

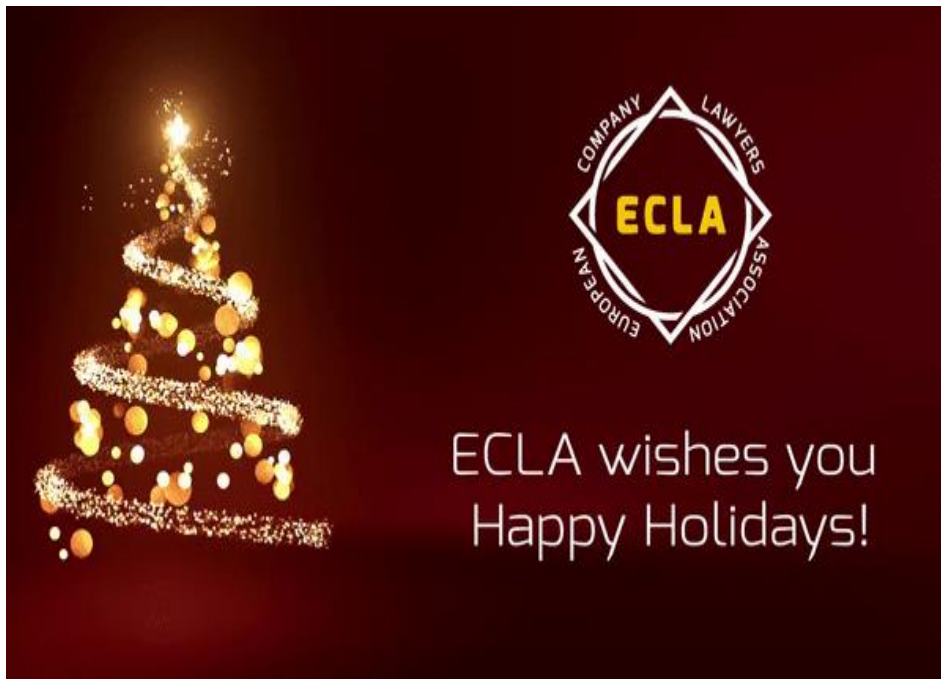


ECLA

European Company Lawyers Association

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ECLA NEWSLETTER, December 2019



Dear ECLA Members and Guests,

2019 has been a landmark year for ECLA. The conferences, online seminars, roundtables, and much more that we organized this year have highlighted the intrinsic similarities and differences that in-house lawyers from different European countries

have. Furthermore, we revitalized our tireless approach to advocate for our great profession in various European institutions, like the Commission and the Parliament. We will build upon what we created in 2019 and set even higher ambitions for the upcoming decade.

The year is coming to an end however. For the next few weeks, work becomes secondary, with festivities spreading all across the continent. Every region has their own traditions and cuisine to share, but the joy that the holiday season brings unites us all.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude for continuing to support our activities and welcome all and every input you may have to offer in 2020. If you would like to stay up to date with our activities, follow us on LinkedIn at <http://ecla.eu/linkedin>

The ECLA Executive Board and ourselves wish you happy holidays and a wonderful start to a new year.

Jonathan Marsh, President of ECLA

Marcus M. Schmitt, General Manager of ECLA

Webinar

ECLA Webcast Series: Times Change, Even For Lawyers – Progress vs. Challenges

Our speakers will discuss the outlook for legal departments in 2020 and potential challenges that in-house teams can expect to face in the upcoming decade. The session will be excellent for legal counsel of all seniority levels, as the facets it will touch are relevant for all members of legal departments. Issues such as assessing the level of digitalisation within the department, how to respond to the ever-changing trends within the legal market, and the top trends of 2020 for corporate legal departments will be discussed.

Register

ECLA Event

Legal Disruption 2020 - 26-27 February Dublin

Legal Disruption returns in 2020, kicking things off in Dublin!. We pick up where we ended in Paris, bringing together company lawyers and experts passionate about legal technology and other disruptive elements relevant for contemporary legal departments. Come join, increase your network of company lawyers across Europe, discuss best practices and gain insight into future tech!

We have already published our first speakers, stay tuned to find out who else will join us!

[Register](#)

Company law

EU Whistle-blower Directive in force

The EU has published a new whistleblower Directive, aimed at harmonising whistleblower protection rules across Europe. Currently, only 10 EU Member States have comprehensive legislation in place. Amongst other things, the Directive will require the creation of safe channels for reporting and aims to protect informants against retaliation from employers.

[Read more](#)

International Development

Australia and EU negotiating free-trade agreement

The EU is steadily increasing its FTA area across the World, with Australia being the next potential country to conclude the negotiations with the Union. The total annual volume of trade in goods and services between the two sides amounts to more than €40 billion per year. The European Commission, which negotiates on behalf of the 28 EU member states, believes that trade in goods alone could increase by 37% if an FTA is concluded.

[Read more](#)

Antitrust law

ECJ: Parties not directly affected by actions of a cartel may claim compensation for losses incurred

The CJEU has held that pursuant to the EU's antitrust rules enshrined in the Treaty, public authorities and other third parties can claim compensation for losses caused by a cartel, even when they are not actors themselves in the relevant market. The decision stems from a dispute taking place in Austria, where the state of Upper

Austria was indirectly affected.

[Read more](#)

Artificial Intelligence

“AI is nothing to be afraid of”

ECLA, the Law Society of England and Wales, and the Association of Corporate Counsel held a comprehensive workshop on artificial intelligence and regulatory challenges at the European Parliament. The debate was chaired by Ilse de Loof, General Counsel of LBC group. Panelists included Helena Raulus, Head of the Joint Law Societies Office; Aswin Parkunantharan from the legal tech company Wolters Kluwer, and Quang-Minh Lepescheux, Director for EU Government Affairs at Microsoft in Brussels.

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