"NICOLAE TITULESCU" UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST LAW SCHOOL PhD STUDY PROGRAMME

THESIS RESUME

THE INFRINGEMENT, REVOCATION AND LAWFUL TERMINATION OF PROCEDURAL ACTS IN THE LIGHT OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE PROVISIONS

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1. The theme of research and its scientific importance

The present scientific work, called *The Infringement, revocation and lawful termination of procedural acts in the light of criminal procedure provisions,* presents the elements of innovation, given that it is the only research in criminal procedural matters dealing with these institutions, namely the invalidation, revocation and lawful termination of procedural acts in the light of criminal procedure provisions.

During the two years required to study the topic underlying the thesis, with sustained effort, systematically, I tried to identify as many informational sources as possible to make a significant contribution to the conception and ordering of the ideas underlying this work.

The scientific approach undertaken was to consider the current provisions that does not enjoy real stability, given that within three years of the entry in force of the New Criminal Procedure Code, the Constitutional Court, through its numerous decisions, together with the High Court of Cassation and Justice, through its referral in the interests of the law or decisions to solve legal issues, have stated what interpretations or amendments should be made to the provisions of criminal procedural law.

No less important for this study is the fact that I have tried to make a comparative presentation with the legislation of other states and we are confident that this was not an easy step, especially since the names of the institutions do not always correspond, identifies them from the point of view of the legal nature and the effects they produce on a procedural level.

At the same time, we identified the weaknesses of the institutions subjected to the analysis, formulated proposals of *lege ferenda* and alerted the legislative improvements brought about by the new criminal procedural

coding.

The revocation or lawful termination of preventive measures is not necessarily an unusual theme, but rather an important constant encountered in previous provisions. Inevitably, we had to refer to the general classification in the specialized area, but nevertheless, we attempted to capture, through the elements of judicial practice, the legal issues occurred in the course of the criminal trial, the way in which each judicial institution understands and interprets a certain legal provision.

As it has been easy to observe, an ample space has been devoted to preventive measures that may be available to individuals or legal entities, given that in principle this can be done with the instrument of lawful termination or revocation. However, it should not be neglected that we have identified other circumstances in the course of the investigations in which the legislator understood to refer to these institutions, such as, for example, the revocation of suspension under supervision or the revocation of conditional release, mixed character institution, which are regulated in substantial criminal law, but which have effects and are also regulated in criminal procedural law.

The method of study the subject of our research had made it necessary for us to review both foreign and Romanian authors, human temples of knowledge, who have lent themselves to the investigation of the invalidation, revocation or lawful termination of procedural acts.

As John Milton¹ said, where there is a great thirst for learning, it is natural to have many contradictory discussions, many writing and opinions; for the opinion to the value people, is knowledge in the making, we hope that through this paper we have the desideratum that was envisaged at the

¹ English poet, https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Milton

beginning of this paper, and the view outlined will be useful to those who want to deepen the subject of the research.

2.Key-words: invalidation, revocation, lawful termination, preventive measures, the supervision of the criminal investigation institutions, prosecutor, proceedings, procedural acts.

3. The purpose and objectives of research

Despite the major interest in the specialized area of study and in the practice of the judicial institutions in the field of preventive measures, as these were the main subject of our research, the issue of their invalidation, revocation and lawful termination was not so much debated, to give us a complete insight into the institutions examined in this study.

The analysis of the three institutions considered their presentation from the perspective of the oldest provisions and their evolution to the form that the invalidation, revocation and lawful termination acquired under the aegis of the current codification, while combining the theoretical and practical elements.

Also, as it is the subject of the current interest of all practitioners, we considered it appropriate to look at the institutions also from the perspective of international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and also of the Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms.

We have thus tried to ensure that the present research covers all the necessary levels of knowledge of the invalidation, revocation and lawful termination of procedural acts, yet without appreciating our work as exhaustive, but merely a gate inviting the academic environment to a broad

analysis of the aforementioned institutions.

4. Methodology of research

In relation to the objectives proposed at the debut of this scientific project, we considered the use of several research and documentary methods, the historical-teleological analysis of institutions, the comparative method and the predictive analysis method.

Considering the extent of the information needed to conceive a PhD thesis, the main method used was the documentary analysis, with the help of which I managed to collect information both from Romanian and foreign doctrine, legislation and judicial practice.

The logical method has been used to interpret the evidential legal provisions that are regulated in matters of invalidation, revocation and lawful termination.

Regarding the historical-teleological method, I gave it a special importance, given that within each section dedicated to the three institutions subjected I reviewed the provisions in the Criminal Procedure Codes of 1864, 1936, 1969 and 2014.

The comparative method was used in the present research in the sections dedicated to the comparative criminal procedural law, when we analyzed the institutions of invalidation, revocation and lawful termination from the perspective of foreign legislation.

Last but not least, the method of predictive analysis was used at the time when it were identified legislative inconsistencies, a sense in which I dared to formulate some *lege ferenda* proposals designed to improve the current legal framework.

5. Exposing the content of the research

The realities of legal life between 1969 and 2014, in which the Criminal Procedure Code in 1969 was in force, revealed the lack of timeliness of the criminal proceedings, the excessive charged of the prosecutor's offices and courts, the excessive length of proceedings, the unjustified delay of the causes, the failure to settle the causes for procedural reasons and important human costs, which generated the distrust of the people in the efficiency of the act of criminal justice.

Among these shortcomings, aspects of the protective custody, length of proceedings, jurisdiction and probation in criminal matters have been the subject of several cases before the European Court of Human Rights. That way, it became obvious the necessity to eliminate the deficiencies that led to the violations of the Convention by the Romanian state through the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights..²

Therefore, urgent legislative intervention was required in order to give effect to the desires envisaged by the initiators of the new codes, namely to speed up the length of criminal proceedings, to simplify them and to create uniform case-law, in line with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The current amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code appear to be in the spirit of the new trends in international criminal policy, preparing the legal and criminal conditions for the future unification of criminal law at European level.

 $^{^2 \} See \ Explanatory \ memorandum \ of the \ draft \ of the \ Law \ regarding \ the \ Criminal \ Procedure \ Code, \ www.just.ro;$

The research aims to analyze the institutions of invalidation, revocation and lawful termination from the perspective of a parallel between the old provisions and the new provisions, in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as in the light of the criticism of the Constitutional Court in the matter under analysis. We consider that the work is of particular importance also because of the fact that the institutions analyzed in this paper largely affect the preventive measures aimed at restricting or even depriving of the rights conferred on citizens and which are in conflict with the letter and the spirit of the criminal law, this triggering the criminal procedural mechanism by which these preventive measures can be ordered and also the way in which they can be revoked or by which the lawful termination can be established.

Although we are more than three years after the new codes came into force, following the analysis of the doctrine and the judicial practice, we found that there are many legal issues related to the institutions subjected, issues that will be mentioned in this research.

By analyzing the criminal procedural provision, we find that the invalidation, revocation and lawful termination are not institutions that we can find in one matter, but bending over the entire Criminal Procedure Code, we find that we will identify them in several circumstances. Therefore, in this chapter entitled General Provisions we will confine ourselves to reviewing the most common provisions in which we encounter these procedural remedies and then to analyze each particular case encountered in the criminal procedural provisions.

At first glance, the institution of invalidation is most often encountered in the first phase of the criminal trial, that of the criminal prosecution where the acts of the criminal investigating institutions or of the prosecutor are subject to control of the hierarchically superior institution, which can be denied to the extent are executed in disregard of the legal provisions.

As far as the invalidation is concerned, we find that the legislator provided the addressee of the law with an express provision of the institution under art. 304 Criminal Procedure Code, marginally called invalidation of proceedings or procedural acts, where it is stated that the prosecutor whenever he finds that an act or a measure of the criminal investigation institutions is not disposed in compliance with the legal provisions or in unfounded, he will refuse to motivate either *ex officio* or at the plaintiff's complaint. At the same time, the same provisions apply to the existing hierarchical subordination relationships between a prosecutor and the hierarchically superior prosecutor.

Regarding the sanction of the revocation, we most often find provisions in the field of preventive measures, art. 242 Criminal Procedure Code being marginally called revoking the preventive measures and replacing a preventive measure with another measure. As we all know, in the course of criminal trial, the legislator has provided a palette within which we find regulated five preventive measures that can be taken against the individual, but we must not omit the preventive measures that can be taken against the legal entity, which is practically rarely encountered.

We observe that the constituent legislator also allocated a provision for revocation, thus, within the framework of art. 23 par. 9 of the revised Romanian Constitution in 2003 stipulates that the release of the arrested or detained person is mandatory if the reasons justifying the taking of such measure disappear, as well as in other situations stipulated by the law.

These measures may be ordered according to the specific nature of each case by the judicial institutions in order to ensure the proper conduct of the criminal proceeding, to prevent the defendant from being prosecuted or to prevent the commission of another offense. Although the legislator has explicitly provided for the conditions for taking, extending or maintaining preventive measures, the need for a case-law has led him to regulate institutions by which the judicial bodies *ex-officio* or upon request intervenes directly on them, namely lawful termination, revocation and replacement of preventive measures.

In order to intervene with the sanction of revocation, it is necessary to take a preventive measure from the criminal investigation body, the prosecutor, the judge of rights and freedoms, the judge of preliminary rulings or the court of law, *ab initio* against a suspect or defendant. Depending on the judicial institution which took the preventive measure, the lawfulness of its taking, extending or maintaining it will in principle be assessed by another institution which will examine, on the one hand, the persistence or not of the factual and legal grounds and, on the other hand, the existence of new grounds or circumstances.

While the lawful termination of preventive measures is a legal impediment to their maintenance, the revocation of preventive measures is a procedural act the opportunity of which judges the judiciary. Analyzing the above-mentioned legal provision, we notice that the revocation of the preventive measures finds its applicability if the grounds for the measure have ceased or new circumstances arise from which the measure is unlawful. As a guarantee that individual freedom is protected, the legislator provides in art. 9 par.4 Criminal Procedure Code, whereas, when a measure of deprivation or restriction of liberty is found to have been unlawfully imposed, the competent judicial institution have the obligation to

order the revocation of the measure and, where appropriate, the release of the detainee or arrested person.

The exceptional nature of the preventive measures taken in the criminal proceeding, the necessity to strictly observe the principle of legality in taking, maintaining or prolonging preventive measures have led the legislator to regulate as an obligation on the judicial institutions the verification, on request or *ex officio*, or how many times they are called upon to rule on previously ordered preventive measures if they continue to be founded in law and in fact if the conditions laid down by law are met for them to be established or maintained. The legislator has carefully regulated the way in which the judicial institutions can operate with the instrument of revocation or the possibility of the suspect or the defendant to file requests for the removal of the existing preventive measure, but the rules for execution of this procedure will be set out in detail in the chapters dedicated to these institutions.

The lawful termination of preventive measures is taken when the legal term has expired or has been set by the judiciary or when there is a legal obstacle to its maintenance. Although the legislator has foreseen the cases in which the lawful termination of preventive measures will intervene, it has nevertheless regulated a mechanism for establishing this legal issue. As a result, the judicial body has the obligation to find the cessation of right when it observes that any of the cases provided under art. 241 Criminal .Procedure. Code, having the obligation to order the release of the detainee immediately, arrested at home, placed into custody or to cease the measure of judicial or bailiff control.

The judicial institutions who have ordered the measure, namely the prosecutor, the judge of rights and freedoms, the judge of the preliminary

chamber or the court in front of which the case is located, are the holders of the pronouncement as a prevented measure. The judicial institutions shall issue an ordinance to the prosecutor or the sentence/command/decision in the case of the judge, *ex officio*, upon request or at the request of the administration of the place of detention.

Concerning the structure of the paper, in Chapter we analyzed the general considerations regarding the institutions of the invalidation, revocation and lawful termination. Given the multitude of elements required to be exposed, I thought it appropriate to dedicate to each institution a distinct chapter. Thus, Chapter II, III and IV deals with the single analysis of the invalidation, revocation and lawful termination, in which we presented their historical course, the vision of the current regulation, elements of judicial practice and, last but not least, the institution from the perspective of judicial cooperation and European and international legal instruments. At the same time, a distinct chapter took into consideration comparative law elements, in which we analyzed, for example, the Criminal Procedure Code in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Serbia, France, Kosovo etc. Chapter V is intended for the conclusions in which I inserted the vision of the editor of this research and the thesis is completed with the bibliography.

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