1986.

^{11.} See A. Tachos, Law for the protection of the Environment, 1987, pages 15-16.

^{12.} See Treaty on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, ratified by Greece with Law 1126/81, Government Gazette 32/Issue A'/10.2.1981. Also the International Treaty on Hague (it was ratified with Law 1114/81) and the European Treaty of London (it was ratified with Law 1127/81.

^{13.} See A. Portolou-Mihail, Matters of Investigation and Implementation of Article 24 of the 1975 Constitution in TOS 1986, pages 666-671.

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Quel développement pour la ville de Jannina? Vers une approche du développement durable

Mémoire présenté en vue de l'obtention de la Maîtrise d' aménagement du territoire 1997 Ο.Α.Ε.Δ. - ΠΑΝΤΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ Κ.Π.Ε. ΑΘΗΝΩΝ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ Ο ΘΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΠΙΜΟΡΦΩΤΟΥ ΣΤΙΣ ΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΕΣ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΙΣ Ο ΡΟΛΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ Η ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΑΡΤΙΣΗ Επιστημονικός Υπεύθυνος Καθηγητής ΚΩΝ. ΓΕ. ΑΘΑΝΑΣΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ

preventive or repressive measures in order to safeguard it. That obligation means also that the State must, in case there is no relevant law or there are statutes that are not consistent with Article 24 of the Constitution, enforce directly the Constitutional provisions.

This also agrees with the case-law of the Council of State (3146/1986) where it states that, «immediate obligation is created by the above Constitutional command for the Administration... to take into account also views about protection together with all the factors that make up the national interest». But at the same time, the protection of the personal interest is not ignored, since the claim for compensation of the owner of the real estate property on which restrictions have been imposed, can be based exclusively and directly on paragraph 6 of Article 24.

The constituent legislator does not speak directly about a right on the environment¹⁴. But Article 24 is contained in the Constitution in the chapter on individual and social rights. At the same time, the protection of the environments contains all the elements of the right¹⁵, since it constitutes a demand for a satisfaction that comes from the very nature of man and from his social existence. Therefore, the right for protection of the environment, constitutes a constitutional command, that is, a provision of increased formal strength which binds all three constitutional functions, and it cannot be abolished with a simple law or administrative action¹⁶. So the relation

^{14.} See Gl. Sioutis, Constitutional safeguard for Protection of the Environment, page 37 and the bibliography in it.

^{15.} For the meaning of the right, see: D. Kyriazis-Gouvelis, On Rights 1979, page 50 and the bibliography in it. Also A. Raikos, Lectures on Constitutional Law, Vol. B, Issue A, 1983, page 11. 16. See A. Manessis, Personal Liberties, page 9. Also, A. Raikou op. cit., page 12.

between the State and the citizens, as regards the environment moves, from a legal point of view within the framework posed by Article 24 of the Constitution.

Meaning and Purpose of Protecting Private Property

Ownership¹⁷ of private property constitutes one of the basic institutions of any society. That institution aims at satisfying the needs of man-citizen and, consequently, it enters also into the way of functioning of other rights.

So ownership of property is a complicated relationship of people amongst themselves and of people in regard to things. It is a relationship that has an immediate effect on all the social formations of the State¹⁸.

A steady semantic element of land ownership is its social nature: That's why, as any social institution is renewed, completed and adapted in the social and economic reality of each period and it is exercised within a framework of restrictions, the extent of whichhowever, varies significantly. In a contrary case, the personal accumulation of goods without restriction, can be also a tyrannical means of oppressing other citizens, as well as weakening their rights. Modern legal opinion thinks that land ownership should be in step with social benefit: Therefore, it cannot be inalienable, sacred and inviolate, but on the contrary, it can be limited through the legislative way to the benefit of the social interest, on condition of course, that in this manner, it does not disappear nor does it become inactive.

The provision of Article 17 of the Constitution, consolidates land ownership as a right¹⁹. But for the fist time, the Greek Constitution states that the «rights resulting form it, are not allowed to be exercised at the expense of the general interest» (paragraph 1). The same Article, in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7, allows expropriation for the public benefit, for public utility works, or works of more general importance. for the Economy of the Country. Article 18 refers also to special restrictions to land ownership and paragraph 5 provides that, according to Law, any other privation of use and exploitation of a private property required by special circumstances, can be made.

Since ownership of property, as well as economic freedom constitute the basis factors that can harm and do harm the environment in various ways, the constituent legislator saw to it to place certain barriers there too. Thus, in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Article 24, he limits ownership of property; those provisions concern mainly the protection of housing areas. The ownership problem of forests and forested areas with complicated forms of ownership and joint ownership, the claim of occupation between the State and

^{17.} See D. Kyriazis-Gouvelis, op. cit., page 139, P. Dagtoglou, Constitutional Law, Individual Rights, vol, B, page 886, P. Pararas, The Consitution of 1975 - Corpus, Vol. 1, page 235, also G. Kassimatis, The Constitutional Limits of Land ownership, 1972.

^{18.} This right is proclaimed as a constitutional institution for the first time in the texts of the French Declaration, the Constitution of the United States of America and in the first French Constitutions. It is also safeguarded in International Texts such as the universal Declaration of the human Rights (Articl 17), in the first Protocol of the European Treaty on the human Rights (Article 9 of the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Liberties of the European Parliament.

^{19.} See Minutes of the discussions in the Plenary Session of the Fifth Revisionary Assembly, page 537.

third parties, has been a curling factor in the development of them, while at the same time, it encouraged the speculation of land, the illegal change use of it and take out of forested areas, particularly in areas around cities and coasts. The unplanned speculative housing development, and the ownership chaos, have caused clashes between forestry officials and citizens. That's why restrictions on ownership of landed property are also placed in Article 117, paragraphs 3 and 4, where it is mentioned that «Public or private forests or forested areas destroyed by fire or stripped in a different way, do not lose their forest character, are declared obligatorily reforested, and they are excluded from being used for other purposes. The compulsory expropriation of forests belonging to natural persons or public entities of private or public law, is allowed only in favor of the State, for reasons of the public benefit, but keeping unchanged the form of them as forested areas. It is self understood that restrictions on ownership of land are dictated by the reality of social co-existence of all the rights protected by the Constitutional order in force²⁰.

Case-Law of the Council of State

The case-law of the Council of State plays an important role particularly in the protection of the environment²¹. The Council of State has ruled (510/1977) that, from the provisions of paragraph 1 and 6 of Article 24 of the Constituțion, perfect rules of law arise, binding the State organs. In fact, in case of absence of a relevant legislative arrangement, the Administration must weigh up and evaluate all factors contained in the Constitutional provisions and make up the public interest²² (Council of State ruling 55/93). And the environment constitutes a public interest in the most absolute and universal meaning of the term.

On the basis of these grounds, we have may decisions since 1975 up to now, restricting the ownership of land. Those decisions concern the natural environment (forests, forested areas, etc.), the housing environment (land planning restructuring, city planning development, etc.) and cultural environment (antiquities, traditional settlements, etc.).

According to the fixed case-law of the Council of State 695/86, 1029/85, 2040/77, 1424-1426/90 etc., the Constitutional safeguarding and protection of land ownership does not rule out to impose restrictions by Law on the content and extent of the right of land ownership, even if those restrictions are more unfavorable for the owners than those which were in force before, are enacted according to objective criteria for the sake of the public interest, and they do not destroy or make inactive land ownership, in relation to its mission.

In accordance with ruling 4220/80 by the Council of State, ownership is restricted for

^{20.} See G. Kassimatis, The Constitutional Meaning of Private Property and Broadening of it, EDP 1974, pages 214-219. P. Dagtoglou, General Administrative Law, 1984, pages 331-335.

^{21.} See Th. Panagopoulos, Law for the Protection of the Environment, 1882, page 113 following. Also B. Rotis, Openings in Case-Law for the protection of the Environment, 1984.

^{22.} See J. Ricero, Droit administratif, 7th edition, 1975, page 10, according to which, the public interest is not the interest of the community considered as one separate unity of those who form it, but is the total of human needs.

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reasons of a more general interest, as is the conservation, development and protection of forests. Giving permits to parcel out a forest, is allowable only when that serves the timber exploitation of the forest. Whereas, giving permits to parcel out the forest with the aim of making building plots, is unconstitutional, because it is contrary to Article 24, paragr. 1 and Article 117, paragr. 3, 4 of the Constitution. According to ruling 1827/79, it is allowed to concede pine forests to resin farmers on condition to presume the forest without which it would be impossible to have timber and resin farming. Declaring a private forested area as reforested area, constitutes a restriction on land ownership which, in view of the public purpose to which it aims, it is permissible according to the Constitution, which cares about protecting and developing the forest wealth of the Country. (Rulings of Council of State, 3186/82, 3620/87 and 377/88).

The imposition of stricter terms and restrictions on building in areas of absolute protection of nature which has been characterized as Zone of Housing Control, as are the places of residence of the sea turtle Caretta-Caretta, a species of fauna under strict protection which is threatened from extinction, constitute a legitimate restriction of land ownership. In an older ruling, 695/86 and later in rulings 1821/95 and 4950/95 given by the plenary session of the Council of State, it rejected relevant applications, basing its rulings on Article 24 of the Constitution, on the International Treaty of Bern for the preservation of wild life and the natural environment in Europe, ratified by Law 1335/83 and on the Law 1650/86.

The Council of State (1536/93) has rejected an appeal concerning the construction of a water tank in a coastal area which is located in a Zone of Housing Control where they are in force between additional building restrictions and prohibition of erecting buildings at a distance shorter than 100 metres from the seashore. The grounds are based on Article 1, paragr. 3, Section V of Law 1650/86, where, among the special purposes, also the protection of the seas is mentioned, as natural resources, as elements of the ecosystem and as elements of the landscape.

The Council of State decided also (3682/86) that fencings hindering access to the sea, must be pulled down. This restriction of land ownership stems from the very nature of the right on the environment as a social factor, which environment should be enjoyed by everyone indiscriminately.

Within the framework of the land planning restructuring of the Country, which, according its paragr. 2 of Article 24 of the Constitution comes under the regulatory and control of the State, the legislator has drawn up the General Building Regulation (G.B.R.). The legalization of arbitrary structures is contrary to Article 24, paragr. 2 of the Constitution (Ruling 1879/80 by the plenary session of the Council of State). That's why, the provision of Article 1, paragr. 1 of Law 720/77 that exempts from pulling down any arditary structure (Council of State, 3732, 3836 and 4348/80), has been declared unconstitutional.

The Council of State considered as legal the imposition of unfavorable building terms with the aim of saving the landscape and having a correct city planning development in certain areas (State Council 2034/78, 1907/80, 3468/89) so that the arrangement being introduced would improve the living conditions of the inhabitants and so that the existing natural and housing environments would not be downgraded.

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According to Law 1337/83 «expansion of city planning drawings, housing development and a relevant arrangement», an obligation was enacted by implementing the provisions of Article 24, paragraphs 3-5 of the Constitution for real estate owners who are placed in a city planning drawing on the basis of this Law, that they should make a contribution in land and a contribution in money (Articles 8-9). In a recent ruling, the Council of State (No. 1048/96) decided, «that taking away part of private property as provided for by the provisions of Law 1337/83 without giving back something in exchange, is not contrary to the protection of the right to land ownership (Article 17 of the Constitution), as long as those provisions of the Law are based on the special arrangements of Article 24 of the Constitution, but the parts taken away from the property, constitute the land contribution provided by the Law and they are exploitable according to the judgement of the Administration... for city planning purposes».

For the protection of the cultural environment, the Constitution (Article 24, paragr. 6), establishes an increased protection of monuments and of all those elements coming from human activities and make up the historic, artistic and generally, the cultural heritage of the Country. The restrictions included in Article 24 of the Constitution can have, in principle, a broader content that the general restrictions of land ownership contained in Article 17 of the Constitution, create an obligation for compensation of the harmed land owner according to paragr. 6 of Article 24 of the Constitution when they bind essentially the private property for the sake of protecting the cultural environment. For this reason, the Constitution authorizes the legislator with these provisions to take the necessary restrictive measures in order to materialize the constitutional article; the relevant Law should specify the manner and kind of compensation which can, however, be (State Council ruling 3610/87), different than the arrangement of Article 17 of the Constitution, but even if there is no relevant legislative arrangement, an obligation is created directly by the Constitution for the Administration to ensure protection of the monument and at the same time to compensate the affected owner (Council of State rulings 4618/86, 26668/87, and 1212/96).

For the protection of preservable buildings, the plenary session of the State Council considered that it is possible to impose restrictions on private property, but those restrictions must not affect unfavorably its minimum permissible limit; in such a case, an obligation is created for the compensation of the owners, as determined by the Courts.

Some Concluding Thoughts

The constituent legislator of Greek Constitution of 1975-1986, wanted to strengthen and shield the protection of the environment. That effect made an impression on the Legislature and the Administration, but chiefly on the case-law of the Council of State.

Indeed, studying the rulings of the Council of State in that field, we can ascertain that balancing the public interest that fights against the private interest, is not carried out at the expense of the environment. The judge, following the method of weighing up the interests in the cases where Articles 24 and 17 of the Constitution conflict with each other, chooses the most prevailing one; and that is almost always the former. The message is clear and optimistic for the environment.

ΤΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΑ ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑΤΑ ΘΕΜΑ ΕΠΙΤΥΧΟΥΣ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟΥ ΤΗΣ AEGEE

Με ιδιαίτερη επιτυχία ολοκληρώθηκαν τον Νοἑμβριο τρέχοντος έτους στην Αθήνα οι εργασίες του Συνεδρίου της ASSOCIATION DES ETATS GENERAUX DES ETUDIANTS DE L'EUROPE με θέμα «Europe and EURO (EYPΩ)... Unification vs. marginalisation».

Μεταξύ των ενδιαφερουσών Εισηγήσεων σημειώνονται εκείνες των Ευρωβουλευτών κ. Π. ΛΑΜΠΡΙΑ (ONE: ιστορία, ανάλυση, γενικά χαφακτηφιστικά) και κ. Μ. ΠΑΠΑΓΙΑΝ-ΝΑΚΗ. (Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση μετά την Διακυβερνητική Διάσκεψη), του κ. Β. ΣΦΥΡΟΕΡΑ (Οι προκλήσεις της Ε.Ε. τον 21ο αιώνα), των Καθηγητών κ. Κωνστ. ΓΕ. ΑΘΑΝΑΣΟ-ΠΟΥΛΟΥ. (Οι Περιφερειακές και Τοπικές Δομές των Χωρών Μελών της Ε.Ε.: προβλήματα και προοπτικές), κ. Π. ΚΑΖΑΚΟΥ (Κίνδυνοι περιθωριοποίησης Χωρών της Ε.Ε. στα πλαίσια της ΟΝΕ), κ. Α. ΣΑΡΡΗ (Προβλήματα των μκρών Χωρών κατά την ΟΝΕ), της Δρος Β. ΔΕΛΗΘΕΟΥ (Οι ξένες επενδύσεις στις Χώρες Μέλη της Ε.Ε. μετά την ΟΝΕ), του Δρος Ν. ΓΙΑΝΝΗ (Δημοκρατικό έλλειμα και ΟΝΕ) κ.ά..

Στις επί μέφους Συνεδριάσεις προήδρευσαν οι Δημοσιογράφοι (κατά σειρά) κ. Α. ΠΑ-ΠΑΝΔΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, κ. Ινώ ΑΦΕΝΤΟΥΛΗ, κ. Νάσια ΜΙΧΑΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ, κ. Γιάννης ΜΑΡΙΝΟΣ και κ. Γιάννης ΛΟΒΕΡΔΟΣ.

Την ευθύνη οργάνωσης του Συνεδρίου είχαν ο Πρόεδρος της AEGEE Αθηνών κ. ΣΤ. ΜΥΣΤΑΚΙΔΗΣ και η κ. Κατερίνα ΒΕΡΓΗ.

Υπενθυμίζεται, ότι η ASSOCIATION DES ETATS GENERAUX DES ETUDIANTS DE L'EUROPE (AEGEE) έχει ιδουθεί το έτος 1985 στο Παοίσι ως μη κεοδοσκοπική ένωση Φοιτητών, πολιτικώς ανεξάοτητη και τα Μέλη της σε περισσότερες των 40 χωρών ανέρχονται ήδη σε 20.000.

Η AEGEE στοχεύει στην προώθηση της Ευρωπαϊκής Ιδέας μέσω της ανάπτυξης του ευρωπαϊκού πνεύματος, της αύξησης της κινητικότητας και της δημιουργίας διαπροσωπικών σχέσεων και φιλίας μεταξύ των φοιτητών κ.ά..

Οι στόχοι αυτοί επιδιώκονται με ποικίλες δραστηριότητες της AEGEE σε πανευρωπαϊκό και τοπικό επίπεδο, όπως συνέδρια, σεμινάρια, προγράμματα πολιτιστικών ανταλλαγών, επισκέψεις μελέτης (Case Study Trips) σε Χώρες όπου σημειώθηκαν προσφάτως ισχυρές κοινωνικές μεταβολές, - πρώην Γιουγκοσλαβία, Ουκρανία, κ.ά., - Προγράμματα Κατάρτισης, Θερινά Πανεπιστήμια (Summer Universities) κ.λ.. Α.

Καθηγητής ΣΠ. ΚΑΛΟΓΕΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ - ΣΤΡΑΤΗΣ (1905 - 1997)

Πλήρης ημερών (92 ετών) απεβίωσε εν Αθήναις ο Καθηγητής ΣΠ. ΚΑΛΟΓΕΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ - ΣΤΡΑΤΗΣ, Ομότιμος Καθηγητής Ελληνικών Πανεπιστημίων και Καθηγητής επί Τιμή του Πανεπιστημίου Γκρενόμπλ.

Ο εκλιπών λαμπρός Επιστήμων είχε γεννηθεί το έτος 1905 μ.Χ. στην Κέρχυρα. Σπούδασε Νομικά και Πολιτικές Επιστήμες στο Πανεπιστήμιο Παρισίων, στην Σχολή Πολιτικών Επιστημών Παρισίων και στην Ακαδημία Διεθνούς Δικαίου Χάγης. Εξεπόνησε την Διδακτορική του Διατριβή στην Νομική Σχολή Πανεπιστημίου Παρισίων. Σταδιοδρομία: 1933 Υφηγητής Διεθνούς Δικαίου της ΑΣΟΕΕ. 1938 Έκτακτος Καθηγητής της ίδιας Έδρας. 1942 Τακτικός Καθηγητής. 1942 Έκτακτος Καθηγητής της Διπλωματικής Ιστορίας και του Διεθνούς Δικαίου στην Πάντειο ΑΣΠΕ. 1943 Τακτικός Καθηγητής της ίδιας Έδρας. Διετέλεσε δύο φορές πρύτανης της ΑΣΟΕΕ (μετέπειτα Οικονομικό Παν. Αθηνών) και της Παντείου ΑΣΠΕ (μετέπειτα Πάντειον Πανεπιστήμιο). Εντεταλμένος Καθηγητής του Ινστιτούτου Αν. Διεθνών Σπουδών του Πανεπιστημίου Στρασβούργου. Ομότιμος καθηγητής της ΑΒΣΠ (μετέπειτα Πανεπιστήμιο Πειραιώς).

Δίδαξε στις Σχολές Εθνικής Αμύνης. Λιμενικών Δοκίμων και Χωροφυλακής. Διετέλεσε νομικός σύμβουλος της Ελληνικής Αντιπροσωπείας στη Γενική Συνέλευση του ΟΗΕ (1956). Πρώτος Γενικός Γραμματέας της Εταιρίας Διεθνών Μελετών και του Mouvement Europeen, Πρόεδρος του Ελληνικού Συνδέσμου του ΟΗΕ, Μέλος του Δ.Σ. του Κέντρου Έρευνας Πεοιφερειαχής Ανάπτυξης «Ιερώνυμος Πίντος» κ.ά. Βιβλία: Δημόσιον διεθνές δίκαιον, 1946. Το δικαίωμα της προσφυγής εις τον πόλεμον, Jus ad bellum, 1950. Le droit des peuples à disposer d'eux mêmes, 1956. La Gréce et l' ONU, 1957. Γενικόν δημόσιον δίκαιον. 1963. Διπλωματική ιστορία. Ιδιωτικόν διεθνές δίκαιον. «Ευρώπη, EOK, Ελλάς», 1981 κ.ά..