



European Company Lawyers Association

PRESS RELEASE

The European company lawyers elect Sergio Marini as new President of ECLA

Paris, November 18, 2014

Sergio Marini, board member of AIGI (*Italian Company Lawyers Association*)) has been elected by acclamation as President of ECLA (*European Company Lawyers Association*), of which he was Vice President since 2008.

ECLA is the association of the European national associations of company lawyers (Bars and professional associations), representing altogether more than 42,000 company lawyers across 20 countries in Europe.

Sergio Marini's ECLA program is focused on three main goals:

1. Promote and enhance the acceptance and demand for an active role of company lawyers;
2. Leverage on regulatory opportunities to consolidate the recognition of company lawyers status within the legal community;
3. Identify and eliminate regulatory threats to the position or practice of company lawyers, reaffirming their professional independency of mindset in defending company's interest and compliance principles.

On this occasion Sergio Marini said: *"The demand of legality has increased in the last decades and the in-house lawyers have a key role in ensuring the correct behavior of the companies they work for, in the interest of the companies themselves and the society they are part of.*

Such an important role must have an adequate recognition in Europe. In some countries this role has been already recognized while in others this goal is far from being reached. ECLA's mission is to provide adequate support to the national associations where this professional recognition has not yet been achieved, drawing policy makers' attention on the value and on the social relevance of the role of the in-house lawyers across Europe".

"There are valuable instruments available today to ECLA," Sergio Marini added "like the Code of Ethics of the European in-house lawyers, approved by ECLA General Assembly as a common base of ethical behavior, and like the recently published ECLA White Paper on the independence of company lawyers, which clarifies the real role and the values of the profession. It is up to ECLA to strengthen the cohesion among the national associations in order to speak up and make them heard as one voice vis-a-vis the European Institutions".

Curriculum Vitae

Sergio Marini, fifty, earned his Law degree at the University of Bologna, Italy, and was admitted to the *Ordine degli Avvocati* of Milan in 1998.

After working in private practices in Italy and England, he has gained a 25 year experience in the energy sector as in-house lawyer for major industries, both Italian and Anglo-Dutch, where he has gained a considerable experience before joining, as General Counsel, a primary fashion company in Rome.

Member of AIGI (*Italian Company Lawyers Association*) since 1995 and, at present AIGI Board member. He has also been lecturer at various courses and masters focused on Commercial law as well as at AIGI's School for In-House Counsels.

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