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**Abstract:**

The Congress of lawyers of the Slavic states took place in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia from 8 to 10 September 1933. It brought together 1567 people (participants and special guests), primarily representatives of jurisprudence and legal practitioners from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland, whereas there were no lawyers from the USSR. The main purpose of the Congress was to establish personal connections and to manifest the willingness to cooperate. Ten sections focused on substantial issues, investigating fifteen major questions. The discussion was held in the participants’ languages as well as in French.

During the sessions in the sections the following questions were discussed and then summed up in final conclusions (resolutions): “Unification of the law of obligations in the Slavic states”; “Unification of marital law in the Slavic states”; “Steamboats as an object of mortgage”; “Unification of law on bills of exchange in the Slavic states”; „Unification of execution, bankruptcy and arrangement procedure provisions in the Slavic states”; “Responsibility for crimes committed pursuant to an order of a superior”; “Necessity and scope of criminal law unification in the Slavic states”, “Should the participation of citizens in criminal trials (as jurors or non-professional associate judges) be recommended?”; “The common principles of acquiring the citizenship and the municipality affiliation in the Slavic states”; “Administrative courts”; “The economic cooperation between the Slavic states”; „The common basis of the history of Slavic laws”; “Unification of international private law in the Slavic states”; “The relationship between church and government in the Slavic states”; “To what extent should the limitation of property right be recommended?”.

The author discusses the ideological and political background of the 1933 Congress and makes comments as to why the idea to organize the next congress was not successful; introduces the figure of Cyril Bařinka, a Czech attorney working in Bratislava, who was the

*spiritus movens* of the Congress and its General Secretary; depicts the preparation and the course of the Congress; provides a general overview of the topics discussed at the Congress and its final conclusions.