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EDITORIAL FOREWORD

A legal rule is necessarily subject to interpretation since by its nature it is nothing more than a human manifestation prohibiting or prescribing a conduct to which some meaning or significance must be attributed in order to comply with it.

Therefore, there is a fundamental interest in ensuring that citizens' compliance with the law is not hindered by the very laws which are intended to define and prescribe such conduct by reason of them being incomprehensible. The requirement of norm clarity arises in this context.

The present special issue of the scientific journal Magyar Nyelvőr aims at a multifaceted approach to the requirement of norm clarity. The authors invited are theoreticians and practitioners in the field of law and linguistics who are confronted on a daily basis with the disadvantages of imprecise drafting and who strive to enforce the requirements of clarity in their own field of activity in the interests of the rule of law and legal certainty.

Moreover, the unconcealed aim of the special issue is to highlight the fact that the requirement of clarity can only be met by mutual cooperation between lawyers and linguists including the codification process, and this requires the two disciplines to interact and jointly develop the principles that can be the guarantors of clarity in the legislative process.

The only goal, therefore, can be to establish a comprehensible, grammatically correct legal norm that also completely fulfils its function towards which the legislator is undoubtedly taking significant steps since there is already a noticeable trend towards the conscious simplification of legislative texts, the enrichment of the codification process with linguistic expertise and the formulation of principles that help in the interpretation of the specific norm.

However, the requirement of clarity should not only be limited to legislation and statutes, but it should also be applied to the relevance of the law. Consequently, it is a requirement that a judicial or administrative decision as an individual rule must also provide a clear, easily identifiable

and interpretable content for the addressees, otherwise the traceability of the rule will remain a vain hope even with the best intentions. In their studies, the authors examine the current issue from many different perspectives drawing conclusions and formulating proposals. In this way, we have perhaps succeeded in creating a synthesis which, while acknowledging the achievements to date, has the well-intentioned aim of further assisting the work of both legislators and practitioners.

Balázs Arató editor of the special issue “Norm clarity”