



ELI

EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

ELI Updates

May-June 2014

WELCOME FROM PROFESSOR HRVOJE SIKIRIĆ, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

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Dear Members and Friends of the ELI,

As Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, the host institution of the European Law Institute 2014 Projects Conference and General Assembly, I am delighted to have the opportunity to write these opening words. Established in 1776, the Faculty is the oldest and largest Croatian law faculty and one of the most respected institutions in the field of legal education and research in Central and Eastern Europe.

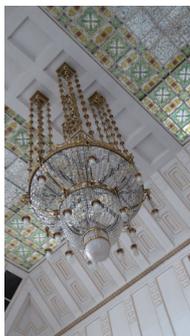
The Faculty joined ELI as an Institutional Observer this month. ELI's unique broad membership reveals regional diversity, diversity of professions and disciplines of law. Indeed, diversity is the essence of ELI, enshrined in its philosophy and may I say *diversity* has become *ELI's trademark*. Representing the diversity of Europe's wider legal community, ELI has, only three years after its formation, developed into what I would describe as a *pan-European hub*.

To be a member of ELI is a privilege which makes me ponder what the Faculty of Law in Zagreb and ELI have in common. My immediate answer is – that we both work on the enhancement of EU law implementation thereby contributing to strengthening the rule of law. The enhancement of EU law implementation is one of ELI's core aims and working on it directly strengthens the rule of law at the European level. I do not need to describe the work of ELI in this regard. Instead, I will emphasise the Faculty's contribution at the national level towards these goals with its unique expertise. First, the Faculty played an important role in the greatest challenge for Croatia in its contemporary history, i.e. Croatian accession to the European Union. Its 45 professors were members of different Croatian Government's teams in a long and arduous negotiation process, alongside their activities in the parallel reforms of the Croatian legal system. Secondly, the EU law has been taught intensively at the Faculty in various courses for more than a decade. This is in line with the Faculty's mission – to contribute to the implementation of law and strengthen the rule of law.

Finally, as Head of the host institution, I invite as many of you as possible to come to Zagreb on 25 and 26 September and participate in the Projects Conference and General Assembly. Looking through the agenda you will see several informative and substantive sessions covering current and future work of ELI. This would be a unique opportunity for all of you to bring together your expertise for the benefit of ELI's work, to propose subject matters and programs and make plans for subsequent ELI activities as well as networking and making contacts. We will use this occasion to set up a Croatian Hub. I would like to express a special thanks to ELI's Secretariat for its contribution to the organisation of the Conference.

I look forward to seeing you in September in Zagreb,

Professor Dr. Hrvoje Sikirić
Dean, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law



Projects Conference and General Assembly

24-26 September 2014

Zagreb

hosted by the Law Faculty of the University of Zagreb



Projects Conference 25 Sept 2014

The following pages contain information about the panel sessions planned for the 2014 Projects Conference.

The Conference should be an interactive event, where the audience contributes to panel sessions with questions and comments.

To this end, we have tried to provide detailed descriptions of the upcoming discussions, and hope that members can take some time to reflect on these

issues prior to the conference. Further materials and documents pertaining to the panel sessions will be sent to all registrants in September, and will of course also be distributed on the day.

Anyone may register for the Conference, so please encourage any colleagues who may not yet be involved in the ELI to attend. Please note that a small fee does apply to non-ELI members, and that the General Assembly is open only to members.

1st Panel session: Collective redress/competition damages claims

Chair: Mark Clough QC, ELI project leader, Specialist EU and Competition Lawyer

The evaluation of the new European legal framework for collective redress and competition damages claims consisting of a Recommendation on collective redress and a recently approved Directive on competition damages claims – has been the core objective of the ELI Project on Collective Redress and Competition Damages Claims in the past few months. At this panel session participants are invited to discuss, together with the panel, some of the complex issues identified as controversial or critical in the ELI Statement drafted on the topic, and propose solutions to potential weaknesses of the new framework. Some critical questions of utmost importance will be asked, such as: *Is there a way to reconcile the compensation basis for all damaged parties with national laws on causation/ passing on so as to comply with the general principles of EU law?*

2nd Panel session: The future of human rights litigation in Europe

Chair: Diana Wallis, ELI President

Since the publication of the ELI Statement on Case Overload at the European Court of Human Rights in July 2012, lively discussions on the future of human rights litigation in Europe have continued. The panel which plans to feature representatives of the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union, national courts and academia, will give a platform to some key players in the field of human rights, and aims to give rise to a new ELI project.

As the European Court of Human Rights authoritatively interprets the Convention it is disputable how much power is to be given to the Member States when applying and implementing the Convention; will the accession of the European Union to the Convention enhance the coherent application of human rights in Europe? What is the role of a supranational court in the complex and sophisticated European legal order? Is the relationship between national and supranational courts truly a strictly hierarchical one? These are just some of the issues which will be deliberated during the session.

3rd Panel session: Exploratory session on future projects and increased involvement of practitioners

Chair: Christiane Wendehorst, ELI Vice-President

The gathering of expertise and ideas from a wide range of legal experts is the very essence of the ELI and the input of practitioners is of particular importance. This panel session invites panelists and audience members to focus on three questions:

- By what methods can the ELI ensure that its activities and information can penetrate the ever increasing load of information with which legal practitioners are confronted, ensuring that they can efficiently follow and contribute to the collective endeavours of the ELI?
- Which current legal issues require attention of the ELI?
- How can the ELI address topics and produce results which are useful to practitioners?

Useful information, links and registration

• events overview

Opening Ceremony • 24 September 2014 <i>All conference participants welcome</i>	Projects Conference • 25 September 2014 <i>ELI Members: free of charge; Non members: 80 EUR advance fee</i>	Conference Dinner • 25 September 2014 <i>All conference participants welcome</i>	MCC meetings and General Assembly • 26 September 2014 <i>ELI Members only</i>	Council Meeting • 26 September 2014 <i>Council Members only</i>
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• registration

To register please [click here](#).

Registration remains open until 17 September.

• agenda

The regularly updated agenda is available [here](#).

• hotels

Special rates available at:

The Westin Zagreb*****

Hotel International****

Panorama Zagreb****

Hotel Jadran***

For more information [click here](#).

• fees

Members **free of charge!**
Non-members: 80 EUR

Please note that **fees must be paid in advance**, no cash payments can be accepted on the day.



MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND PROJECT REPORTERS

From left to right: Gilles Cuniberti, Eva Storskrubb, Neil Andrews, Astrid Stadler, Rolf Stürner, José Angelo Estrella Faria, Remo Caponi, John Sorabji, Anna Veneziano, Fernando Gascón Inchausti, Diana Wallis, Lena Peters (UNIDROIT Secretariat)

ELI-UNIDROIT project: Report from Rome

On 12 and 13 May 2014, the Steering Committee and project reporters convened at UNIDROIT's headquarters in Rome to determine the project's development, its scope, methodology and intended final outcome. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, José Angelo Estrella Faria and the President of the ELI, Diana Wallis.

It was agreed, in principle, that the project's primary focus should, initially, be national court proceedings, however consideration would also be given to arbitration. Work on the three topics, which were selected after the 2013 October workshop in Vienna, namely *Service and Due Notice of Proceedings*, *Provisional and Protective Measures* and *Access to Information and Evidence*, will be conducted within three Working Groups, each consisting of six members. Group members have already been formally appointed and scheduled their first meetings. Point of departure of the work of the Working Groups will be the 2004 ALI/UNIDROIT

Principles of Transnational Civil Procedure. In this process, due consideration will be given to the Rules of Transnational Civil Procedure developed by the Reporters of the ALI/UNIDROIT Project.

The Working Groups will be assisted in their work by expert advisers representing the different legal professions from various European countries and beyond. The advisers are yet to be appointed.

At the meeting two further topics were identified for work during the project's second phase: *Res Judicata* and *Obligations of the Parties and Lawyers*. It was also agreed that an outline strategy regarding the remainder of the project should be prepared for discussion at the Steering Committee's next meeting, which will take place in Rome in November.

In the meantime, the latest information about the project will be presented at the annual ELI Projects Conference in Zagreb.

ReNEUAL Conference on EU Administrative Procedures

On 19 and 20 May 2014, the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly hosted the conference on the Draft Model Rules on EU administrative procedures elaborated by the Research Network on EU Administrative Law (ReNEUAL), which took place at the European Parliament's premises in Brussels. The conference gathered leading experts in the field to present and discuss the ReNEUAL's work.

The cooperation between the European Ombudsman and ReNEUAL began several years ago. The general principles which were developed by the Court of Justice of the EU constitute a crucial element of the ReNEUAL Draft Model Rules, as well as an important basis for the work of the Ombudsman. The ReNEUAL's work served as an inspiration to the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, who last year, under the guidance of the rapporteur Luigi Berlinguer, adopted a report with recommendations to the Commission on a Law of Administrative Procedure of the European Union.

Ms O'Reilly opened the conference, together with the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Miguel Ángel Martínez Martínez, and Christian Linder, representing the Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič, responsible for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration. She welcomed the many eminent guests, amongst them Diana Wallis, the ELI President, Heikki Kanninen, Vice-President of the General Court of the EU, and member of the ELI Advisory Committee for the ELI/ReNEUAL project, and Christiaan Timmermans, ELI Council member.

During the two days meeting, the revised Draft Model Rules on EU administrative procedures, presented in six volumes, were thoroughly debated. It was made clear that the work on these drafts will continue. Diana Wallis chaired one of the sessions, where different aspects of the future of codification of administrative procedures in the EU were considered. Jean-Marc Sauvé, Vice-President of the French Council of State and member of the ELI Senate, stated that there is a clear

dynamic in Europe towards codification of administrative procedural law. Many thought-provoking suggestions were made to improve the drafts. Alex Brenninkmeijer, member of the European Court of Auditors, suggested including an automatic mediation clause in EU public contracts. The European Ombudsman mentioned that the draft model rules could benefit from a 'citizen's summary' targeted at non-experts, based on the positive experience the European Commission made with the use of such summaries.

Christiaan Timmermans gave account of the work and role of the ELI in the ReNEUAL project. He described the project as a first example of a European wide initiative in the field of public law, to some extent comparable in scope and ambition to the codes and general principles of European Private Law. He explained that the added value of the ELI contribution to the ReNEUAL project will be primarily in submitting the ReNEUAL drafts to the critical eyes of the legal practitioners and valorising their comments. In that context, he mentioned the workshop organised in February by the ELI and the European University Institute in Florence, which was attended by judges and practitioners who assessed the draft. In his concluding remarks he stressed that a comparative overview or 'comparative table' of existing more general or sector-specific EU rules on administrative procedures might still be necessary for the following reasons: in order to pay due regard to the specifics of the various sectors of Union administration, to identify the real gaps and finally to assess the need for amendment of existing EU legislation, which the adoption of Model Rules by the EU legislature might entail. He believes that in any event the work on the draft model rules should continue, also because the outcome could serve as *"an inspiration for future legislation both on a national and a European level."*



ReNEUAL conference on EU administrative procedures, © European Union 2014

Austrian Hub Events

As part of the “European Lecture Series” held at the University of Vienna Law Faculty, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland and President of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Court, Professor Carl Baudenbacher delivered lectures at two events organised under the auspices of the ELI Austrian Hub, which were held at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna.

Reflecting the enthusiasm of ELI Members, ELI hubs, apart of the one in Austria, are now active in five countries: France, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia and in the UK. Preparations for the launch of a Croatian Hub in September are well under way. The Secretariat has also been informed that Polish and Spanish Hubs are in the very early stages of organisation. Meanwhile the Executive Committee has continued its work on the Hub Guidelines and submitted them to the Council for final approval. The Hub Guidelines formally define the idea of a hub and outline the procedures for establishing and running such entities.

According to ELI President Diana Wallis, *“The meeting of informal hubs at national level should help inspire debate about on-going ELI projects and provide a forum for discussion amongst existing fellows and other colleagues at a local level about possible future work and projects (...)”*

“Europe after Crimea...”, lecture of Thorbjørn Jagland

On 5 May, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland delivered a lecture entitled *“Europe after Crimea: What Future for the Rule of Law in Europe?”* Making use of a rare opportunity to hear from the leader of Europe’s foremost human rights organisation, a great many students attended the event which soon outgrew the bounds of the venue.

Mr Jagland was able to talk about the current crisis in the Ukraine from a unique position, having just returned from the region where he was involved in successful talks to orchestrate the release of OSCE military observers who have been held hostage in Slovyansk, eastern Ukraine. He highlighted the need to deescalate the current situation, focusing on deeds rather than promises, and underlined that the Council of Europe is there to provide guidance and support in this important but difficult process. Similarly, he shared his hope that the upcoming presidential elections will take place as scheduled and his view that a crucial next-step is the redrafting of the Ukrainian constitution, which should ensure a solid basis for the rule of law and the protection of minorities.



ELI-Vice-President Christiane Wendehorst commented:

“Mr Jagland has reminded us once more of what Europe is primarily about: peace. If we have to accept a degree of bureaucracy together with peace, we may grumble, but it is a deal which should not be refused.”

20 Years of EFTA Court, speech by President Carl Baudenbacher

President of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Court, Professor Carl Baudenbacher, gave a speech at the University of Vienna Law Faculty on 2 June 2014. The talk, open to anyone interested in the topic and regardless of ELI membership, was well attended by students and local legal professionals who listened to President Baudenbacher reflect on “20 Years EFTA Court - The Contribution to the Development of the Law in Europe”.

Inspired by the functioning of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the EFTA Court began its work on 1 January 1994. The Court has jurisdiction over the countries parties to the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement. At the time of its creation, the EEA consisted of future European Member States Austria, Sweden and Finland as well as Iceland and Norway, which were later joined by Liechtenstein.

Proceedings are held in English in front of three Judges, each of them nominated by their originating State for a period of 6 years. The current Judges of the EFTA Court are Páll Hreinsson from Iceland, Per Christiansen from Norway and the President Carl Baudenbacher from Liechtenstein.

ELI Council Member Verica Trstenjak, who knows President Baudenbacher well from her former activities as Advocate General, was present at the event alongside ELI Vice-President Christiane Wendehorst.



From left to right: Christiane Wendehorst, Carl Baudenbacher, Verica Trstenjak

“The collaboration with ELI to enrich the legal knowledge is also useful for the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna. Although the EFTA Court is not one of the EU institutions, it delivers judgments that are very important for the European Union. This was seen in judgments concerning the Icelandic banks in times of the financial crisis.” Verica Trstenjak

“The EFTA Court, together with other European Courts, plays a key role in shaping the law of Europe. ELI is very much looking forward to continuing the dialogue with such eminent institutions, which is essential for the ELI to fulfil its mission.” Christiane Wendehorst

Upcoming Irish Hub Event

ISEL/ELI SEMINAR
Thursday 3 July, 2014 at 6.30pm - European Union House, Dawson

On 3 July, the Irish Society for European Law (ISEL) and the ELI Irish Hub will host a seminar at the European Union House in Dublin. Recent legal developments on Private Enforcement of Competition Law will be discussed. Chaired by the Hon Mr Justice and ELI Council member Paul Gilligan, the event will give the floor to two prominent experts in the field: Mark Clough QC, specialist EU and Competition

lawyer and member of the ELI Council, and Helena Penovski, from DG Competition. Mark Clough is currently leading an ELI project on Collective Redress and Competition Damages Claims.

This event is open to the public and free of charge to ISEL and ELI members. There is a **30 EUR charge** per session for **non-ISEL/ELI members**, payable on arrival. To register, please visit www.isel.ie.

Executive Committee Meeting

An Executive Committee meeting was held in Vienna on 6 June 2014, giving the Committee a chance to resume discussions on several points which were raised at the February Council meeting.

It is clear that the ELI has reached a turning point in its development; the initial years of establishment have passed and the European legal community, as well as the Institute's members are eager to see the direction that the ELI will take in terms of its substantive work and the nature of its Membership. It largely falls to the Executive Committee to devise such an overarching strategy for the coming years, and this was the subject of much attention at the June meeting. It is hoped that some concrete objectives on all aspects of the Institute

but perhaps most crucially the substantive focus of future projects, will be ready for presentation and discussion at the September General Assembly.

The upcoming Projects Conference and General Assembly was also a topic of deliberation, and the Committee was pleased to hear positive reports from the Secretariat regarding the ongoing preparations.

All members of the Committee will attend the events, and hope to schedule a meeting in the immediate aftermath of the GA, in order to reflect on any feedback they have received from the gathered body of members.

Annual Meeting of the American Law Institute

by Sjef van Erp

From May 19 – May 21 the American Law Institute (ALI) held its 91st Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The ELI was represented by Christiane Wendehorst and Sjef van Erp, who are both also members of the ALI. The meeting was marked by the departure of Lance Liebman as director. Prof. Liebman is professor of law at Columbia University and director of its Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law. He was the ALI's director from 1999 and has, as such, had a considerable stimulating influence on several ALI projects. He is succeeded by Richard Revesz, professor of law and dean emeritus at New York University School of Law.

During the annual meeting several Justices of the United States Supreme Court, among whom Chief Justice Roberts, spoke on various topics. The presence of such highly influential Justices shows the enormous importance which the work of the ALI, characterised by a close cooperation between practising lawyers, judges and academics, has for legal practice.

On the agenda were discussions on new restatements: a Restatement of the Law Fourth: The Foreign Relations Law of the United States, Jurisdiction and four Restatements of the Law Third: Torts: Intentional torts to persons, Torts: Liability for economic harm, Employment Law and The Law of American Indians. Also the Model Penal Code was discussed (parts on Sentencing and Sexual Assault and Related Offenses) and the Principles of the Law of Liability Insurance.

Next to the ALI, which was the primary source of inspiration for the establishment of the ELI, also the US National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (now mostly called: Uniform Law Commission) offers an example as to how the ELI could develop itself further. The Uniform Law Commission drafts uniform and model laws (the most well-known being the Uniform Commercial Code), aimed at making the law more uniform on a voluntary state by state basis. The ELI has been invited to present itself during the upcoming Uniform Law Commission's annual meeting and will be represented by Sjef van Erp, member of the Executive Committee and Chair of ELI's International Relations Committee.

ELI at ERA Conference in Trier

The two-day conference organised on 16 and 17 June by the Academy of European Law (ERA) in Trier, Germany, focused on the challenges of cross-border acquisition and ownership of real property abroad. The diverse range of topics included inter alia *EU legislation and its impact on property transactions, the Mortgage Credit Directive, as well as tax on overseas property*. This event was directed to lawyers of various vocational backgrounds and gave valuable insights into the latest developments in this area of law.

President Diana Wallis and Executive Committee member Sjef van Erp both participated in the event as speakers and chairs of sessions, during which lively discussions were held with participants.



Diana Wallis at ERA's conference

© Bram Akkermans

2nd China-Europe Legal Forum

On 26 and 27 June 2014, the 2nd China-Europe Legal Forum, hosted by the Austrian-Chinese Law Society, took place in Vienna. The Forum was founded in 2013 with a view to bringing the European and Chinese legal communities closer together. On the Chinese side, the Forum is powered by the



China Law Society, a nationwide association of some 110,000 eminent judges, practitioners and academics. On the European side, various actors are currently involved, among them the prestigious Société de Législation Comparée.

ELI Treasurer Johan Gernandt, accompanied by colleagues from his Stockholm law firm, and Vice-President Christiane Wendehorst, both of whom have intensive contacts with the People's Republic of China, attended the event. ELI Fellows Orkun Akseli, Yannis Avgerinos, Paola Iamiceli, Ernst Karner, Helmut Koziol, Timothée Paris and Christiane Wendehorst presented papers in the fields of economic law, labour law, tort law and comparative law. Timothée Paris, Secretary General of the Société de Législation Comparée and working closely together with founding Vice-President Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson, stressed in his speech the important role the ELI plays for legal harmonisation in Europe, choosing as examples the ELI's Statement on

the Proposal for a Common European Sales Law and the cooperation with the ReNEUAL group in the field of EU administrative procedure law.

The relevant ELI bodies will have to discuss whether and if so to what extent the ELI can get deeper involved in this or similar ventures in the future. For the Chinese side, the fact that ELI operates independently from EU political actors is an unfamiliar feature and usually in need of explanation. When Christiane Wendehorst, back in 2011 and before the ELI was legally established, discussed the idea of a European Law Institute with experts from the renowned Chinese Academy for Social Sciences, the vision of founding the ELI as an NGO was still commented upon as being 'funny'. Things are changing, though, and legal cooperation with the People's Republic of China is of ever growing importance.



Workshop on Collective Redress in Sarajevo



Meliha Povlakić, Christian Athenstaedt, Diana Wallis, Marko Baretić.

On 28 June a Workshop titled ‘Collective redress in South East Europe’ took place at the University of Sarajevo, on a historic day deeply marked by fate not only in South East Europe (SEE) but well beyond.

Organisers of this Workshop were the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Faculties of Law of the University of Sarajevo and the University of Zagreb. The welcome addresses were delivered by the Vice Rector of the University of Sarajevo, Prof. Zehra Kreho, Vice Dean for international cooperation of the Faculty of Law Sarajevo, Prof. Meliha Povlakić, Christian Reißmüller, representative of the German Embassy in Sarajevo and Vice Dean for international cooperation of the Faculty of Law Zagreb, Prof. Marko Baretić. In his introduction Dr Christian

Athenstaedt, Sector Fund Manager (GIZ), presented the activities of the GIZ in the region, and pointed out an increased awareness for the protection of collective rights and interests in the region.

The organisers were honoured by the fact that Diana Wallis, President of the ELI opened the workshop with her presentation ‘An EU collective action to enforce EU legal rights; still the missing part of the jigsaw?’ She addressed the issue of collective redress mechanisms in general, the activities of the European Union in this field, as well as possible solutions. In this sense she presented and analysed Recommendation 2013/396/EU of 11 June 2013 on common principles for injunctive and compensatory collective redress mechanisms in the Member States concerning violations of rights granted under Union Law.



Diana Wallis delivers her keynote speech.

The national reports reflected an increased importance of the

protection of collective rights and interests both in doctrinal and practical aspects in SEE. Five national reports were presented (Albania – Professors Nada Dollani and Flutura Kola Tafaj; Bosnia and Herzegovina – Professors Meliha Povlakić and Zlatan Meškić; Croatia – Professor Tatjana Josipović and Ass.-Prof. Aleksandra Maganić; Montenegro – Professor Maja Kostić Mandić; Serbia – Professors Marija Karanikić Mirić and Dušan Popović). These national reports were based on a questionnaire drafted by Priv.-Doz. Rainer Kulms from the Max-Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg (MPI Hamburg). Dr Christa Jessel-Holst, also from MPI Hamburg, took part in the Workshop as a moderator of the inspirational panel discussion. The national reports show that some countries already provide for the horizontal approach in their regulations on civil procedure, while others do not and further significant differences in the approach to collective redress mechanisms exist. Despite the differing practical experience in the mentioned countries, it was generally concluded that the designated collective redress mechanisms in principle remain inefficient to date.

New Institutional Observers

The ELI can announce seven new Institutional Observers this month, each of them further adding to the diversity of this group of members which now exceeds 60 in number. The Membership Committee is particularly pleased to see an increase of Institutional members from Spain, with Madrid-based law firm Garrigues and the Faculties of Law at the Universities of Lleida and Girona all joining. Furthermore, efforts to increase representation in South East Europe are also coming to fruition, with the South East European Law School Network and the Law Faculty of the University of Zagreb having chosen to formalise their existing links with the ELI by becoming Institutional Observers. Information about all seven new Institutional members can be found on the following pages.

GARRIGUES

“Created in 1941, Garrigues is a leading legal and tax advisory firm in Spain and Continental Europe. Our people and our clear and undeniable international calling give us the ability to provide our

clients with a comprehensive advisory service of the very highest quality wherever they may need it, with respect for and compliance with, at all times, the applicable legislation in force in each and every jurisdiction in which we operate.”



“The South East European Law School Network is made up of thirteen

regular members, each of them university law faculties in countries of South East Europe. The aim of the SEELS Network is to ensure an excellence in the teaching of law at institutions of higher education by enabling there to be a strong exchange of expertise and ideas between law schools of the southeastern region.”

“The Constitutional Court of Belgium is the country’s highest court for constitutional matters. Composed of twelve judges, of whom six are Dutch-speaking and six are French-speaking, it rules, by judgments, principally on conflicts of authority between the legislative assemblies of the federal authority and the federated entities and on violations by legislative rules of the constitutional rights and liberties.”



“The **Stockholm Centre for Commercial Law** (SCCL) was set up at the University of Stockholm in 2000 in light of the significant and ongoing research on the development of commercial law which was being carried out at the University’s Law Faculty. The SCCL’s main focus is the promotion of research and research education in the field of commercial law. Another of its core aims is to bridge the gap between legal practitioners and academic researchers.”

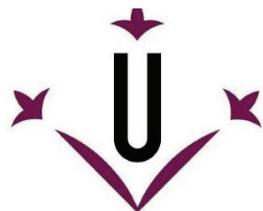


“The Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb is the oldest institution for legal education in Southeast Europe, founded in 1776. One of the main aims of the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb is to foster excellence in legal education, for example through international cooperation. We seek to create a stimulating environment for successful learning and research, as well as for personal development.”



“The Law Faculty of the University of Girona was founded in 1991 and has established itself as one of Spain’s foremost centres of legal education. Over 100 academic staff members teach both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The faculty is home to several institutes and departments, including the Institute of Comparative European Private Law, a Chair on Legal Culture and another one on Immigration, Rights and Citizenship, and the Centre of Advanced Studies of Law and Justice. Several research groups are also based at the faculty, conducting research on local, national and European legal issues.”

“The Faculty of Law and Economics of the University of Lleida offers both undergraduate and postgraduate courses within four departments: the Department of Business Administration and Economic Management of



Universitat de Lleida
Facultat de Dret i Economia

Natural Resources, the Department of Private Law, the Department of Public Law and the Department of Applied Economics. Home to over 1,500 students and established in 1968, the Faculty is an important part of the oldest Catalan university, founded in 1299.”

One year at the ELI Secretariat...

by Selma Tirić (formerly Povlakić), Head of Secretariat



Looking back to spring last year, when I had the privilege to join the ELI Secretariat team, I am struck by how many changes have occurred in this relatively short time period, developments which have affected the ELI and its Secretariat alike.

The Secretariat has experienced changes in staff as well as the volume and variety of tasks to be accomplished; itself a reflection of the growing size and activity of the ELI. Colleagues like Jelena Kopanja and Gerard Ehrismann, whom many of you surely remember, left the Secretariat to face new professional opportunities and a new colleague, Rosana Garcíandia, joined the team in late autumn last year, providing invaluable support ever since.

The past year indeed also saw the Institute develop: now that the ELI counts almost 1000 members and more than 60 Institutional Observers to its membership, ELI hubs in various countries are set up and active; it is clear that the ELI has moved on from the very initial stages towards becoming an established brand in the European legal landscape.

I hope that the coming months and years will see the Institute flourish and expand even further. I am certain that the present and future challenges facing the ELI and its Secretariat will be successfully tackled with the invaluable support of the Executive Committee and the ELI bodies, in order for the Institute to strengthen its position in the legal world. The upcoming Projects Conference and General Assembly in Zagreb this September will be again the perfect forum to discuss all this and more. Moreover, it is a great opportunity to meet numerous colleagues from all over Europe and in particular lawyers from South East Europe, who are becoming more and more involved in the work of the Institute. Based on my personal background and ties with the South East Europe, I am particularly pleased to see an increasing awareness of the ELI in this region and I have every intention of continuing this trend beyond the September events.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Croatia and until then wish you a pleasant summer.

Join the European Commercial Law Observatory!

Members of the European Law Institute are invited to join the European Commercial Law Observatory free of charge. This special offer will only apply to registrations completed by **18 July**, and will cover the membership for the rest of 2014.

Chaired by Professor Avvocato Guido Alpa, President of the Italian Bar Council, Professor Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson, Special adviser to the European Commissioner for Justice, and Professor Gerhard Dannemann, the Observatory provides members with access to training material (video lectures by leading experts) and an extensive network of legal practitioners and other experts on the topic of European Union Commercial Law.

Those members who are interested in joining should sign up as new users on the [login page](#) and specify "ELI2014" along with the usual details requested.

International Congress of Comparative Law

The 19th International Congress of Comparative Law will take place in Vienna from 20 to 26 July 2014 on the Austrian National Committee's invitation.

Several ELI members are involved in the organisation of the six-day conference and on 26 July, the closing day of the event Vice-President Christiane Wendehorst will give a presentation about the ELI: "The European Law Institute – Vision and Activities".

Information about the ELI will be available throughout the week at an exhibition stand.

Please follow these links for more information:

- [Registration](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Contact](#)



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Building on the wealth of diverse legal traditions, the European Law Institute's mission is the quest for better law-making in Europe and the enhancement of European legal integration. By its endeavours, the ELI seeks to contribute to the formation of a more vigorous European legal community, integrating the achievements of the various legal cultures, endorsing the value of comparative knowledge, and taking a genuinely pan-European perspective.