**Marking November 1st - the Day of the National Leaders**

**and the 440th Anniversary of the Birth of Hugo Grotius**

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**The Law Faculty at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski prepared this**

**INVITATION LETTER for a Scientific Colloquium**

***Europe and the Law of Peace and War***

Since ancient times until today, Europe has been the arena of events and relations between states, which with varying intensity, periodicity and territorial scope move between the two opposite poles – of peace and war. Although war seems to be inevitable sometimes, although there are wars that last 100 years or only a few days, peace still prevails.

The year 2023 marks the 440th anniversary of the birth of the Father of International Law, the founder of the school of natural law, the notable jurist, philosopher, theologian, Christian apologist and poet Hugo Grotius. And now again, in the year 2023, almost four and a half centuries later, his concept of universality of *societas humana* is threatened by a number of military conflicts in different parts of the world. The peaceful development of Europe, in particular the Black Sea region, has been seriously questioned for more than a year now by Russia’s military actions in Ukraine and in the search for a solution to the conflict, in which the positions are still defended by Arms. Regardless of the words used and propaganda, it is about war, about violating basic principles of international law, about affecting national sovereignty, about economic devastation, about human tragedies, about an uncertain future that lay ahead.

The work of Hugo Grotius *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*, written in the distant year 1625, can answer many of the questions that concern us now. Conscious historical experience, reasonable political vision and, above all, law should oppose the threats to peace and security that are dangerous to modern civilization.

Looking towards a peaceful perspective, the research team of the Law Faculty at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski has the pleasure to invite you to a scientific colloquium on the topic of ‘Europe and the Law of Peace and War’, which will be held in October 27 and 28, 2023 at the University of Plovdiv. You may register for participation at **forums\_law@uni-plovdiv.bg** not later than October 4, 2023.Please, use the enclosed registration form and include as subject in your mail *Grotius.* We hope that at the colloquium we will talk about war only in the past tense!

**Looking forward to seeing you!**

**Plovdiv, March 2023**

**Organising Committee**

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