

# ECLA

## European Company Lawyers Association

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ECLA NEWSLETTER, July 2019

**Dear ECLA Members and Guests,**

Summer should be a time for rest, but developments Europe-wide have been on full throttle. Most recently, the United Kingdom has a new Prime Minister to steer the Brexit ship to shore. The European Commission has a new leader, casting doubt on the Spitzenkandidat process for future elections. If anything, it is safe to say that we should expect everything from the rest of the year.

**About**

**ECLA**

## **Legal Disruption Roadshow Paris, 25-26 September**

The third edition of Legal Disruption is coming soon. The discussions will encompass fields such as digitalisation, data privacy, legal technology, organising modern legal departments, and much more, with the speakers coming from well-known companies and institutes. To learn more about the agenda and to register, just click on Register below.

Come, learn and network with your peers across Europe!

[Learn more](#)

#### Data protection

## US slaps Facebook with \$5 billion fine over privacy violations

The US Federal Trade Commission has imposed a large fine on Facebook due to its role in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The settlement puts a number of restrictions on Facebook regarding its treatment of user data. The settlement might be an important step towards stricter American data protection rules, though nothing certain is planned for the near future.

[Learn more](#)

#### Trade agreement

## European opposition to Mercosur trade deal?

The EU has widened its free-trade areas across the world, moving from Asia to South America, signing a deal with the Mercosur countries. The agreement has both strong proponents from the political side and strong opponents from the agricultural sector. As the agreement needs to be ratified by national parliaments, expect an uphill climb for the deal to go through.

[Learn more](#)

#### Bayer-Monsanto

## Glyphosate and cancer: The jury is out

The Monsanto glyphosate saga has not swayed Bayer from acquiring them. A look into the controversial herbicide gives an overview of how the American judicial system has viewed the issue and how European countries have responded to the numerous lawsuits that Monsanto has been facing in the US.

[Learn more](#)

#### Legal Privilege

## France Moves to protect confidentiality of legal advice by in-house counsel

A member of the French Parliament produced a report, proposing to extent legal privilege to company lawyers. The discussion has been heated for a long period, as there is heavy opposition from certain interest groups. The

reports main argument for extending legal privilege concerns the competitiveness of French companies on the international stage, given the advantages that companies based in countries with legal privilege for in-house counsel enjoy.

[Learn more](#)

#### Interview

## Reding: “In the European Parliament, there are noise-makers and there are law-makers”

In-House Legal had the privilege to sit down with Ms. Viviane Reding during ECLA’s Annual Conference. The discussion focused on GDPR and what Ms. Reding, as one of the instigators, envisioned it to be, the status of Brexit, international relations, and gender equality.

Our interview series with prominent European politicians will resume in Fall!

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