



ECLA

European Company Lawyers Association

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ECLA BULLETIN, June 2021

Dear ECLA Members and Guests,

We live in exciting times. Heavy rain for some, tornadoes for others, heatwaves for those left out. As the first leg of the summer months is coming to an end, the race to have the population vaccinated before another contagious strain gains its footing is well on the way. Whether normalcy returns at the end of the year remains to be seen, but one can be hopeful.

We have had some fascinating legal developments in Europe over the past few months. The Dutch decision regarding companies upholding the Paris Climate Agreement is the most noticeable and could pave the way for more disruptive changes.

E-Learning

Corporate Counsel Academy courses - Fall 2021

Visit the Corporate Counsel Academy website to find out information about our upcoming courses in Fall! In addition to the return of our well-received courses such as *Legal English for Negotiation* and *Drafting International Contracts*, the selection also includes practical courses such as *LinkedIn for Lawyers*, *Engaging your Internal Client*, *Media Training*, *Cross-Cultural Negotiation*, *Legal Writing*, and much more!

Visit the website by clicking the button below or send us an e-mail for more information!

[View Courses](#)

ESG

ESG, shareholder activism and judicial developments in the oil industry

On 26 May, the Hague District Court ordered Royal Dutch Shell to reduce the CO2 emissions of the Shell group by net 45% by 2030, compared to the group's levels in 2019. Though Shell had already put forth a statement earlier in 2021, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050 and reducing their carbon intensity by 20% by 2030, the court found that the business plans of the Group have yet to be adapted to these targets and that the Group's overall policy and ambitions largely amount to rather intangible, undefined and non-binding plans for the long-term.

[Read More](#)

Legal Developments

European class actions expected to rise as opt-outs become more popular - CMS

A record number of class actions has been filed across Europe in recent years with a rise of over 120% between 2018 and 2020. Class actions against the technology sector increased dramatically, with 15 times the number of claims filed in 2020 as in 2017, equivalent to a growth of 1400%. Data protection claims grew 11 times, or 1000%, between 2016 and 2020.

The study can be downloaded by clicking the link at the end of the article.

[Read more](#)

In-House Developments

The six challenges of in-house lawyers: an interview series with French company lawyers

In stressful times, legal departments are thrust at the centre of a company's operations. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has been no different, as lawyers must address several high-stakes questions on a regular basis, ranging from the continuity of contracts and force majeure issues to labour law questions. Furthermore, the regular concerns that lawyers address require equal amounts of attention, such as data protection, compliance, social and environmental responsibilities. The French publication "Les Echos" interviewed ten legal directors from medium and large companies to find how to address and adapt to these ever-changing challenges.

[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.

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Responsible for the content:
ECLA Association Services SPRL,
Dr. Michael Henning
Marcus M. Schmitt
Telephone: +32 2-808 54 56
E-Mail: info@ecla.eu

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Avenue Louise 326
1050 Brussels, Belgium

CONTACT INFORMATION
Telephone: +32 2 808 54 56
E-Mail: info@ecla.eu
Internet address: <http://www.ecla.eu>

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Our mailing address is:
ECLA - European Company Lawyers Association
Avenue Louise 326
Brussels 1050, Belgium

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