



ECLA

European Company Lawyers Association

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ECLA BULLETIN, February 2021

Dear ECLA Members and Guests,

Spring is around the corner! Our first abrupt weather patterns have already arrived, with temperatures shifting 25 degrees or more in some parts of Europe. In other news, we are seeing an uptick with regards to COVID-19 in certain parts of Europe. Coupled with delays in the vaccine rollouts entails that we still do not know when or how the 'normal' way of living will return. The best we can do is adhere by the rules, limit our contacts and do our best so that this crisis end.

It has been almost a full year of working under the 'new normal' conditions. Remote working has become ubiquitous for many professions, including corporate lawyers. Think back to your work in 2019 - how absurd would it have been to imagine working remotely full-time. What seemed like something plausible in an unreachable future has clearly demonstrated that corporate lawyers can work at a high efficiency without being at their desks at the offices. Expect flexible working conditions to stay permanently as a part of the in-house counsel package.

The same can be said about digitalisation and how it has been thrust at the forefront of every conscious legal department. The need to have an efficient digital legal department will only increase. The time to act is now!

Legal Privilege

Independence and legal privilege for domestic and foreign in-house counsel affirmed by Dutch District Court

The Rotterdam District Court recently clarified the applicability of legal professional privilege for in-house lawyers pursuant to Dutch law. ECLA Participated in this judgment by providing an amicus curiae. Jonathan Marsh, President of ECLA, welcomed this judgment, stating that it paves the way for general counsel serving on executive boards, a significant step aligning jurisprudence with the role of the modern general counsel who serves as a trusted advisor on strategic matters.

[Read more](#)

E-Learning

Corporate Counsel Academy this Spring!

ECLA has taken a new step in its services for our European company lawyer members - the Corporate Counsel Academy is a collection of online certification classes tasked with making further education and improvement as accessible as possible, especially in times of a pandemic. The subject matters of the classes are diverse, varying from courses on drafting international courses or improving your negotiation skills in legal English to practical courses on accounting and on improving your LinkedIn profiles and network. Check out the website below - we are certain that we have something to offer to everyone!

[View Courses](#)

Webinar

ECLA Online Learning Centre - 2021

Join our weekly Online Learning Centre sessions! We have an exciting line-up planned for Spring 2021, with new webinars covering a variety of topics, from COVID-19 challenges to legal professional privilege to legal tech solutions. Our speakers are seasoned experts in their fields and will give thought-provoking discussions. The agenda for March will be the following:

- **3 March 11:00 CET - The Importance of Legal Spend Management During Times of Covid-19 Uncertainty and Budget Cuts - Lynne Kellet (EDF UK), Daniel Wate (Associated British Foods) & Jo Guy (Busylamp)**
- **10 March 15:00 CET - Legal Professional Privilege For In-House Counsel: A Roundtable Inspired By The Rotterdam District Court's Recent Shell Judgment**
- **18 March 11:00 CET - How To Innovate In Your Own Legal Team: Examples From UiPath And Deloitte Legal's First Legal Automation Partnership**
- **23 March 11:00 CET - KPI's For Legal Departments: From Defining To Achieving**
- **30 March 11:00 CET - Legal Operations & Covid-19: One Year Later - Amy Mcconnell (Vodafone Business), Natalie Salunke (RVU), Joachim Kämpf (ECE Projektmanagement)**

All sessions are free to join and can be done by clicking register below

[Register](#)

Legal Technology

Download study: Legal Departments in a Digital Era

ECLA and Wolters Kluwer published a free in-depth study into the digital status of legal departments across Europe. A pan-European study based on a comprehensive survey conducted in Fall 2019, the research aims to act as a starting point in establishing the status of various markets in Europe and to highlight how far in the digitalisation and digitisation process corporate legal departments are.

The study is very insightful in not only showcasing the status of in-house teams across various facets, such as the organisation and tools in use, digital strategies and budgets thereof, but also future plans and how corporate lawyers themselves see the legal departments evolving.

Click below to read more and to download the study for free!

[Download](#)

Legal Privilege

Swiss mulling on LPP for civil proceedings

As part of the ongoing revision of civil procedure law, there have been discussions to introduce the protection of professional secrets for corporate lawyers in civil proceedings. Swiss business representatives are in favour of this proposal, stressing the importance of having legal professional privilege in international conduct, which would turn Swiss companies more competitive on a global scale.

[Read more](#)

Webinar

The Future is Now: The New World of Work - A CMS Webinar Series

Our partner CMS has put together a comprehensive series of webinars with experts that address any relevant legislative or policy changes that employers need to be aware of and discuss the issues arising from the new prevalence of remote working in the short and potentially also longer term, including from a health & safety perspective.

The series covers 25 countries, and each 45-minute webinar will typically cover one country and will be conducted in English by CMS experts from the relevant jurisdiction.

Participation is free and we invite our members to check them out, as they will provide practical advice onto navigating the pandemic currently and in the near-future.

[View more](#)

Webinar

VAT for e-commerce: a new scheme - 2 and 4 March 10:30 CET - A CMS Tax Webinar Invitation

CMS is also organising a comprehensive two-part tax webinar series. The European Union has overhauled the VAT rules for e-commerce, which will impact on all businesses making any cross-border "B2C" supplies.

This extensive and bold package of measures aims to adapt the VAT system, which was mostly designed for offline transactions, to the explosive growth of B2C online transactions in our technology-driven world.

The entry into force of these new rules was postponed to 1 July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, addressing these reforms sooner rather than later is critical for businesses due to the extensive adaptations that will be required to information systems.

Both 75-minute sessions will include an in-depth explanation of these new rules together with practical examples, followed by Q&A.

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Your association is a member of ECLA.

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