

Laudation

on the occasion of bestowing the
JUSTITIA REGNORUM FUNDAMENTUM AWARD
on

PROFESSOR GYULA BÁNDI,

Head of Department at Pázmány Péter Catholic University



There are those who are well-known in scientific or economic circles, those who are revered among practicing lawyers, those who help civil organisations and those who try and influence politics through domestic and international legislation. There are but a few who do all of the above simultaneously – Gyula Bándi is one of those few. He has gained distinction in making environmental law generally acceptable. He has worked out the theoretical and practical foundations and the frameworks of teaching environmental law in higher educational institutions,

contributed to its institutionalisation and he has been, as a programme coordinator, supervising its teaching in various universities ever since.

Thousands of students have learned about the basic principles and rules of environmental protection from the “Environmental Law” textbook by Gyula Bándi in recent years. It is safe to say that his former students are the ones who argue with each other supporting, criticising or developing the ideas of Gyula Bándi while formulating and implementing environmental law.

Gyula Bándi is one of those authorities in law who have made a direct impact on having a constitutional right accepted and protecting it. He was a member of the small international group of experts drafting the first version of the Aarhus Convention, a UN convention laying the foundation for protecting civil rights in the field of environmental protection. This convention ensures that society may voice its opinion in environmental matters, prompting the powers that be to pay appropriate attention. The Aarhus Convention will not let public opinion be ignored without even being voiced.

The protection of the complex systems of the environment, providing the conditions for human life, requires the cooperation of the representatives of various fields. This realisation is one of the pillars of Gyula Bándi’s theoretical works. He has been promoting the implementation of this theoretical approach in practice in various ways:

- For several years, he was the editor, contributing author or co-author of a series of environmental publications containing works summarising scientific and practical knowledge. The volumes in the series convey, in a generally comprehensible form, the scientific and practical results of various fields of environmental protection. That is the reason why these volumes on environmental management, waste management, the EU’s environmental regulations, environmental impact assessment, environmental protection on the local self-

governments' level, the practices of the Constitutional Court and the judiciary, just to name a few, have become useful manuals for many.

- In 2005 he re-launched the scientific monthly "Iustum Aequum Salutare" of the Faculty of Law and Political (ÁJK) Science of Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPKE), so to say coordinating the Faculty's diverse scientific activities.

- He launched a graduate program at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) providing the students, beside the legal knowledge, with the basics of economic and natural sciences, too. At the Faculties of Law and Political Sciences of both ELTE and PPKE, student with various professional and vocational background participate together in the training; attorneys, legal counsellors, prosecutors, judges, executives and employees, administrative managers and administrators and many others study together for the examinations.

- As a recognition of his scientific and educational activities, within the frameworks of the European Commission's Jean Monnet Programme, he was awarded the Jean Monnet professorship and the Department of Environmental Law and Competition Law of PPKE ÁJK led by him may bear the title of Jean Monnet Chair of EU Environmental Law and Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. It enabled him to organise an international conference in order to discuss such issues, important from the aspect of the protection of fundamental rights, as the environmental justice in the judicial practice.

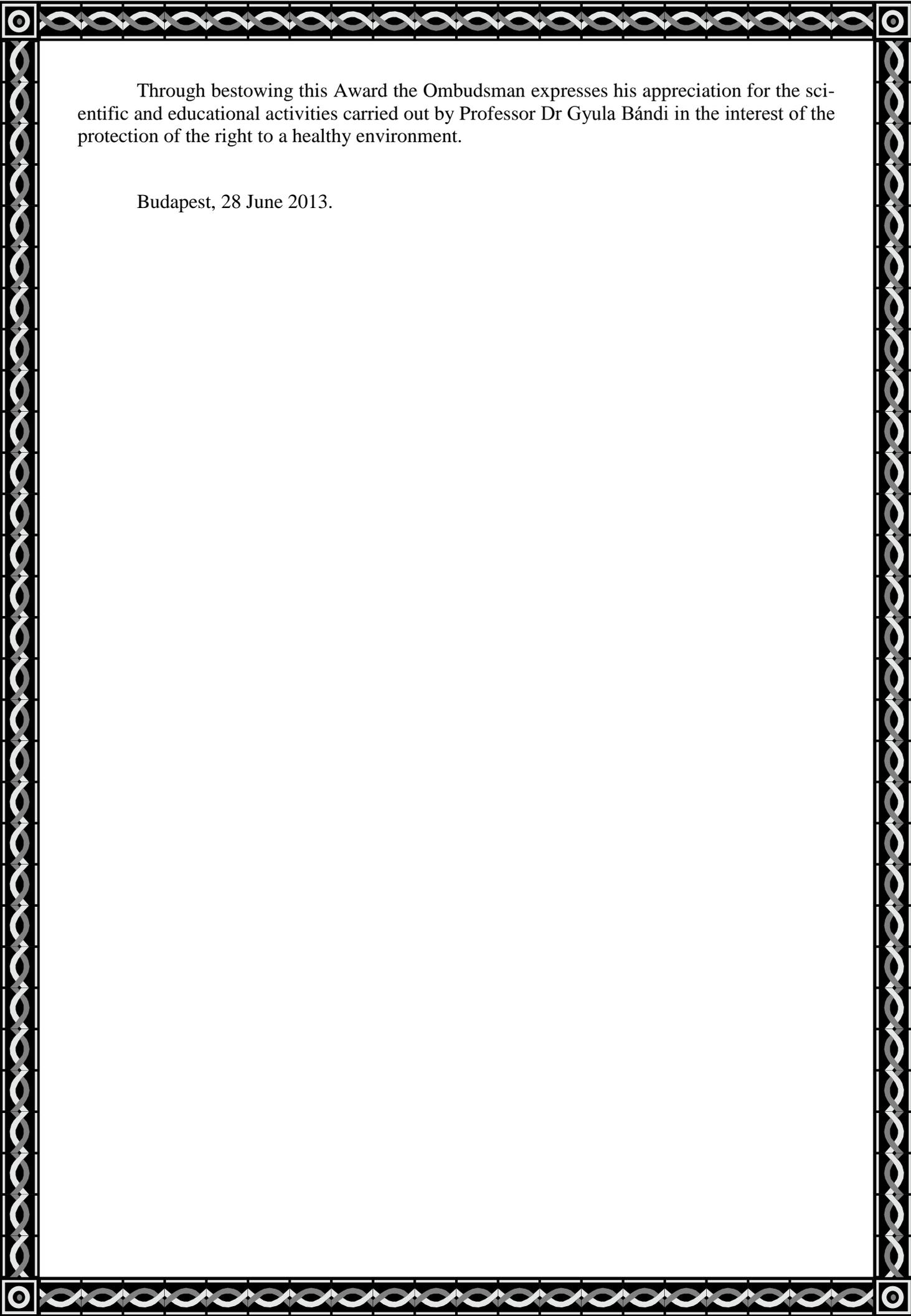
- In addition to his scientific and educational work, he organised the establishment of a civil organisation, the Environmental Management and Law Association, commonly known as EMLA, which invites representatives of various fields to become its members. During the last 20 years, under his leadership, EMLA has become a major NGO, a stronghold of the protection of civil rights for civil organisations, local self-governments and even the organs of central administration.

His contribution to establishing the procedural and substantial guarantees of the protection of the right to a healthy environment is also undisputable. He has actively participated in the preparation of the resolution of legal unity ensuring the presence of civil organisation. Papers written by him or groups of researchers under his supervision constitute the procedural and substantial foundation of several regulations on environmental protection. His name is closely linked to the environmental law of the EU: to the accession to the environmental *acquis communautaire*, its introduction and promotion, to laying the theoretical foundation of the approximation of laws.

With his activities he has directly helped the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights on several occasions, regularly delivering lectures, participating as an author in the Office's publications, offering his knowledge and advice in solving cases and handling problems.

He has participated in creating the appropriate conditions for the protection of the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental right not only in Hungary but in other countries, as well; e.g., the waste management act of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the work of a group of experts under his guidance.

This year the Ombudsman has bestowed the JUSTITIA REGNORUM FUNDAMENTUM AWARD upon the very person who has created the theoretical and educational frameworks for educating highly skilled experts capable to protect the right to a healthy environment, and who has succeeded in uniting expert dealing with the issues of environmental protection regardless of their professional and institutional background.



Through bestowing this Award the Ombudsman expresses his appreciation for the scientific and educational activities carried out by Professor Dr Gyula Bándi in the interest of the protection of the right to a healthy environment.

Budapest, 28 June 2013.