



Bulletin

Marcus M. Schmitt

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Dear Daniela,

As corporate lawyers practicing in Europe, we are navigating an ever-evolving landscape shaped by the confluence of globalisation, rapid technological advancements, and regulatory shifts. Our mission, as always, is to stay ahead of the curve, ensuring that we are not only informed about these changes but also proactive in responding to them. For this purpose, we see an increasing necessity of a European-wide information-sharing network, that would enable corporate lawyers to identify their roles and fit within businesses on a larger scale.

As the EU has successfully harmonised a number of business-related areas (with Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders just yesterday discussing a proposed upgrade for the Company Law Directive), local legislation is bound to have a decreasing importance for in-house counsel. However, the cultural distinctions and traditions that define the uniqueness of each EU Member State still keep Europe as vibrant as it has ever been. Would any country other than France show such solidarity towards a controversial pension reform? Or how many European countries would see one of the two major grocery store chains have its non-franchised stores close down as a sign of protest towards franchising said stores, as it is happening currently in Belgium? We in-house lawyers know and understand that in some instances, the cultural contrast of a neighboring country can be more stark in comparison with a jurisdiction eight time zones away. That is what makes Europe great - our unitedness in broader ambitions and goals, while retaining our own quirks and identity.

Upcoming events and courses

We have a variety of activities planned in the near future. Whether you are a legal leader or have just started out at a junior role, our benefits ensure that you can expand on your capabilities and skills in a way most suitable for you.



GENERAL COUNSEL
ROUNDTABLE

General Counsel Roundtable series

For General Counsel and Heads of Legal Departments, our two upcoming online Roundtables, 20 April on Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and 11 May on M&A Trends. Furthermore, our fifth iteration of our Rome Antitrust Roundtable will take place at the end of June. Highly impactful and always exciting - we are delighted to return to Rome!

- 20 April (Online): Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)
- 11 May (Online): M&A Trends
- 29-30 June (Rome, Italy): Antitrust and Competition Law
 - Venue: Rome Cavalieri Waldorf Astoria

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



legal
DISRUPTION 2023



Legal Disruption: 15-16 May in Paris

Legal Disruption, our in-house focused conference on disruptive trends in legal departments, will kick off 2023 with a full-day event in Paris. The conference will bring high-level legal experts and legal solution experts together to discuss disruptive legal trends, optimal tools and solutions and advice on process improvement.

We have a very exciting lineup planned for the conference. Significant discount available for our members - ultimately our goal is to bring lawyers across Europe together to network and share best practices and we hope that this way you can convince your business better of the value to join us in Paris.

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

ECLA 40th Anniversary Conference

This year, ECLA is proud to celebrate its 40th anniversary! Time really does fly by when the CJEU misinterprets your profession in several judgments across the decades.

We are happy to invite everyone to celebrate with us in Frankfurt, Germany, at the Hotel Meliá Frankfurt City. As of today, we have opened registrations and have put together a framework overview of the event for you to understand what topics will be discussed. Ultimately, the event is about **time** - where will the profession be when ECLA celebrates its 100th anniversary? What about the 50th, a decade from now? What about now, as we are celebrating our 40th? Technology is evolving, our roles are evolving, our expertise is evolving. We are not static.

If you would like to join us as a speaker, please get in touch with us (e.g. by replying to this email)! We are always looking for passionate lawyers of all seniorities who want to utilise the ECLA platform for sharing their own expertise and thoughts.

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

Get yourself and your colleagues certified!

We are also running several certification courses in 2023. The courses are tailored for the activities and challenges that company lawyers in Europe must address and are ideal for enhancing your legal skills with high efficiency and convenience.

- 4 April - 16 May (7 weeks, Every Tuesday from 09:00-10:30 CEST) - **Drafting International Contracts**
 - Highly effective for lawyers who have recently joined an international legal environment and would like to improve their drafting skills in English.
 - Course starts next Tuesday - if you want to join last minute, please contact us directly - we are certain to facilitate it.
- 19-21 April (2,5-days, Frankfurt, Germany) - **Compliance Training**
 - High-intensity in-person course on corporate compliance with an industry-leading teacher. Highly recommended for everyone and their colleagues who has compliance-related responsibilities.
- 23 May (One-day crash course) - Drafting International Contracts
 - Also organised on 27 June

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

[→ Learn more](#)

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!](#)

Upgrades on EU company law with an emphasis on digitalisation expected

On 29 March 2023, the European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders presented a proposal for a Directive aimed at upgrading digital company law in the EU. The proposal's main goals include improving transparency, fostering trust, and reducing the administrative burden for companies, particularly SMEs, engaged in cross-border activities within the EU.

[→ Learn more](#)

The French Ministry of Justice starts work on the confidentiality of in-house lawyers' advice

Original interview conducted in French by Ondine Delaunay - The confidentiality of legal advice given by in-house counsel as part of their employment has long been a highly contested discussion in EU jurisprudence and within several EU Member States. France, who has seen considerable legislative discussions on this topic over the past few years has recently seen a draft text submitted by the Ministry of Justice. Jean-Philippe Gille, President of the French Association of Company Lawyers (AFJE), gave an overview of the ongoing developments in French, which has been translated here below.

[→ Learn more](#)

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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