



ELI

EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

ELI Newsletter

Nov-Dec 2024

Cover: Galina Zaharova (President, Supreme Court of Cassation of Bulgaria)

Spotlight: Síofra O'Leary (Former President, European Court of Human Rights)





Contents

Cover	4
Project Spotlight: ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence	8
ELI Representation	12
New ELI Members	14
Update on ELI Projects	16
Update on ELI Hub and SIG Activities	20
2024 Retrospective & Season's Greetings	24
Upcoming Events	26



Chief Editor

Dr Vanessa Wilcox, LL.M (Cantab), ELI Secretary General

Editorial Officer and Designer

Leonor Franco, ELI Public Relations Officer

Photo Credits

Pictures were provided by contributors to the ELI Newsletter. Other sources of images: Shutterstock, Canva,

Imprint

Media Owner: ELI
Schottenring 16/15, 1010 Vienna, Austria

C

over

'... The need for judicial independence, both institutional and personal, is undeniable because it is the foundation of the rule of law !

Cover by
Galina
Zaharova

Judge Galina Zaharova graduated from the Faculty of Law, Sofia University 'St Kliment Ohridski' in 1988 and has over 35 years of judicial experience. She has a degree in EU Law from the European Center for Judges and Lawyers at the European Institute of Public Administration in Luxembourg.

In the period 1988–1989 she was a trainee-judge in the Sofia City Court, and from 1989–1991 she was a junior judge in the same Court. From 1991–1992 she was a regional judge in the Fifth Regional Court and in 1992 she became Vice-President of the Court.

She worked as a judge in the Sofia City Court from 1993–1998, and in the period 1998–1999 she was Vice-President of the Court. She was a judge at the Sofia Court of Appeal from 1999–2004 and from 2004–2007 she was its Vice-President.

From 2007–2011 she was a member of the Supreme Judicial Council. After that she continued to work as a judge in the Sofia Court of Appeal until 2013.

Judge Galina Zaharova has been administering justice in the Supreme Court of Cassation since 2013, and since 2017 she has been the President of the Second Criminal Division. On 13 November 2018, she was appointed by the Judicial Board of the Supreme Judicial Council as Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Cassation and Head of the Criminal Division.

Since 11 February 2022 she has been the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, elected on 14 January 2022 by the Supreme Judicial Council.

She is a member of the Program Council of the National Institute of Justice and has been a lecturer in a number of trainings organised by the Institute.

Judge Galina Zaharova is a representative of the Supreme Court of Cassation in the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Council of Ministers, in the Central Commission for Combating Antisocial Behavior of Minors at the Council of Ministers, in the Council for Implementing the Updated Strategy for Judicial Reform and in the National Council for Anti-Corruption Policies at the Council of Ministers.

She served on the Council of Europe's Expert Committee on Early Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in Strasbourg. She was an expert in a regional project for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, as well as an expert for Bulgaria in studies of the European Commission on the institutional and legal framework of judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the European Union, on the minimum penalties applicable in the Member States and on the penalties applicable to deprivation of rights in the Member States.



On 6 December 2019, in his speech at the 'Judicial Independence – Current Aspects of the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)' Conference, which was organised by the Supreme Court of Cassation of the Republic of Bulgaria, Judge Róbert Spanó, former Vice-President and President of the Court, stated: '... The effectiveness, usefulness and very foundations of the ECHR system are premised on respect for the principle of the rule of law. This principle is embedded in the very tissue of the system. The rule of law should not only be seen through the lens of the liberal ideal of the West. It is much more than that: it is a moral ideal that goes beyond borders, traditions and cultures. At the same time, it is a set of legal standards guaranteeing laws that respect the rational autonomy of individual human beings. In the application of human rights, the principle of the rule of law requires the existence of functioning institutions and, above all, a national judiciary that is independent not only on paper but also in reality.'

In this brief, I would like to focus again on the inextricable relationship between the fundamental, 'cornerstone' legal principle of the rule of law and judicial independence.

The rule of law has a multifaceted meaning: it is a guiding idea, a balancer of values, the antipode of arbitrariness. This principle is a condensed expression of the overall

set of founding values, such as respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and not merely the sum of norms and procedures. These values are not specific, inherent to a particular legal system and tradition, nor are they automatically imported from other systems or societies. They are universal, 'common to the Member States', as defined in Article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty.

In the context of the understanding of the rule of law as the basis of the value system of democracy, the independence of courts and judges is an imperative condition without which the rule of law cannot be realised. The need for judicial independence, both institutional and personal, is undeniable because it is the foundation of the rule of law. Over the years following the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EU, many members of my generation seem to have become comfortably accustomed to taking independence for granted, as a definitely guaranteed achievement of democracy. Situations of independence infringement have been erroneously considered as isolated and occasional conflicts, and their significance has been underestimated. We have already started forgetting that attempts to undermine independence are in fact a constant phenomenon accompanying judicial activity as they are predetermined by the very nature of power. However, in recent years, regressive trends

have already clearly emerged in many countries, including within the EU, and effectively threaten or even openly undermine judicial independence. This reality requires adequate counter steps and once again raises the issue of the protection of judicial independence.

In the current dynamically changing reality, the creation of European Standards of Judicial Independence by the European Law Institute is significant for the rule of law. They all contribute to promoting the understanding that independent justice is one which ensures respect for and the protection of human rights, freedom and democracy. This situation is crucial for the actual implementation of the idea of judicial independence as a pan-European value and a condition without which the rule of law is unachievable.

The Standards are a valuable guide for judges as they outline in detail their duties that are necessary to achieve independent, impartial and effective justice and are premised on their highly responsible role as 'guardians' of the rule of law. The Standards have simultaneously the potential to serve as a mechanism to counter the various forms of improper interference with the independence of courts and judges, as they systematically examine and summarise the guarantees of independence in terms of regulation and from a good practice perspective. Standards are also a useful educational guide for informing the public, which should realise that independence is not a judicial privilege, but a necessary guarantee of justice. In this context, their creation is an important step in the process of forming a common culture of judicial independence.

Although not exhaustively indicated, the listed merits of the European Standards of Judicial Independence make it possible to conclude that they are highly conducive to the evolution of our understanding and knowledge of judicial independence, which, in its turn, contributes to the promotion of the common EU values and the effective implementation of the principle of the rule of law.

In the current dynamically changing reality, the creation of European Standards of Judicial Independence by the European Law Institute is significant for the rule of law.

On the ELI-Mount Scopus

European Standards of

Judicial Independence

Published recently

In this Spotlight, Síoфра O’Leary examines the ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards on Judicial Independence, which aim to safeguard judicial impartiality and independence as essential pillars of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. She highlights that these Standards provide essential guidance to counter threats and tensions, ensuring judicial independence and reinforcing the integrity of the legal system, while addressing the growing social, political, and technological pressures faced by judges. The Standards were developed under the leadership of Project Reporters, Prof Dr Shimon Shetreet, Prof Dr Sophie Turenne, Prof Leah Wortham and Prof Dr Fryderyk Zoll, taking into consideration input from key stakeholders in the field. More about the Standards [here](#).



Síoфра O’Leary is the former President of the European Court of Human Rights, where she served as the Judge elected in respect of Ireland between 2015 and 2024.

Prior to joining the European Court of Human Rights, Judge O’Leary worked for almost two decades at the Court of Justice of the European Union in judicial and administrative capacities.

In parallel to her work at both European courts, Dr O’Leary has engaged in extensive academic work, as a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges, on the Editorial and Advisory Boards of the Common Market Law Review and as a Vice-President of the Irish Centre for European Law.

A graduate of University College Dublin (BCL) and a postgraduate of the European University Institute (PhD), Dr O’Leary was previously the Assistant Director for the Centre of European Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, a Fellow of Emmanuel College, a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Law, University College Dublin, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cádiz, Spain and a Research Associate at the Institute for Public Policy Research in London.

She is the author of two books entitled The Evolving Concept of Community Citizenship (Kluwer, 1996) and Employment Law at the European Court of Justice (Hart Publishing, 2001) and has published numerous articles in academic journals and legal monographs on the protection of fundamental rights in EU law and under the ECHR, EU employment law, the free movement of persons and services and EU citizenship generally.

Síoфра O’Leary is an Honorary Bencher of the Honourable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin and of Lincoln’s Inn, London. In 2024, she was awarded the Ulysses Medal by University College Dublin in recognition of her work in European law as well as the title of Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Edinburgh.



I

am delighted to have been asked to contribute this Spotlight for the European Law Institute's Newsletter on the occasion of the publication of the ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards on Judicial Independence. Those standards are rooted in the model of effective, pluralist and liberal democracy enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Union (EU) Treaties and in the shared values of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law which both organisations seek to protect and preserve.

An efficient, impartial and independent judiciary is the cornerstone of any functioning system of democratic checks and balances. Courts are the means by which powerful interests, which may impinge upon the rights of individuals, are restrained. It falls to them to guarantee that all individuals, irrespective of their backgrounds, are treated equally before the law. As the Standards eloquently convey, judicial independence is thus not a personal privilege of judges but rather it exists to serve the social ends of the right to a fair trial, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and an efficient and fair legal system.

For several years cases dealt with by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) have revealed how the justice systems of European States can be subject to different forms of political interference whose object or effect is to undermine judicial independence and weaken or remove the systems of checks and balances essential in modern democracies.

In response, the CJEU has proceeded on the basis of a combined and innovative reading of Articles 2 and 19 § 1 TEU, supplemented on occasion by Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, in infringement actions and preliminary references. In the latter the CJEU has provided interpretative guidance to national judges to assess themselves rule of law compliance, proving itself the essential interlocutor not only for judges working in justice systems the victim of State capture but also for other judges implicated indirectly as a result of EU mutual trust mechanisms. In its conditionality judgments, which followed annulment actions brought by Hungary and Poland in relation to EU legislation rendering receipt of EU financing conditional on respect for European values such as the rule of law, the CJEU insisted that Article 2 TEU is not merely a statement of policy guidelines or intentions, but that the values it enumerates are given concrete expression in principles containing legally binding obligations for EU Member States.

Since its judgment in 1975 in *Golder v the United Kingdom* on the right of access to court, the ECtHR had also made clear that reference in the Preamble to the ECHR to the rule of law as part of the spiritual heritage common to Member States of the Council of Europe was not a merely rhetorical reference. It was and is a reference with profound relevance for those interpreting and applying the Convention.

Thus, symmetries and effective synergies characterise the recent European case-law on judicial independence and respect for the rule of law. The interpretative guidance on the requirements of EU law provided by the CJEU to national referring judges has been closely followed by the Strasbourg court. The latter has built upon that guidance in judgments finding violations of Articles 6 § 1, 8 and 10 of the Convention following individual applications brought by national judges who have borne the brunt of judicial reforms or by litigants whose cases have been decided by national courts whose independence they challenge as a result of those reforms. Of particular concern are recent cases in which the Strasbourg court has also found violations of Article 18 ECHR when disciplinary sanctions against applicant prosecutors and judges in EU Member States were found to serve ulterior purposes of dissuasion and control incompatible with the ECHR. The ECtHR, like its EU counterpart, has made clear that the Convention system, based as it is on the principle of subsidiarity and the primary responsibility of national authorities, including national courts, cannot function without independent and impartial judges.

This recent case-law of the two European courts demonstrates that, when the common values underpinning the Convention and EU law are challenged, common values which derive from Europe's common constitutional heritage, both European courts can assist directly and indirectly in their defence, in defence of the other European system and, most importantly of all, in defence of the work of independent and impartial national judges. Let us not forget, however, that it is primarily national judges, via requests for preliminary rulings under Article 267 TFEU or individual applications lodged pursuant to Article

34 ECHR, who have actively mounted the necessary defence of the independence and impartiality of European justice systems.

The ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards on Judicial Independence draw inspiration from a variety of international and European sources, including the work of several Council of Europe monitoring bodies. They pay particular attention to the aforementioned threats and tensions in relation to judicial independence which have crystallised across Europe in recent years, and provide guidance in the face of the evolved social, political and technological context in which judges across Europe now operate.

Those Standards will no doubt prove an essential tool for a variety of different actors, ranging from those called upon to assess the consistency of judicial reforms with the requirements of judicial independence, to Court Presidents and judicial governing bodies defending the need for sufficient and stable financial resources to ensure the proper administration of justice while also developing and applying ethical standards essential to maintaining public confidence in the judiciary.

ELI Judicial Independence Webinar Series

15 January 2025 – Webinar I on the Foundations of Judicial Independence

- Pascal Pichonnaz – ELI President; Professor, University of Fribourg
- Sabine Matejka – Vice-President, European Association of Judges
- Julien Mousnier – Director, Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy, DG JUST
- Leonie Reynolds – President of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)
- Shimon Shetreet – Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Co-Reporter
- Leah Wortham – Professor Emerita, The Catholic University of America; Co-Reporter
- Fryderyk Zoll – Professor, Jagiellonian University of Cracow and University of Osnabrueck; Co-Reporter

LEARN MORE

29 January 2025 – Webinar II on Judicial Governance and Judicial Appointments and Promotion

- Pascal Pichonnaz – ELI President; Professor, University of Fribourg
- Matej Accetto – President of the Slovenian Constitutional Court
- Ingrid Derveaux – Judge; Secretary-General of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)
- Sacha Prechal – Professor, Utrecht University; former Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) judge
- Shimon Shetreet – Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Co-Reporter
- Sophie Turenne – Assistant Professor, University of Cambridge; Co-Reporter
- Fryderyk Zoll – Professor, Jagiellonian University of Cracow and University of Osnabrueck; Co-Reporter

LEARN MORE

12 February 2025 – Webinar III on Ethical Standards and Judicial Discipline

- Pascal Pichonnaz – ELI President; Professor, University of Fribourg
- Tea Jaliashvili – First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- Georg Kodek – Judge, President of the Austrian Supreme Court
- Temur Shakirov – Director (ad interim), Europe and Central Asia Programme, International Commission of Jurists
- Leah Wortham – Professor Emerita, The Catholic University of America; Co-Reporter
- Fryderyk Zoll – Professor, Jagiellonian University of Cracow and University of Osnabrueck; Co-Reporter

LEARN MORE

R

epresentation



7

Representational activities held
in November and December
2024

November

6 November ■ **ELI Executive Committee Member, Dr Aneta Wiewiórowska-Domagalska, Joins ELRA XXXIII General Assembly**

More [here](#).

18–22 November ■ **ELI Scientific Director, Prof Dr Christiane Wendehorst, at UNCITRAL Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce)**

She was joined by Prof Dr Christian Twigg-Flesner and Prof Dr Moritz Hennenman. More [here](#).

25–27 November ■ **ELI President, Prof Dr Pascal Pichonnaz, at UNIDROIT Working Group on 4th session of International Investment Contracts**

More [here](#).

December

1 December ■ **ELI President Presents ELI's Young Lawyers Award Competition at ELSA Austria National Council Meeting**

More [here](#).

4 December ■ **ELI Executive Committee Member, Sylvaine Poillot Peruzzetto Participates in EU Visitors Programme**

More [here](#).

16–20 December ■ **Prof Dr Stephan Madaus and Gert Jan Boon at UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law)**

More [here](#).

17 December ■ **Prof Georges Cavalier at the EU Expert Group Platform for Tax Good Governance**

More [here](#).



N

ew Members



The Bar of Ireland is the representative body for the barristers' profession in Ireland and is governed by the Constitution of The Bar of Ireland. The Bar of Ireland is the term used to describe the independent referral bar that has a current membership of approximately 2,150 practising barristers.

The Bar of Ireland is the representative body for the barristers' profession in Ireland and is governed by the Constitution of The Bar of Ireland. Its role is:

- To consider, report upon, and make representations on any matters affecting the profession;
- To play a key role in the conduct and arrangement of the business of the profession;
- To control and regulate the professional conduct of the members of the Bar; and
- To secure and protect the interests of the profession.

You can learn more about The Bar of Ireland and its governance [here](#).



The Law Society of Northern Ireland (the Society) is the professional body for solicitors, regulating and representing all solicitors in Northern Ireland.

The Society represents around 3000 solicitors working throughout Northern Ireland in approximately 450 firms in the private sector, and practitioners in the public sector, in business and in the community and voluntary sector. Members of the Society thus represent members of the public, small, medium, and large enterprises, government bodies and charities, making the Society uniquely placed to offer constructive comment on policy and law reform proposals across a broad range of topics.

More [here](#).



The European Law Students' Association

PORTUGAL

ELSA Portugal is one of the ELSA Internations's National Groups and consists of 12 Local Groups, with over 1,500 members nationwide. Each Local Group is independently organised at its university and registered with its own Local Board, responsible for managing ELSA at a local level as well as promoting multiple events within ELSA's scope and vision.

ELSA Portugal hopes to inspire the Portuguese Network to continue making a positive change and engaging in ELSA's vision and goals.

More [here](#).



The European Law Students' Association

ITALIA

ELSA Italy, established in 1987 and officially recognised in 1988, is the Italian branch of the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) – the largest global network of young legal professionals. With 27 local groups active in over 40 universities and a membership base of approximately 4,000 students, ELSA Italy represents the largest community of law students in the country and is the second-largest ELSA national group in terms of members and sections.

More [here](#).

Individual Members

Agnieszka Bień-Kacała, University of Szczecin, Poland

Marko Bošnjak, President of the European Court of Human Rights, Slovenia

Lucio Casalini, Roma Tre University; Free International University of Social Studies, Guido Carli' (LUISS), Italy

Andrea Cioni, University of Pisa, Italy

Ana Sofia Gomes, Lusíada University, Portugal

Vladyslava Goncharenko, TechWise Society Foundation, Austria

Aron Johanson, Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany

Aldo Laudonio, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro, Italy

Stoové Margot, Council of State, Netherlands

Margot Musson, Jean Moulin University Lyon 3, France

Aleksandra Olbryk, University of Łódź, Poland

Maria Cecilia Paglietti, University of Rome Tre, School of Law, Italy

Matthias Pendl, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Germany

Andrea Piletta Massaro, University of Turin; Lyon Catholic University (UCLy), Italy

Sören Segger-Piening, European Legal Studies Institute, Osnabrück University, Germany

Amanda Turnbull, Te Piringa Faculty of Law, University of Waikato, New Zealand

Anna Wysocka-Bar, Jagiellonian University, Poland

P rojects

ELI organises its work around projects, which can be long-term endeavours or quick reactions to legislative developments.

Projects Presentation

ELI Charter of Fundamental Constitutional Principles Informs the CDDEM's Work 8 November 2024



Prof Dr Takis Tridimas, Co-Reporter of the ELI Charter, participated in the expert roundtable on democracy assessment.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ELI Principles on Litigation Funding at Centre of NYU Seminar 21 November 2024



Prof Dr Susanne Augenhöfer, Project's Co-Reporter, presented the ELI Principles at the seminar hosted by NYU School of Law.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ELI Charter of Fundamental Constitutional Principles Discussed in The Netherlands 28 November 2024



Prof Dr Elise Muir, Project's Co-Reporter, presented the ELI Charter during her Keynote Speech at the 28th Ius Commune Conference.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Conference on ELI's Enterprise Foundations in Europe 2 December 2024



ELI's Draft Enterprise Foundation Model Law was discussed on the occasion.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ELI-Mt Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence Discussed in Cyprus 14 December 2024



Prof Dr Sophie Turenne and Prof Dr Shimon Shetreet, Co-Reporters of the ELI project, presented the recently published ELI-Mt Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Projects
Webinars

ELI Holds Second Webinar on its Principles Governing Third-Party Funding of Litigation
11 November 2024



The ELI Principles, which aim at improving access to justice, while promoting fairness in funding agreements, took center stage in its second dissemination webinar. Prof Dr Susanne Augenhofer, Project’s Co-Reporter, spoke at the event.

LEARN MORE

ALI-ELI Webinar on Enterprise Foundations
11 December 2024



The American Law Institute (ALI) and European Law Institute (ELI) held a joint webinar on Enterprise Foundations. Prof Dr Steen Thomsen and Prof Dr Anne Sanders, Project’s Co-Reporters, spoke at the event.

LEARN MORE

Projects
Publications

ELI’s Proposal on Admissibility of E-Evidence in Criminal Proceedings in the EUPublished with Bloomsbury Publishing
20 November 2024



ELI is grateful to ELI Project Co-Reporters Prof Dr Lorena Bachmaier Winter and Prof Dr Farsam Salimi for their efforts in editing the output.

LEARN MORE

ELI Launches European Standards on Judicial Independence to Safeguard Democracy and the Rule of Law
27 November 2024



In a time when judicial independence is increasingly under threat from political interference and government overreach, a significant step has been taken, through ELI’s 38 Standards, to protect this cornerstone of democracy.

LEARN MORE

Projects
Publications

ELI Submits a Response to the European Commission’s Public Consultation on the AI Act
11 December 2024



The recently approved by ELI Council Response, ‘ELI Proposal for a Three-Factor Approach’, was submitted to the Commission on 11 December 2024.

LEARN MORE

ELI published GPAI principles on Co-generated Data
19 December 2024



ELI Council approved the Principles on Copyright and Data Protection Rights in Co-Generated Input and Output of Generative AI.

LEARN MORE

Projects
Meetings

Enforcement Against Digital Assets Reporters Met with the Team
11 November 2024



Project Co-Reporters Prof Dr Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell and Jos Uitdehaag led the discussions.

LEARN MORE

ELI Enhancing Child Protection Project Team Meet Advisors and Observers
18 November 2024



Project Co-Reporters, Prof Dr Susanne Gössl and Dr Ilaria Pretelli presented the current draftand discussed with Advisors and Observers.

LEARN MORE

ELI Digitalisation of Civil Justice Systems in Europe Reporters Meet
29 November 2024



Co-Reporters, Dr Dory Reiling, Prof Dr Xandra Kramer and Dr Jiří Novák worked on revising several chapters of the current draft.

LEARN MORE

Hubs & SIGs



11

Hub and SIG events held throughout November and December 2024

Hubs and SIGs are country- and topic-specific groups respectively.

They serve as dedicated working groups within ELI, aimed at facilitating discussion, sharing and monitoring legal developments, and stimulating project proposals. As such, they are of fundamental importance to ELI's success.

Italian Hub

4 November 2024
Universit of Turin, Italy

- Co-Organises Conference on Capital Markets and Corporate Governance

More [here](#).

8 November 2024
Naples, Italy

- Co-Hosts Study Day on the Protection of Human and Fundamental Rights and AI

More [here](#).

6 December 2024
Catania and Online

- Co-Hosts Conference on Procedural Agreements

More [here](#).

Ukrainian Hub

22 November 2024

- Webinar Series on War and Post-War Challenges for Ukrainian Jurisprudence

More [here](#).

6 December 2024

- Webinar II: The Portrait of a Female Lawyer in Post-War Ukraine: Challenges, Professional Competence, and Personal Qualities

20 December 2024

- Webinar III: The Institute of Legislative Power of Ukraine in Times of War

- Webinar IV: The Impact of Emotions on State Information Policy During and After War

Spanish Hub

11–12 November 2024
Porto and Madrid

- Co-Organises Event on Digital Rights and AI at the Madrid Science and Innovation Week 2024

More [here](#).

Polish Hub

27 November 2024
Kozminski University, Warsaw and Online

- Co-Hosts International Conference on False Friends in Comparative Law

More [here](#).

Croatian Hub

28 November 2024
Zagreb and Online

- Co-Hosts 6th International Conference on European Company Law
- More [here](#).

Family and Succession
Law SIG

20 November 2024
Online

- Hosts Webinar on New Family Law – Realities and Future Perspectives
- More [here](#).

Business and Financial Law
SIG

28 November 2024
Zagreb and Online

- Co-Hosts 6th International Conference on European Company Law
- More [here](#).

Insurance Law
SIG

21 November 2024
Online

- Held Its Tenth ATILA Lecture on ‘Insurance as an Investment – The Retail Investment Strategy of the European Union’
- More [here](#).

Sustainability and
Environmental Law
SIG

19 December 2024
Braga

- Supports Book Launch and Conference
- More [here](#).

20 December 2024
Online

- Seminar on the Shell Case
- More [here](#).

Are you an ELI Member?



Join the voice of the
European
Legal Community.

R

etrospective

Dear ELI Members and Friends

As 2024 comes to an end, it is opportune to reflect on the year and the progress we have made amidst transformation and challenges. Despite divisions, conflicts, and economic instability, many sectors have shown incredible resilience and adaptability, tackling crucial issues like the rule of law, Artificial Intelligence governance, and climate justice. There is still much to be done, but meaningful progress has been achieved. As the Voice of the European Legal Community, we are proud to contribute to these vital areas, from addressing cutting-edge issues like algorithmic contracting to strengthening the foundations of our society, including judicial independence.

2024 marks my final full year as President of ELI, with my second term concluding in September at the end of our Annual Conference in Vienna. As this milestone approaches, I would like to highlight ELI's achievements over the years and offer a preview of what we can look forward to in 2025.

Before doing so, however, let me also underline how much this year's achievements have been possible only with the full commitment and support of our two Vice-Presidents, Anne Birgitte Gammeljord and Sir Geoffrey Vos, our Treasurer Prof Dr Pietro Sirena, and the further members of our Executive, Prof Dr Teresa Rodriguez de las Herras Ballell, Dr Aneta Wiewiórowska-Domagalska and Supreme Court Judge Sylvaine Poillot Perruzzetto. Our Scientific Director, Prof Christiane Wendehorst, and our Secretary General, Dr Vanessa Wilcox, the entire ELI Secretariat, of course our Council members, Reporters, MCC and Advisory Committee members. ELI's achievements are a direct result of the collective efforts of all those who believe in the vision and mission of ELI.

Thank you.

High Level Expert Group Meetings (Topic Incubators) in 2024

- May: [High Level Expert Group Meetings on Seizing Assets for Human Rights Violations](#)

Projects Completed in 2024

- February: [ELI Charter of Fundamental Constitutional Principles of a European Democracy](#)
- October: [ELI Principles Governing Third-Party Funding of Litigation](#)
- December: [ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence; GPAI Principles on Co-Generated Data.](#)

Projects Launched in 2024

- April: [ALI-ELI Biometrics](#)
- December: [Feedback on the European Business Code of Henri Capitant Association](#)

Consultations in 2024

- November: [EU Consultation on AI Act](#)

High Level (Dissemination) Fora 2024

- March: [ELI Int Report 'EU Consumer Law and Automated Decision-Making \(ADM\): Is EU Consumer Law Ready for ADM?'](#)

Conferences

- 5–6 February: [ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure Discussed in Vienna](#)
- 9–11 October: [ELI's Annual Conference](#)

2024 ELI Annual Conference

From 9–11 October, Dublin hosted ELI's Annual Conference, bringing together

high-ranking representatives from European institutions, courts and governmental agencies to explore central themes from digitalisation to fundamental rights. Notably, the Conference featured ELI's inaugural Industry Event on AI and GDPR as well as a distinguished keynote panel comprised of Marko Bošnjak (President, European Court of Human Rights), Michael O'Flaherty (Director, Fundamental Rights Agency) and Rossa Fanning (Attorney General of Ireland). Together, they emphasised the importance of achieving a balanced governance framework for artificial intelligence.

2024 ELI Member's Day

Other key developments in 2024 included the [second ELI Members' Day](#), designed to engage ELI Members in identifying potential project topics. This year's focus was the Future of Money, a subject that could evolve into an ELI project. Next year's event will take place on 4 June. Please save the date.

Webinars

In all, ELI hosted 16 webinars this year. They are all available on [ELI's website](#) and on [YouTube](#).

ELI Library in Ukraine

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the publishers involved ELI's collaborative efforts in establishing a [Library in Ukraine](#). Their support has been instrumental, ensuring that legal professionals in the country have access to vital resources during such challenging times. Their generosity and commitment to the cause are deeply appreciated.

Hubs and SIGS Updates

I am delighted to welcome the establishment of the Baltic Hub and the Gender Equality SIG in 2024, bringing the total number of satellite ELI groups to an impressive 29. We look forward to welcoming the establishment of the Swiss Hub and the Serbian Hub soon. Congratulations once again to the Irish and Turkish Hubs, as well as the Digital Law SIG, named [Hubs and SIG of the Year](#) respectively, for their outstanding achievements. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our groups for their tireless efforts in expanding the impact and reach of our work even further in 2024.

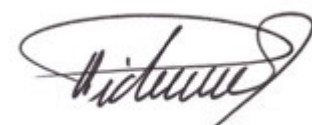
Press and Other Coverage

ELI's work in 2024 has garnered considerable media attention, showcasing its pivotal role in shaping legal discussions and reinforcing its position as the voice of the European legal community. Among these are:

- [ELI Third Party Funding of Litigation Project Discussed at House of Lords Debate](#)
- [Article Referencing ELI Project on Business and Human Rights Published](#)
- [ELI Featured in Dalloz Article](#)
- [ELI Guiding Principles on EU Workers' Rights in the Digital Age Discussed in Renowned Swiss Journal](#)
- [Irish Legal News](#)
- [BusinessPlus](#)
- [TechBuzz Ireland](#)
- [Forbes](#)
- [The Irish Times](#)
- [Irish Independent](#)
- [Silicon Republic](#)
- [French Cour de Cassation](#)
- [The 150th Anniversary of the Technology and Construction Court](#)

I encourage eligible ELI members to put themselves up for service by standing for Council elections in 2025 and look forward to seeing you all at ELI's 2025 Annual Conference, which takes place from 22–24 September in Vienna. In the meantime, I extend my warmest season's greetings to you and your loved ones, wishing you all the very best for the New Year.

I eagerly anticipate advancing ELI's mission and objectives in 2025.



Prof Dr Pascal Pichonnaz
ELI President



U

Upcoming Events



15 January 2025
Online

■ **ELI Webinar on the Foundations of Judicial Independence**

More [here](#).

29 January 2025
Online

■ **ELI Webinar on Judicial Governance and Judicial Appointments and Promotions**

More [here](#).

12 February 2025
Online

■ **ELI Webinar on Ethical Standards and Judicial Discipline**

More [here](#).

14 February 2025
Vienna, Austria

■ **Extra-Judicial Administration of Justice in Cross-Border Family and Succession Matters Dissemination Conference**

More [here](#).

4 June
Online

■ **ELI Members Day**

More soon.

ELI Activities

Hub and SIG Events

For further updates, please see the [ELI Website](#).

■ **Webinar Series on War and Post-War Challenges for Ukrainian Jurisprudence**

More [here](#).

■ Webinar V: University in Ukraine After the War: What Reforms in Legal Education and Science Are Necessary

■ Webinar VI: The Role of the Banking System During Martial Law: Ensuring Stability, Security and Economic Resilience

■ Webinar VII: Ensuring Citizens' Rights and Freedoms in the Context of Ukraine's Post-War Recovery: Administrative and Legal Mechanism

■ Co-Organiser of Event on Digital Rights and AI at the Madrid Science and Innovation Week 2024.

More [here](#).

■ Webinar on Intestate Succession of Unmarried Partners as Members of a Deceased's Household.

More [here](#).

■ Hosts ELI Principles Governing Third Party Funding of Litigation Webinar

■ More [here](#).

Ukrainian Hub

3 January 2025

17 January 2025

31 January 2025

Intellectual Property Rights
Law SIG

13 February 2025

University of Geneva and
Online

Family and Succession
Law SIG

18 February

Online

Italian Hub

24 February

Online

European Law Institute

- Pan-European, democratic, membership-based organisation
- Uniting prominent jurists of all legal professions
- Aiming to improve the law in Europe
- Carrying out projects with immediate practical application

Members of the ELI can contribute to its projects and gain access to an international network of jurists. Apart from other activities, the ELI organises its Annual Conference and Meetings, bringing together Europe's leading experts in diverse fields of law.

Executive Committee

President:

1st Vice-President:

2nd Vice-President:

Treasurer:

Other Members:

Pascal Pichonnaz

Anne Birgitte Gammeljord

Sir Geoffrey Vos

Pietro Sirena

Sylvaine Poillot Peruzzetto

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell

Aneta Wiewiórowska-Domagalska

ELI in Vienna

The Secretariat of the ELI, which is hosted by the University of Vienna, is located in the heart of the Austrian capital, close to the main building of the University, the representation of the European Commission in Austria as well as the information office of the European Parliament.

We cordially invite you to visit us whenever you are in Vienna.



ELI Secretariat

Schottenring 16/175
1010, Vienna, Austria
T +43 1 4277 221 01
F +43 1 4277 922 1
www.europeanlawinstitute.eu
secretariat@europeanlawinstitute.eu



Donate

Financial support is vital for ELI's independence and impact. It ensures ELI's work remains uncompromised, enabling it to continue its mission of improving law-making and influencing legislation at European and international levels. Visit our website for more on donating to our cause.



ELI
EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE



universität
wien



Supported by
the European Union