

# **ECLA**

## European Company Lawyers Association

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**ECLA NEWSLETTER, May 2019**

**Dear ECLA Members and Guests,**

The first half of the year is coming to an end. We at ECLA have already accomplished quite a lot in the first five months, bringing company lawyers across Europe closer and closer together. Two Legal Disruption events are behind us and we closed our Annual Conference last week with great success. In addition, our magazine In-House Legal is steadily gaining readership all around Europe.

This is just the beginning however and the year is not even close to being over. Stay tuned for our upcoming exciting projects and events.

As of 22 May, ECLA is also proud to announce the growth to 21 member associations! Our newest member is the Greek Inhouse Lawyers Association. Welcome Greece! We are looking forward to expanding our discussion to Greek lawyers and are interested to hear about any and all developments.

**About**

**ECLA**

**Annual**

**Conference**

**ECLA**

**2019**

On 22-24 May, ECLA organised its first ever Annual Conference. Taking place at the Steigenberger Wiltcher's Hotel in Brussels, Belgium, the two-and-a-half-day conference brought together over twenty nationalities at the European heart to discuss various fields of law and share best practices.

The first day focused on corporate legal departments of today and tomorrow and addressed contemporary developments in compliance and M&A. The morning session included an electrifying speech by Mr. Philippe Lamberts, Co-Chair of Greens/EFA and a panel discussion concerning digitalisation within corporate legal departments. The day ended with a memorable evening reception and dinner at Train World.

The second day tackled Brexit and what it will entail for company lawyers, both from a economic and legal standpoint. This was followed by practical discussions regarding legal departments and a concrete look into data privacy and labour law challenges. The event culminated with a memorable speech by Ms. Viviane Reding in the afternoon.

We would like to thank all participants who joined us and our esteemed speakers and sponsors CMS, Wolters Kluwer, Knowliah and Debevoise & Plimpton, who made this event possible. We hope that everybody had a wonderful time and are eager to join us at our upcoming events.

### EU Policy

## 5G and political developments

Europe has taken a strong initiative in advancing 5G technology. The key reason behind it is the inherent advantage a functioning infrastructure will give to everyone - from companies to individuals. As 5G will be a definitive milestone in technological evolution, it is necessary to look in depth - what is 5G, what is the EU doing and how the World is reacting to it. From EU policy initiatives such as the 5G PPP to companies such as Huawei to countries such as Belgium, stakes are high and not every Member State will come out as a winner.

[Learn more](#)

### Labour law

## Companies must record employees' working hours, European Court of Justice rules

Companies in Europe are obligated to set up systems to allow the recording of daily working hours of employees. This requirement is done in order to enforce legal limits on working hours. The judgment rests on the Charter of Fundamental Rights, entitling all workers to work only a limited number of hours and to have daily and periodical rest periods.

[Learn more](#)

[Free Movement](#)

## Orthodox monk wins right to practice as a lawyer in Greece

The Court of Justice of the European Union has held that in theory, Member States can prevent lawyers who have obtained their qualifications in another Member State from working as lawyers. However, the principle of proportionality must be taken into consideration when restricting migrant lawyers from working. In this case, a monk, who has qualified as an attorney in Cyprus, won the right to practice in Greece.

[Learn more](#)

[Investor protection](#)

## EU high court clears CETA arbitration tribunals

The Court of Justice of the European Union has concluded that the Investment Court System, which is a part of the free trade agreement between the EU and Canada, is consistent with EU law. The scope of the tribunals are limited, as it denies the possibility to challenge public policy measures that have been taken to protect health, safety or the environment, permitting only measures that are “manifestly excessive” in light of their objective.

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### ITALY

Following the elections in April, where AIGI members re-elected Giovanni Cerutti, Raimondo Rinaldi and Silvia Bonacossa as Board members, the new Board convened on 8 May to appoint the new Chairman and other Officers for upcoming 3 years.

We are pleased to inform you about the new appointments: Chairman Giuseppe Catalano, Deputy Chair Wanya Carraro, Treasurer Massimo Scaravonati. Silvia Bonacossa was confirmed as the delegate for ECLA Assembly.

Under the AIGI Article of Association, Raimondo Rinaldi couldn't be reelected as Chairman after two mandates; in addition, Silvia Bonacossa didn't run for the Treasurer position. Also, given the great involvement as ECLA Treasurer, Giovanni Cerutti has denied to apply for any Office in addition to the Board

membership.

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Your association is a member of ECLA.

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