



ELI  
EUROPEAN  
LAW  
INSTITUTE

# ELI Updates

## July-August 2015



### Inside this issue:

2nd Supplement to ELI  
CESL Statement - 2

Rescue of Business in  
Insolvency Law - 3

Meeting of the Criminal  
Law Project Team in Vienna  
- 3

Save the date: Building  
European Rules of Civil  
Procedure - 4

ELI and the CCBE - 4

Taking heed of the  
American Law Institutes  
approach - 5

The ELI keeps building its  
international relations - 5

New Secretary General - 6

ELI Polish Hub events - 7

Conference on the Digital  
Revolution - 8

Conference on Platform  
Services in the Digital  
Single Market - 8

New Institutional  
Observers- 9

Annual Conference - 10

### GREETINGS FROM VĚRA JOUROVÁ,

#### EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE, CONSUMERS AND GENDER EQUALITY

Dear ELI Members and Friends,

I am very pleased to contribute to ELI's August 2015 newsletter. Let me begin by welcoming the ELI's important work as an independent, interdisciplinary and practical centre of excellence from its start in 2011.

Under the Presidency of Diana Wallis you have provided highly valuable advice on a range of justice issues, thereby helping the European Commission in its efforts to create a truly European Area of Justice.

You have shown the importance of gathering in an integrated joint venture the most important stakeholders of the legal European community. Let me mention some concrete examples which I found particularly interesting.

The project "From Transnational Principles to European Rules of Civil Procedure" building on the 2004 American Law Institute/Unidroit Principles of Transnational Civil Procedure matches my strong interest in efficient cross-border civil procedures in Europe. Strong and respected procedural rights of the parties are core to achieve mutual trust on which the smooth functioning of the European Area of Justice depends.

Another very interesting project is "Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law". We need a new approach to business failure and insolvency. I am determined to improve the conditions to get viable companies experiencing financial difficulties back to business and giving honest entrepreneurs a second chance. The aim is to boost growth, save jobs and create business opportunities. ELI's work in this highly relevant area will be of great use for my project on insolvency reform in the EU.

Finally, the project "Prevention and Settlement of Conflicts of Exercise of Jurisdiction in Criminal Law" is very forward looking and ambitious. Jurisdictional questions are a complex and fast developing area and often cause legal and practical difficulties. ELI's research will help to target gaps and identify problems.

I am looking forward to the upcoming ELI Annual Conference in which I will participate with great pleasure. We will discuss a wide range of topics that matter for the European Commission in its aim to make a difference for people living in Europe. Establishing the Digital Single Market, shaping European Family and Successions Law to actual needs, helping companies with modern insolvency are important challenges ahead.

I am delighted to continue working with the ELI in order to achieve a high level of justice in Europe.

A real justice space is an absolute precondition to real freedom of circulation of our citizens into the European open space.

I know we are committed to reach this common aim.

Věra Jourová

Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

## The ELI publishes the 2nd Supplement to its CESL Statement “Unlocking the Digital Single Market – An Instrument for 21st Century Europe”

The 2nd Supplement to the ELI Statement on the Proposal for a Regulation on a Common European Sales Law (CESL), “[Unlocking the Digital Single Market – An Instrument for 21st Century Europe](#)”, was approved by the ELI Council on 31 July 2015 (CD 2015/6) and is now available at the “[ELI Publications](#)” section of this website. This publication forms the first part of what will be a longer-term project within which the ELI will develop a detailed draft legislative proposal following the European Commission’s Communication on “A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe”. This strategy was presented in May this year and focuses on the need to “unleash the potential of e-commerce in the digital single market”.

In this 2nd Supplement to its initial publication on the matter, the ELI welcomes the Commission’s digital single market initiative, as the market place of the future, and outlines a basis upon which the required legislative framework could be developed. A future publication with detailed legislative recommendations will follow this 2nd Supplement.

The ELI Statement on the Proposal for a Common European Sales Law (CESL) was published in 2012 and examined the European Commission’s proposal for a Regulation establishing a CESL. Following this, the ELI published a first Supplement to the Statement in July 2014, as a reaction to the European Parliament’s Legislative Resolution of that year in the field.

The project team is chaired by Lord Thomas of

Cwmgiedd, with ELI Vice-President, Christiane Wendehorst, and Executive Committee member, John Sorabji as co-reporters. Further members of the working group are: Hugh Beale, Fabrizio Cafaggi, Johan Gernandt, Paul Gilligan, Paola Iamicelli, Rafael Illescas, Peter Limmer, Marco Loos, Reiner Schulze, Matthias Storme, Diana Wallis, Friedrich Graf von Westphalen and Fryderyk Zoll. The Advisory Committee comprises Ole Lando (special advisor), Carole Aubert de Vincelles, Remo Caponi, Sjef van Erp, Hans Micklitz, Denis Philippe and Lajos Vekas.

The 2nd Supplement has been received by the European Institutions, generating very positive reactions. The European Commission welcomed the ELI’s input and an open exchange of ideas with the Institute. Commissioner Jourová, who

had already showed her interest in such a dialogue in January in her meeting with ELI President Diana Wallis, Vice-President Professor Wendehorst and Executive Committee member, Professor van Erp, will be present at the ELI Annual Conference, where she will deliver a keynote speech on 4 September. On the day before, a panel discussion will be devoted to the “Digital Single Market”, chaired by Lord Thomas. Click [here](#) for more details on the panel session.



## Interested in presenting a project proposal? Check out the updated Proposer Guide!

The Proposer Guide that orients ELI fellows in the preparation of a project proposal was recently revised in order to incorporate the latest amendments approved for the ELI Project Guidelines in February 2015. The ELI invites its members to submit proposals for new projects. In order to ensure that the proposal covers all relevant issues, you are kindly encouraged to carefully read the [Proposer Guide](#) and contact the Secretariat for any questions you may have in this regard. Please use the [template proposal form](#) as far as possible.

The selection, management and approval of projects carried out under the auspices of the ELI are regulated in the [ELI Project Guidelines](#). These Guidelines took effect on 13 February 2015, and replaced the Project Guidelines adopted pursuant to [Council Decision 2014/11](#) for all projects approved on or after that date. Projects approved under previous Project Guidelines remain subject to them, subject to any agreement between Project Reporters and the ELI.

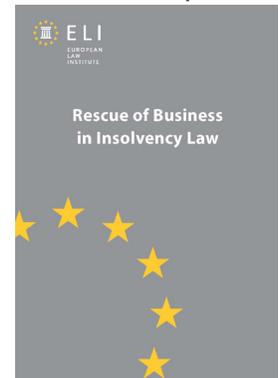
## Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law: Reporters met in Dordrecht in July

Professor Bob Wessels and Professor Stephan Madaus, two of the reporters of the ELI Instrument on Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law, met in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, on 21 and 22 July. The meeting, that was also joined remotely by Associate Professor Kristin van Zwieten, reporter of the project, and by the researcher of the project Gert-Jan Boon, was a milestone in the development of the project. The reporters discussed in detail the method of their research, the order of the argumentation to be provided, the level of detail when referring to e.g. literature, as well as the overall structure of their report.

This meeting comes after a very successful Conference that took place last March in Vienna, where the project reporters welcomed the National Correspondents (NCs) of the project, members of the Advisory Committee and members of the Members Consultative Committee (MCC) to discuss the first reports that had been produced by NCs. For more information about this successful conference, please visit the [ELI website](#).

At this stage, NCs have produced inventory reports

on their respective jurisdictions, and reporters have all the materials at their disposal to start preparing a first draft of their report. After the Dordrecht meeting the reporters have started to develop (non-public) draft texts of the ELI Instrument on Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law.



The ELI Annual Conference will also devote a panel session to this project next September in Vienna. The panel will be chaired by Professor Wessels, and will count with Professor Madaus and Associate Professor Kristin van Zwieten as panelists, together with the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna, Professor Paul Oberhammer, and the managing director of Isonomy, Stephen Taylor (London). The panel, which will take place on Friday 4 September, will discuss selected law reform issues arising in pursuit of the policy of facilitating the rescue of financially distressed businesses. Later that afternoon, a Membership Committee meeting will also take place.

## Meeting of the Criminal Law Project Team in Vienna

The third meeting of the ELI Project Team working on “Prevention and Settlement of Conflicts of Exercise of Jurisdiction in Criminal Law” will take place immediately before this year’s Annual Conference and General Assembly in Vienna. The meeting will start in the morning of 1 September and last until 2 September. The Project Team’s aim is: (i) to streamline the comparison between Criminal and Private International Law; (ii) to introduce the perspective of both the defendant and the victim in the analysis; (iii) to discuss some recent developments in EU and national legislation on jurisdictional issues; and (iv) to discuss the problem scenario and the normative options.

In order to enhance the policy impact of the research, representatives from Eurojust, the European Criminal

Bar Association and the British Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have been invited to the meeting. Following the Project Team’s meeting Prof. André Klip, one of the three Project Reporters, will present a progress report at the Members Consultative Committee (MCC) meeting which will take place at the Austrian Academy of Science in the course of the 2015 Annual Conference and General Assembly. Please note that all ELI members (regardless of their main field of expertise) can join the MCC. It is exactly this diversity which enriches the debating potential of the MCC and makes its contribution so valuable. If you would like to become a member of the MCC please contact: [adi.bikic@europeanlawinstitute.eu](mailto:adi.bikic@europeanlawinstitute.eu).

## Save the date: Building European Rules of Civil Procedure ELI-UNIDROIT Conference in cooperation with ERA on 26/27 November

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter, the ELI and the Academy of European Law (ERA) have strengthened their cooperation and ERA has recently become an Institutional Observer of the ELI. In this cooperation framework, the ELI and ERA are organizing their first joint event, a Conference on the ELI-UNIDROIT Project "From Transnational Principles to European Rules of Civil Procedure" that ERA will host in Trier on 26-27 November.

The Conference will contain different workshops through which the participants will discuss potential rules of European civil procedure. The workshops correspond with the topics of the five ELI-UNIDROIT Working Groups:

- Access to information and evidence;
- Provisional and protective measures;
- Service and due notice of proceedings;
- Obligations of parties and lawyers;
- Res iudicata and lis pendens.

Each session will start with a short presentation of the respective Working Group Reporters and will be followed by a response from a judge, a practitioner and an academic. Each session will be chaired by a member of the ELI-UNIDROIT Steering Committee. Diana Wallis, President of the ELI and longstanding

member of ERA's Board of Trustees, said that she is delighted that the organisations will actively cooperate more closely in the future. Wallis said further, "I hope that linking ELI's membership to the courses on offer from ERA will prove mutually beneficial".



Diana Wallis in Trier with Angelika Fuchs and Jean-Philippe Rageade from ERA

The final programme of the Conference is still work in progress and will be announced soon. Please save the date and do not miss this opportunity to contribute to the development of European Rules of Civil Procedure Rules.

The ELI-UNIDROIT project is a cooperative venture that builds upon the Transnational Principles on Civil Procedure, established by the American Law Institute (ALI) and UNIDROIT. More information on the project is available on the [ELI website](#).

## The ELI and the CCBE strengthen their cooperation

As reported in the May-June issue of the ELI Newsletter, on 26 June President Diana Wallis gave a keynote speech at the plenary session of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) in Brussels. This event was a great opportunity for the President of the ELI to address all members of the CCBE and to meet their President, Maria Ślęzak, with whom she discussed how the two organizations could strengthen their cooperation.

The CCBE was one of the ELI's first Institutional Observers and as such it supported the ELI from the very beginning. This mutually positive relationship is now being reactivated in different ways, especially by

identifying areas of common interest where the CCBE and the ELI could develop joint projects in the future, such as procedural and consumer law.

During her visit to the CCBE in Brussels in June, Diana Wallis met also with representatives of the CCBE European Lawyers Foundation. The European Lawyers Foundation has as its main aim the implementation of added-value projects that create services for European lawyers and on issues related to justice policies in Europe. The Foundation also implements projects related to objectives such as human rights and the rule of law.

## Taking heed of the American Law Institutes approach

Last June the ELI President, Diana Wallis, and ELI Fellow, Ianika Tzankova, took part in an event organized by the European Circuit of the Bar in collaboration with Middle Temple International under the title: "Perfecting the Class Action - the American and European Experience". The event was chaired by the Leader of the European Circuit Barbara Dohmann QC, and the panel included the Treasurer of the American Law Institute (ALI), Wallace Jefferson, Andrew Trask, from McGuire Woods London, Alexander Layton QC, from 20 Essex Street London, Ianika Tzankova, from Bentham Europe and Tilburg University and the ELI President Diana Wallis.

The event focused in a field well known for the ELI. In December 2014, the ELI Statement on Collective Redress and Competition Damages Claims was published. The project team, chaired by Mark Clough QC, of which Ianika Tzankova was part, worked on the European Commission Recommendation on common principles for injunctive and compensatory collective redress mechanisms in the Member States concerning violations of rights granted under Union Law, and also studied the Proposal for a Directive on competition damages claims. More information about the project and about the Statement is available on [the ELI website](#).

Diana Wallis has kindly shared her impression of the event:

*"At this instructive and stimulating event there was the usual lively discussion about opt-in and opt-out models of collective redress; however, what I thought was more impressive for a European audience was to hear at first hand from Wallace Jefferson how the ALI has influenced this area of law throughout the last century. He explained how the American Institute was set up in 1923, and how these decades of establishment enabled the ALI to gain the international recognition it holds today. Wallace also described how the work through statements on class actions had affected and changed the thinking of the American judiciary. His persuasive presentation made clear that the model of a Law Institute is crucial to allow the entire legal community to influence the development of law."*

In the view of the ELI President, the experience of the ALI reinforces the conviction that the publication of ELI statements is a greatly valuable contribution, which can form part of continuous development in the same area of law. In her own words: *"Two years have now passed since the Commission Recommendation was issued, therefore consideration could be given to the moment when it will be reviewed in terms of a legislative instrument. Perhaps the moment has come for the ELI to mirror this, and reinvigorate our efforts in this area, certainly our American colleagues would do so, and their successful example excellently demonstrates the positive effects of pre-emptive thought and action in relation to the outputs of legislative institutions."*

## The ELI keeps building its international relations

During the last few months, the ELI has been putting a lot of effort to continue strengthening its international relations strategy. The ELI was represented by its Vice-President Christiane Wendehorst at the 2015 General Meeting of the American Law Institute (ALI) last May. She held meetings with Lance Liebman, immediate past Director of the ALI and in charge of ALI-ELI relations, to explore possibilities of future enhanced cooperation between the two institutions concerning projects. She also met Geoffrey Hazard, former Director of the ALI, to discuss issues related with the ELI-UNIDROIT Project "From Transnational Principles to European Rules of Civil Procedure.

Early in June the ELI was represented at the 22nd International Congress of the Union Internationale des Huissiers de Justice (UIHJ) in Madrid. This Congress provided a unique place for exchanging information, strengthening existing relations and exploring possibilities of future cooperation of the ELI with other legal organizations and institutions around the globe. The Council of Europe, the European Commission, UNCITRAL, the World Bank, the IMF and the Hague Conference on Private International Law are some of the organizations that were also represented at the event.

The presentation of the Global Code of Enforcement was one of the items on the agenda, which included a set of rules that affect the enforcement of court decisions and the agent responsible for enforcement, with a universal harmonizing vocation. The ELI work was presented during the course of the Conference by member of the Executive Committee Sjef van Erp, who also initiated dialogue with other international organisations, with the view to possible future cooperation.

The U.S. Uniform Law Commission (ULC) held its annual meeting this year in Williamsburg, Virginia, from 10 to 16 July. The ELI was represented by Sjef van Erp, who addressed the full assembly about the ELI's activities and presented the work done

by the ELI during the "International Breakfast Program" organised by the ULC's International Legal Developments Committee and the Joint Editorial Board on International Law. As the ELI and the ULC are involved in an exploratory project to see whether the Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (UFADAA) could be used as a basis for European (model) legislation, this was a good opportunity to discuss further steps regarding the UFADAA exploratory project.

The Canadian Uniform Law Conference and the "Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires" (OHADA) are two other organizations with which the ELI is exploring some form of mutual cooperation.

## The ELI appoints its new Secretary General



The ELI Executive Committee has appointed Dr. Rosana Garciandía as the Secretary General of the ELI. Dr. Garciandía has accepted this role with enthusiasm and well aware of her responsibility, after having served as Legal Officer at the ELI for the last two years. During this period

at the ELI she was the member of the Secretariat coordinating the ELI Project on Collective Redress and Competition Damages Claims, which was published in December 2014. She was also in charge of the coordination of the ELI Instrument on Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law for 2015. Furthermore, as part of the ELI Secretariat team she worked on the organization of the 2014 Annual Conference in Zagreb and has served the ELI bodies with a high level of commitment.

Holding a PhD in Public International Law, she has experience as lecturer and researcher in European and International Law at the Universities of Navarra and Murcia, in her native Spain. She developed part of her research at academic institutions around

Europe, such as the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland) and Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom). She was also involved in research activity with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in the field of migration and was a consultant at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The new Secretary General will be in charge of enhancing the ELI's network, establishing contacts with other institutions, coordinating ELI project related actions, and raising awareness of the ELI and its work in the European and global legal community. She has been entrusted to fulfil representative functions in collaboration with the Executive Committee, as well as to take the initiative in providing ideas for the future direction of the ELI. She will be in close contact with the ELI Executive Committee, Council and Senate, and will be involved in strategic decisions with the aim of further strengthening the ELI's position in the international and European legal landscape. Rosana's role also includes the coordination of the Secretariat's work and organization of events.

## The ELI Polish Hub announces autumn events

The ELI is proud to announce the dynamic activity of the recently established Polish Hub, which will support two conferences to be held this year. The first event is the “[International Conference on damages for violations of Human Rights -domestic, comparative and international perspectives](#)”, which will be held on 22-23 October 2015 in Gdańsk and will discuss the differing approaches that civil, international and human rights lawyers take in regard to compensation and reparation for human rights violations.

The second event announced by the ELI Polish Hub for this autumn is the “VII Jagiellonian Colloquium”, organized by the Civil Law Chair of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow in cooperation with the ELI Polish Hub, which will be devoted to “The Influence of the Case Law of the Court of Justice of the EU on the application of Polish Law”. This event, which will build on the previous six Jagiellonian Colloquium events, will be held on 21 November, in the beautiful city of Krakow. The focus will be on the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU and its influence on the application of the Polish law, particularly by Polish courts. Key cases settled by the Court of Justice based on EU directives, especially consumer



Polish Hub Launch

directives, will be presented and speakers will show how these judgments should be applied in cases settled by the Polish national courts, and in the application and interpretation of Polish law outside of the court system.

The first part of the Conference will examine substantive law cases, followed by a second part where procedural issues will be covered. Prestigious participants include Marek Safjan, Judge of the Court of Justice of the EU, and Maciej Szpunar, Advocate General and ELI individual observer. Many of the featured speakers are also ELI fellows. During the event, there will be a presentation from the ELI Polish Hub, which was the latest Hub to be established and has been operative since 2014.

## ELI Hubs: an opportunity to strengthen the ELI network

Hubs provide members with the opportunity to share ideas and build connections, using the unique diversity of the ELI membership to strengthen the applicability and scope of ELI’s work. Eight country specific ELI Hubs have been launched since 2011: the Austrian Hub, Croatian Hub, French Hub, German Hub, Irish Hub, Polish Hub, Slovenian Hub and United Kingdom Hub. If your country is not yet represented, why not consider establishing a national Hub? Please check the [ELI Hub Guidelines](#) to know more about this structure.



*The **ELI German Hub** is organising a colloquium together with the Ernst von Caemmer Foundation and the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. The event will take place on **4 March 2016** and will focus on the harmonisation of sales law from the European, international and comparative perspectives. More details will be provided closer to the event. Save the date!*

## Conference on the “Digital Revolution” and its challenges for contract law in practice - Münster 1-2 October

As announced in the last issue of the ELI Newsletter, a conference entitled “Digital Revolution: Challenges for Contract Law in Practice” will take place in Münster (Germany) on 1 and 2 October. The Conference, hosted by ELI Council member Professor Reiner Schulze (University of Münster) and Professor Dirk Staudenmayer (European Commission) will analyse the challenges of the “digital revolution” for the European Union and Member States, in a moment when the Digital Single Market has been identified as one of the priorities for the European Commission. The Conference intends to provide a forum for highranking representatives from politics, European institutions, governments and scholars to discuss the effects of the “digital revolution” on contract law. The Vice-President of the ELI, Professor Christiane Wendehorst, and ELI Council member

Professor Rafael Illescas will also be speakers at the Conference. The programme is available [online](#).

On 2 October, after the Conference, Professor Reiner Schulze and Professor Wenderhost are organising a working session of the ELI Digital Law SIG. This working session will start at 3 pm and will represent a great opportunity for members of the SIG to discuss their internal functioning and to exchange their ideas in the field of digital law. To register for the Conference and the SIG meeting, please contact Reiner Schulze’s office at [ls.schulze@unimuenster.de](mailto:ls.schulze@unimuenster.de). The Digital Law SIG will hold its first meeting during the Annual Conference on 3 September in Vienna. All ELI members interested in this field are welcome to join it. For more information, please contact the ELI Secretariat.

## Conference on Platform Services in the Digital Single Market: Osnabrück, 19-20 November

A conference on Platform Services in the Digital Single Market will be held on 19 -20 November 2015 at the European Legal Studies Institute Osnabrück (Germany), which is an institutional observer of the ELI. The Conference will discuss to what extent the forthcoming EU legislation on the Digital Single Market should contain specific rules on platform services. Such platforms serve as modern market places where customers can buy goods or book services. In their terms and conditions, platform services (such as Amazon Market Place, Ebay, GooglePlay or iTunes) usually emphasise their intermediary role as mere booking agencies or brokers. Tested against the rules of interpretation or provisions on unfair terms in – at least some – EU member states, such terms and conditions may be invalid with the consequence that the platform itself is considered as the seller or service provider of the booked service.

The Conference will elaborate criteria for assessing whether a platform is just an intermediary or a party to a sale or service contract concluded on a platform. The focus will be on platforms as intermediaries. The Conference will analyse what are the rights and obligations of the sellers or service providers in

relation to the intermediary platform. Moreover, it will analyse to what extent the terms and conditions set by the platform ‘remote control’ the content of the contract between the seller or service provider and the customer concluded via the platform.

On the basis of this analysis the Conference will discuss whether there is a need for action of the EU regarding platform services in order to facilitate the internal market or to close gaps of consumer and customer protection. The results of this conference may be of high relevance for the work of the ELI on further supplements to its statements on CESL and for the Digital Law SIG. Speakers and panellists, among them many ELI members, are, inter alia, Christoph Busch, Giovanni de Cristofaro, Gerhard Dannemann, Irene Kull, Marco Loos, Vanessa Mak, Damjan Možina, Jerzy Pisulinski, Rupprecht Podszun, Radim Polčák, Hans Schulte-Nölke, Christiane Wendehorst, Aneta Wiewiórowska-Domagalska and Fryderyk Zoll. To register for the Conference please contact Hans Schulte-Nölke’s office at [Isschult@uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto:Isschult@uni-osnabrueck.de).



## Are you part of a SIG? Join your colleagues in Vienna!

Hubs can also be subject specific, the newly established Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGs were created according to the interest expressed by ELI members, and have now been established in eleven distinct fields of law. Each has a dedicated MyELI space, where members are encouraged to discuss ideas, news, and share views and suggestions for the activities of their SIGs. The upcoming Annual

Conference in Vienna will provide the ideal place for SIGs to hold their first informal meetings. The ELI Secretariat strongly recommends members of SIGs to communicate through MyELI and arrange informal meetings during the Conference. Hubs and SIGs will produce excellent discussions, and take a strong role in establishing the future direction of the ELI.

**MyELI**

## New Institutional Observers join the ELI

The ELI continues to attract the attention of eminent organisations, academic bodies and law firms, many of whom seek to become Institutional Observers. This summer the ELI is delighted to announce four more

Institutional Observers. More information about them, as well as details of all the ELI's Institutional Observers can be found on the [ELI website](#).



**DLA Piper** is a global full service business law firm located in more than thirty countries throughout the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, positioning it to help companies with their legal needs anywhere in the world.



The **General Council of Spanish Lawyers** is the representative and executive body of the 83 Lawyer Associations of Spain and among its key missions is the management practice of lawyers, ensuring the prestige of the profession, requiring Bar Associations and their members to comply with the professional and ethical work. Its EU office, based in Brussels, acts as representation to the EU Institutions and to the ELI.



The **Université Toulouse 1 Capitole – Law Faculty** is a Law, Economics and Management University whose priority is the emphasis on international networks so as to promote scientific collaborations as well as students' and researchers-lecturers' exchanges. It is one of the only two French establishments to feature in the top 100 of the Shanghai World Academic ranking in Economics/Business studies.



The **University of Belgrade Faculty of Law** is one of the top law schools in the region of Southeastern Europe and possesses a record of academic excellence and international scholarly influence. Since 1841 it has been continuously evolving in accordance with the European academic models and standards, acquiring an excellent reputation due to its educational, scholarly, and research mission and its many achievements.

## Seven Opportunities to Capitalize on at the Conference this September

The ELI 2015 Annual Conference provides the platform for a strong and impactful expression of the European legal community to be voiced.

The ELI 2015 Annual Conference and General Assembly is to be held on 2 – 4th September in the heart of Vienna, hosted in part at the illustrious Austrian Academy of Science. The panel topics, keynote speeches, esteemed contributors and diversity of attendees make this a prominent event for the ELI and a key expression of the voice of the European legal community.

### 1. GET ON BOARD WITH PROGRESS REPORTS FROM ELI PROJECTS AND TAKE PART IN MCC MEETINGS

Progress reports on current ELI projects will be presented during the Conference summarizing all the work done by the ELI Project Teams over the last twelve months. There are currently active projects in the areas of Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law and the Digital Single Market. Proposals on potential ELI projects on Family Law and Migration Law will be submitted to the Council for approval in September. For the full program see ELI's full [Annual Conference Agenda](#) and check [#ELIConference2015](#) for updates.



### 2. HEAR EU COMMISSIONER VĚRA JOUROVÁ'S EXCLUSIVE KEYNOTE



In a proud moment for the ELI, the European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Věra Jourová will give a keynote speech on the second day of the Conference. Ms Jourová's areas of interest include enhancing the protection of fundamental rights, particularly data privacy and the triumphing of the best interests of children; and promoting equality and harmonization in preparation for the Digital Single Market. The ELI Annual Conference will be a great opportunity to meet the Commissioner and hear her keynote speech. Don't miss it!

### 3. SECURE YOUR LINKS AND EXTEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS BY JOINING A SIG

SIGs are Special interest Groups devoted to scrutinizing the legal landscape in specific areas of law. Any ELI member can become part of a SIG, which were recently established by the ELI with the formation of eleven new SIGs (see [website](#) and [MyELI](#) for details). Many of these Special Interest Groups will hold their preliminary meetings during the Conference. SIG members are encouraged to actively contribute to and initiate project proposals, feed in ideas and suggestions to responsive statements and influence the direction of the ELI as a member led organization. SIGs offer continuous access to active, engaged minds in each chosen field, presenting the opportunity to sound out your own ideas to an informed, attentive and opinionated audience.

### 4. CONNECT WITH HARRIET LANSING

The esteemed Judge Harriet Lansing (recent former president of the U.S. Uniform Law Commission and Senior Judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals) will be traveling all the way from the United States to open the ELI Annual Conference. This gesture symbolizes the ELI's commitment to utilizing insights beyond Europe, and strengthening its worldwide connections. Come and hear a highly respected first-hand perspective on legal alignment in America, and the resulting benefits to be gained.



## 5. HAVE YOUR SAY IN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

At the General Assembly [30 new members of the ELI Council](#) will be elected. Have your say on who should go forward to vote and elect the governing Executive Committee. Each member of the Council gives input on which project proposals should go forward, and as such define the route the ELI takes in achieving its objectives. Make sure your preferred candidates receive your support.



## 6. ENGAGE WITH EXPERTS, ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Top European and international experts will be converging to head up seven discussion panels; each focusing on a topical area of cutting edge legal development. Check the [ELI website](#) for a full list of panellists and topics, and keep an eye on [@ELI\\_Secretariat](#) and [#ELIConference2015](#) for the latest updates. In these sessions you can really make your voice heard by others active in the area, as well as gaining insight on anticipated future developments to enhance your scope. The ELI provides the ideal platform for gaining awareness of others making waves in your field whilst enhancing your own visibility and presence.

Panel discussions in the following topical legal areas will be presented:

- From CESL to the Digital Single Market
- The Future EU Administrative Procedure Law: Issues of Content and Scope
- From Transnational Principles to European Rules of Civil Procedure (Joint Project with UNIDROIT)
- Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets (feasibility study with ULC)
- Empowering European Families: Towards more Party Autonomy in European Family and Succession Law
- Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law
- Rule of Law and Migration

## 7. SHARE A FEW WORDS WITH THE ELI PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President and Executive Committee of the ELI act as ambassadors for the organisation, building institutional connections with other organisations in Europe and beyond. As the executive body of the Institute, the Executive Committee makes strategic decisions concerning the structure and functioning of the Institute and deals directly with projects and international relations. The ELI Annual Conference sees all these representatives converge together, and provides the best chance to highlight ideas, suggest potential future directions, and share a few words of thanks for all they do.

[Agenda](#)

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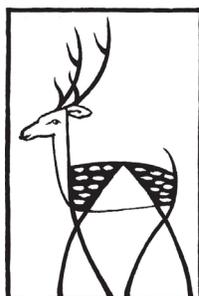
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