



# Bulletin

**Marcus M. Schmitt**

August 2023



**Dear Daniela ,**

We have some very exciting times ahead. Developments on the company lawyer profession itself await in several European countries, most notably in France. EU-wide legislative overhaul on digital services is well underway. Furthermore, our own agenda for the rest of 2023 is highly dynamic and interesting for legal experts - from full-day conferences to certification courses and half-day discussion - we have something planned for all our dear members. We hope to have you join us shortly and to share your own experiences and best practices on what the profession today entails.

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## 40th Anniversary European General Counsel Forum



Leadership · Innovation · Impact  
The Next Generation Legal Leader

**18–19 September 2023**

Hotel Meliá Frankfurt City  
Frankfurt, Germany

**register  
now!**

## ECLA 40th Anniversary Conference

In three weeks, our most extensive gathering of legal experts in years will take place, with discussions ranging from AI-related developments to the evolving role of the profession to dealing with regulatory authorities. The discussions are high-level, interactive and highly valuable. This is a must-attend event for **every** ECLA member, not only to learn more about topical legal developments, but also to celebrate ECLA's 40th anniversary amongst peers and friends.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Frankfurt!

→ [Registration can be done by clicking the link here.](#)

## General Counsel Roundtable

For General Counsel and Heads of Legal Departments, we have two fascinating sessions planned for September. Join us on 5 September for a fascinating session online on how to address ESG in the M&A process! ESG factors are becoming increasingly significant in the M&A process. The integration of ESG considerations in M&A due diligence, integration planning, and post-acquisition execution can provide several benefits, including reduced risks, enhanced returns, and alignment with stakeholder expectations.

In addition, on 28-29 September, this discussion will continue in Brussels, where it will dive deeper into how to maximise the effectiveness of the board in

Corporate/M&A compliance and ESG. Both sessions are strongly recommended for lawyers who have had these discussions arise in their businesses over the last few years. You will gain an unique expertise in this field and can interact and share best practices with your peers who are dwelling on similar challenges. Register below and join us!

- 5 September 10:00 CEST (Online): Addressing ESG in the M&A Process
- 28-29 September 16:00 - 14:00 CEST (Brussels): Maximizing Board's Impact in Corporate/M&A Compliance and ESG

→ [Learn more and register here](#)

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## Become an expert in compliance or in drafting global contracts

We are excited to host another compliance course this Fall! This intensive course offers a unique training experience that will update attendees on the hot topics and current issues in international corporate compliance. Attendees receive practical advice and recommended best practices on essential strategies for risk management. You have two options to choose from - either a 2-day online session, or a 2.5-day in-person session in Frankfurt, Germany. The teacher excels in explaining complex concepts through both mediums.

Our popular Drafting International Contracts courses will also resume, both the 7-week 12-hour version and the 1-day intensive crash course. Furthermore, we have two new courses to offer - the Negotiating International Contracts is a one-day course aimed at improving your confidence and clarity when participating in negotiations in an English-speaking setting. The Speak Legal English course is a one-hour-per-week course that enables lawyers to consistently practice their English speaking skills in an interactive environment. This will certainly increase the time that you spend speaking English in such a setting and also enables you to gain immediate feedback whenever necessary.

The dates are the following:

### **COMPLIANCE**

- 3 AND 10 October 2023 (Two-day online course)
- 15-17 November 2023 (Frankfurt, Germany)

### **DRAFTING INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS**

- 2 October - 20 November - 7-week course
- 12 October - One-day crash course
- 26 October - 13 December - 7-week course
- 14 November - One-day crash course
- 7 December - one-day crash course

### **NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS - ONE DAY CRASH COURSE**

- 19 October (09:00-16:00) CEST
- 22 November (09:00-16:00) CEST
- 14 December (09:00-16:00) CEST

### **SPEAK LEGAL ENGLISH**

- 3 October - 28 November (Tuesdays 13:00-14:00 CEST)

For more information and to register, please click the link below.

[→ Learn more](#)

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## French National Assembly advances legal protections for in-house counsel

On July 10, 2023, the French Government presented an amendment to Article 19 of Rule 99 of the Rules of Procedure, making significant changes to the role and responsibilities of in-house lawyers in France. The amendment fundamentally reshapes legal advice confidentiality in the corporate sector and improves France's attractiveness in the global market.

Under this amendment, legal advice drawn up by an in-house lawyer or, at their request and under their supervision, by a member of their legal department, which is done for the benefit of their employer, is considered confidential. In other words, French legal departments providing legal advice to their employers enjoy confidentiality rules when providing said advice.

*"This amendment highlights decades of persistence," said Jonathan Marsh, President of ECLA. "This has been at the forefront for French legal departments, and we are excited to see the French Government agree with our positions to such a large extent. The changes will bring a new era for French businesses – one in which they can globalise their unparalleled competitiveness, unhindered by the evident restrictions that the current regime imposed."*

[→ Learn more](#)

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## Let us know your thoughts!

A network is only as strong as the enthusiasm of its members. For that purpose, we would like to strongly encourage company lawyers to utilise our platform fully. Whether it is about a recent (inter)national legal/regulatory development, or about the evolving role of the profession, or about other challenges that lawyers must tackle, from ESG to AI - get it touch with us and share our thoughts with your peers!

[→ Get in touch!](#)

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I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported our network. We hope to continue the fascinating dialogue that we have had on the evolving profession and the challenges that await. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch with us!

Kind regards



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Managing Director



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