



ELI
EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

Newsletter

Bringing Legal Experts Together



Cover Letter by Jojo Mehta, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Stop Ecocide International

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Spotlight by Prof Robinson

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Ecocide

By Jojo Mehta, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Stop Ecocide International

ELI's Report on Ecocide is comprehensive and timely. Beyond the model rules, it makes an excellent case for the importance of legislating for ecocide in the first place. We have found, at Stop Ecocide International, that this is key to political understanding and support.

Our work is advocacy in the very broadest sense: cultivating an organic global web of cross-sector relationships and expertise; nurturing and galvanising collaborations; convening in political, legal and diplomatic contexts. However, it's also advocacy in a highly specific sense, in that what we foster in all those networks is quite simply this: support for recognition of ecocide as an international crime.

Over years of this collaborative and focused advocacy, key potential benefits to recognition of ecocide have emerged as particularly compelling.

Recognising ecocide as a serious crime will strongly reinforce the existing (often badly monitored and enforced) body of environment laws. One needs only to imagine how a board of directors would approach its regulatory obligations knowing that if it failed to fulfil them and threatened ecocide as a result, its members could be in criminal law territory. This would be a huge step for accountability and could change decision-making in a very positive way.

Having a definition for ecocide also creates a useful lens, for anyone that

knows their sector, through which to address strategic positive change that goes beyond greenwashing – a bit deeper than paper drinking straws or electric vehicles. Crucially, this means the power of the law kicks in long before adoption of the law itself ... and as the UN Climate Champions Pivot Point report last year pointed out, recognition of ecocide is already perceived as a driver and influencer of change. After all, the aim is ultimately not about the prosecutions and punishment, it's about changing behaviour. It's especially good for lawyers and politicians to bear this in mind.

It's worth noting how far this conversation has come in a few short years. Ecocide was a dormant topic on the diplomatic stage before the Pacific Ocean State of Vanuatu called in 2019 for the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Assembly of States Parties to consider adding ecocide to the Rome Statute. Now, at least 27 State parties to the that Statute have discussion of ecocide law on public record at parliament/government level; the Council of Europe has recommended all its 46 Member States to legislate for ecocide and has begun work on a convention that will include it; and the EU Parliament has recently proposed its inclusion into EU law.

Not only are climate-vulnerable States taking an active interest, but also the victims of conflict damage – Ukraine's

representatives were instrumental in driving developments at the Council of Europe. Indeed, the arenas of conflict and of climate/ecological crisis cross at exactly the point where ecocide law should, and we believe will, sit.

While the ELI Report is inspired by the Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide's definition as a 'springboard', it proffers a definition and recommendations that are specific to the EU, focusing on core criteria around which Member States can legislate according to what fits best into their own penal codes. This is a politically practical approach and we believe will be welcomed by EU Member States.

We also strongly support the ELI recommendation that the European Public Prosecutor's Office should be able to investigate and prosecute ecocide, placing this crime squarely in the arena of cross-border and international level crimes.

While there are many who would love to see ecocide as a 'silver bullet' to address all environmental harms, we believe its true value is in addressing and naming the worst harms, thereby creating a moral and legal underpinning, and fulfilling a foundational dual function: of concrete support for existing laws; and powerful influence on cultural norms. The ELI Report seems very much aligned with this understanding.

The Author

Jojo Mehta co-founded Stop Ecocide in 2017, alongside legal pioneer the late Polly Higgins, to support recognition of 'ecocide' – mass damage and destruction of nature – as a crime at the International Criminal Court. As key spokesperson and Executive Director, she has overseen the remarkable growth of the movement while coordinating between legal developments, diplomatic traction and public narrative. Jojo is also Chair of the charitable Stop Ecocide Foundation and convenor of the Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide chaired by Philippe Sands KC and Dior Fall Sow.





the ELI project appears to have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to the momentum for a crime of ecocide as well as the evolving thinking on how to define it.

ELI Contributes to the Legislative Evolution of 'Ecocide'

By Prof Darryl Robinson of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

On 20 February 2023, the European Law Institute published its [Report on Ecocide](#), with model rules for an EU Directive on the topic. The Report contributes to the discussions about a new crime of ecocide, both internationally and within the EU.

The Report is extremely timely, as it will inform the ongoing efforts to update the EU Directive on Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law. In December 2021, the European Commission [proposed](#) updating that Directive (of 2008), to add new crimes and to ensure that serious harms are met with dissuasive sanctions and more robust enforcement. The European Commission report mentioned the growing movement to recognize a crime of ecocide, but it did not attempt to include 'ecocide' among the crimes in the revised Directive.

The ELI Report responds to this gap, proposing a definition of a crime of ecocide to be included in the

Directive. The ELI initiative appears to have correctly captured the zeitgeist, because in March 2023, the European Parliament voted unanimously to include the crime of ecocide within the revised Directive. The matter is now a subject for 'trilogue' between the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council of the EU.

The idea of a crime of 'ecocide' is that the most egregious environmental wrongdoing, which threatens the health of present and future generations of human beings and other creatures, should be stigmatized and repudiated in a manner commensurate to its true gravity. While creating a new crime will not solve the current global environmental crisis, it can be one valuable step in re-orienting thinking. Environmental harm is often shrugged off as an administrative matter; it should instead receive a response akin to other grave harms. The movement to criminalize ecocide

has recently garnered international public and political support.

Thus, the ELI Report contributes to two conversations: an EU conversation about new legislation and a broader global conversation on how to define 'ecocide'. At present, many international advocates are focused on amending the International Criminal Court Statute, but as I have [argued](#), a wave of national legislation is the most immediately-effective route. Thus, the prospect of EU Member States legislating is a ground-breaking advance.

The crime of ecocide is incredibly difficult to define; as I have explained [elsewhere](#), every possible approach raises some set of problems. In 2020, an International Panel of Experts ('the Panel') advanced the conversation with its [proposed definition](#). The ELI Report uses that definition as its starting point, but suggests some revisions.

Spotlight

To help circumscribe the wrongful acts warranting the label of 'ecocide', the Panel definition required that the acts be either '*unlawful*' (in national or international law) or '*wanton*'. 'Wanton' is an older term from humanitarian law, repurposed to refer to reckless conduct that causes clearly disproportionate harms in relation to the social benefits. The ELI definition removes the 'wanton' alternative, on the grounds that it does not satisfy the principle of legality. Without taking a stand on the matter, I can recognize the principled and thoughtful grounds for this deletion: the 'wanton' test admittedly leaves a lot to be determined *ex post facto* and creates a lot of uncertainty. Removing it does, however, have a disadvantage, as Kevin Heller [has noted](#), because national authorities might approve a disproportionately harmful project that should never have been approved.

The problem of lax national laws or inappropriate approvals is at least ameliorated in the EU context, because the EU has a robust

body of environmental rules and requirements.

The ELI definition adds a wonderful clarification: that nationally authorized conduct is still '*unlawful*' if the authorization was obtained through *fraud, corruption, or coercion*. This helps mitigate the problem of unreasonable authorizations, because many of the worst projects are accompanied by fraud or corruption. Furthermore, these are clear concepts, known to criminal law. Thus, this is a clarification that I have [encouraged](#).

The ELI definition adopts a fault standard tantamount to recklessness and *dolus eventualis*, which is principled and appropriate. One could quibble, however, with re-defining 'intent' to include those concepts, given that 'intent' has an established meaning in common, civil, and international law. As a second quibble, the ELI definition of ecocide requires unlawfulness (Art 3(4)), for the principled reasons noted above, but then Article 4(1)

seems to suggest that conduct constituting ecocide is unlawful; the result is either a significant ambiguity or contradiction. Third, whereas the Panel definition required that the harm be '*long-term or widespread*', the ELI added '*irreversible or irreparable*' and deleted '*widespread*'. The latter was perhaps overly hasty because the Panel's definition of '*widespread*' included not only geographic area but also transboundary harm and widespread harm to humans.

Many features of the ELI proposal are mirrored in the subsequent European Parliament draft (see [here](#) and [here](#)), namely: the inclusion of ecocide in the Directive; the exclusion of '*wanton*'; and the inclusion of fraud, corruption and coercion. The EU Parliament definition deftly combines features of the Panel and ELI definitions, referring to '*widespread, long-term or irreversible damage*'. Thus, the ELI project appears to have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to the momentum for a crime of ecocide as well as the evolving thinking on how to define it.

The Author



Darryl Robinson is a Professor at Queen's University Faculty of Law, specializing in international criminal justice. Previously, as a Canadian diplomat and legal advisor, he was involved in the negotiation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, including the definitions of crimes. In recent years, he has worked on the crime of ecocide, including as a member of a UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights group of experts.



2023 ELI Council Elections

On 6 and 7 September 2023, in the course of the ELI Annual Conference in Vienna, ELI Fellows will elect 28 new Council Members. ELI is pleased to invite interested Individual Fellows to stand for election.

Council Members will be elected from among ELI Individual Fellows. The Institute’s general principles, which include the paramountcy of diversity in terms of genders, nationality/state of residence, academics, practising

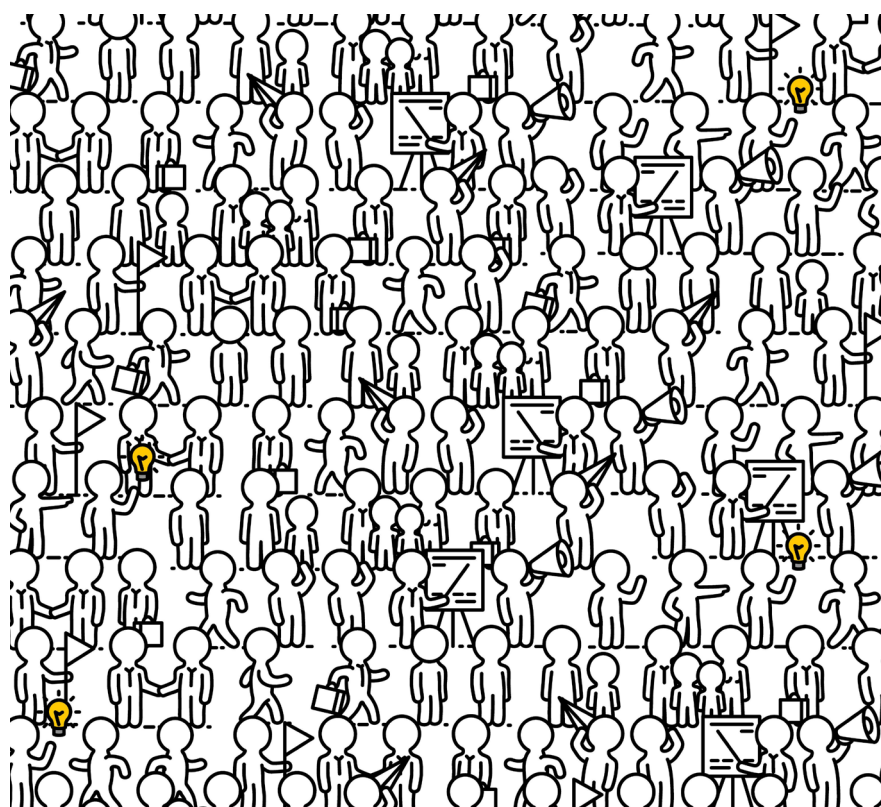
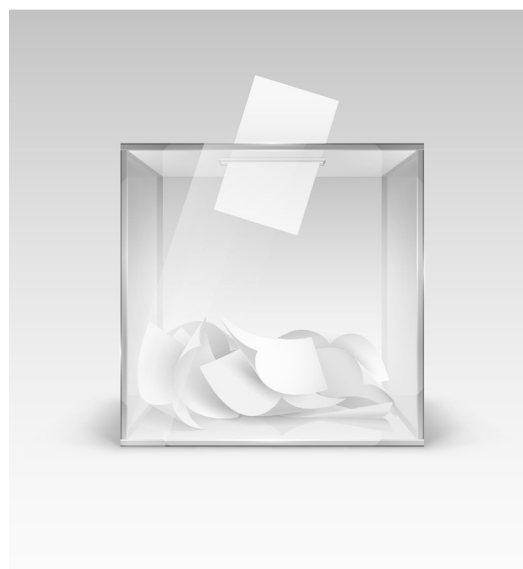
lawyers and judges and legal specialization, will be at the forefront of the minds of those running for elections, endorsing candidates and electing them.

Newly elected Council Members will have the opportunity to help make important decisions about the governance and activities of ELI and stand a chance to run for the innominate positions within the Executive Committee.

At its first meeting, the newly composed Council will also elect the Executive Committee’s three innominate members as well as appoint members of the Membership Committee and Fundraising Committee.

Active ELI Members are encouraged to run for Council. The nomination and endorsement period is open until 18 July 2023. More information about the elections is available [here](#).

2023 Elections Brochure available below:



Updates on ELI Projects

The following events took place in March and April 2023.

Implementing Workers' Right to Disconnect

PT and AC Meeting

On 28 March 2023, the Project Team and Advisory Committee of the above ELI project met remotely to discuss and offer comments on the draft Principles. Read more [here](#).

ELI-Mount Scopus Standards of Judicial Independence

PT and AC Meeting

On 30 March 2023, the Project Team and Advisory Committee of the above ELI project met remotely to discuss the revised draft. Read more [here](#).

Reform of the Product Liability Directive

Consultation

On 13 April 2023, ELI's Scientific Director, Chair of the above project, provided her expertise to the Shadows' Meeting on the proposal for a directive on liability for defective products. Read more [here](#).

ALI-ELI Principles for a Data Economy

Discussions

Discussions on data transactions (and automated contracting) were heavily built on the ALI-ELI Principles at the UNCITRAL Working Group IV session that took place from 10–14 April 2023. Read more [here](#).

Reform of Product Liability Directive

Consultation

On 19 April 2023, Prof Dr Jean-Sébastien Borghetti, Co-Reporter of the above project, met representatives of the European Parliament's Greens-European Free Alliance to outline ELI's position on the topic. More [here](#).

Implementing Workers' Right to Disconnect

PT Meeting

On 4 and 25 April 2023, the Project Team of the above ELI project met remotely to revise and discuss the current draft of the Principles. Read more [here](#).

ELI Digitalisation of Civil Justice Systems

Seminar

On 27 April 2023, Dr Dory Reiling, Lead-Reporter of the Digitalisation of Civil Justice Systems in Europe project presented the project at a seminar organised by the Justice Administration Research Association. Read more [here](#).

ELI Reporter Bob Wessels Appointed as Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau

On April 20 2023, during the first lustrum congress of the Conference on European Restructuring and Insolvency Law (CERIL), Prof em Bob Wessels was appointed as Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau. Mayor Kolff of Dordrecht presented the decorations to Wessels for his longstanding contribution to the advancement of insolvency law in the Netherlands, Europe and beyond.

MCC Call

ELI Members are invited to join one or more Members Consultative Committees (MCCs) of the following projects:

- Access to Digital Assets
- ELI Principles on the Extra-Judicial Administration of Justice in Cross-Border Family and Succession Matters
- ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence
- Digitalisation of Civil Justice Systems in Europe
- Climate Justice – New Challenges for Law and Judges
- Fundamental Constitutional Principles
- Guiding Principles and Model Rules on Algorithmic Contracts
- Third Party Funding of Litigation

- Advance Choices for Future Disablement
- Corporate Criminal Liability in the European Union

MCC members will be invited to comment on drafts at various stages of the project's lifecycle. Typically, Project Reporters will submit drafts to the MCC at least twice per year, ahead of the ELI Council meeting in February and September, and invite comments.

It goes without saying that MCC members will be fully acknowledged in the final ELI publication.

You can register your interest to join the MCC by sending a message to [ELI Secretariat](#).

Updates on Other ELI Initiatives

The following events took place in March and April 2023.

ELI Launches High Level Fora

In a bid to disseminate its output broadly and to engage in discourse on how it can be of practical utility to natural and/or legal persons in Europe and beyond, ELI launched a series of High Level Fora, the first being on its Principles on Blockchain Technology, Smart Contracts and Consumer Protection. The aim of the Forum was to bring together policymakers, legislators, industry representatives and other leading stakeholders in the field of blockchain and smart contracts to disseminate ELI's output and engage in discourse on how the proposals elaborated on in ELI's Principles can be implemented in practice. ELI is grateful to the drafters of its Principles on Blockchain Technology, Smart Contracts and Consumer Protection, Professor Sjef van Erp (University of Amsterdam) and Dr Martin Hanzl (Pelzmann Gall Größ Rechtsanwälte), as well as to all those that attended the event. Their input is valued and will be reflected upon. Read more [here](#).



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Webinar on ELI Report on Ecocide

On 18 April 2023, the Final Draft of the [ELI Report on Ecocide](#) was published. The project was launched in February 2021 and is well-timed, given the ongoing legislative developments at the international, EU and national levels, aimed at ensuring the prevention of the most serious environmental crimes. On 26 April 2023, ELI hosted a webinar on this Report. The event brought together experts from policy-making, advocacy, practice and academia together to discuss the findings of the ELI Report, as well as developments at national, European and international levels. This and previous ELI Webinars are available on our YouTube channel [here](#).



Webinar on Digital Fairness

On 20 April 2023, the Final Draft of the [ELI Response on the European Commission's Public Consultation on Digital Fairness – Fitness Check on EU Consumer Law](#) was published. In its 2020 consumer policy strategy, the 'New Consumer Agenda', the European Commission announced that it would analyse whether additional legislation or other action is needed in the medium-term to ensure equal fairness online and offline. In furtherance of the above strategy, the Commission launched a public consultation on 28 November 2022, to which the ELI contributed. A webinar on the topic was held on 27 April 2023, more on it is available [here](#). This and previous ELI Webinars are available on our YouTube channel [here](#).



Updates on ELI Hub and SIG Activities

The following events by ELI Hubs and SIGs took place in March and April 2023.

ELI Italian Hub

Event

On 9 March 2023, the Hub held an event entitled 'Windfall Profit Taxation in Europe (and Beyond)' at the University of Ferrara. Read more [here](#).

ELI Croatian Hub

23rd Webinar in its Series

On 14 March 2023, the Hub held a webinar on 'The New Regime on Liability of Online Auction Platforms for Storing Illegal Content under the Digital Services Act'. Read more [here](#).

ELI Ukrainian Hub

Webinar

On 23 March 2023, the Hub held a webinar on 'The Concept of Justice of the Transitional Period in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian Armed Conflict'. Read more [here](#).

ELI Sustainability and Environmental Law SIG

Seminar

On 30 March 2023, the SIG held its first seminar in the 2023 series, entitled 'Empowering Consumers to Buy Sustainable Products'. Read more [here](#).

ELI Polish Hub

Event

On 31 March 2023, the Hub and Gdansk University organised a conference entitled 'The Recent Judicial Reforms in Poland and the Rule of Law'. Read more [here](#).

ELI Croatian Hub

24th Webinar in its Series

On 17 April 2023, the Hub held a webinar on 'Lawyers and Legal Services in the Case-Law of the Court of Justice of the European Union'. Read more [here](#).

Further Updates

ELI French Hub

New Chairperson

Sylvaine Poillot-Peruzzetto was elected Co-chair of the French Hub as of 2 February 2023, alongside Marc Clement.

ELI Spanish Hub

New Chairperson

Maria Kubica has been elected Co-Chair of the Spanish Hub as of 14 February 2023, alongside Albert Ruda.

ELI Sustainability and Environmental Law SIG

Name Change

The ELI Environmental Law SIG has been renamed to the ELI Sustainability and Environmental Law SIG as of 8 March 2023.

ELI Family and Succession Law SIG

New Chairperson

Ilaria Pretelli has been elected as an additional Co-Chair of the SIG as of 24 March 2023, alongside Elena Bargelli and Francisco Javier Jiménez Muñoz.

Updates on ELI Representation

Below is an overview of representational activities that took place in March and April 2023.



The European Law Students' Association

ELI Reporters at ELSA's ICE Switzerland on Law & Sustainability

5 March 2023

Henrik Andersen and Yuri Biondi presented ELI's projects at the International Conference of the European Law Students Association, ELSA (ICE) on Law & Sustainability. Read more [here](#).



European Land Registry Association

ELI President Meets ELRA President, Luisa Clode

7 March 2023

ELI President and Secretary General met European Land Registries Association (ELRA) President, Luisa Clode. Read more [here](#).



HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW
CONFÉRENCE DE LA HAYE DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL PRIVÉ

ELI at the HCCH CGAP

7–10 March 2023

ELI joined the meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). Read more [here](#).



ELI at the UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets and Private Law

8–10 March 2023

ELI experts participated in the 8th session of the UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets and Private Law. Read more [here](#).



The European Law Students' Association

ELI President Delivers Speech at ELSA International's Meeting

26 March 2023

Prof Dr Pascal Pichonnaz's speech was delivered at the opening plenary. On the occasion, the ELI President introduced those present to ELI and its Young Lawyers Award. Read more [here](#).



ELI at the UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets and Private Law

5 April 2023

ELI ExCo member, Prof Dr Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell participated in the 9th ad hoc session of the UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets and Private Law. Read more [here](#).



ELI Representative Attends a Uniform Law Commission's Study Committee Meeting as an Observer

25 April 2023

A web meeting on the Use of Tokens or Other Similar Products in Real Property Transactions was held by the ULC.

Valentina Calderai participated as an Observer on ELI's behalf. Read more [here](#).



ELI President and European Judicial Training Network Secretary General Meet

26 April 2023

ELI's President, Prof Dr Pascal Pichonnaz, met EJTN Secretary General, Ingrid Derveaux, remotely. The pair were joined by ELI's Secretary General, Dr Vanessa Wilcox, and the Executive Assistant to EJTN's Secretary General, Alina Secrieru. Read more [here](#).



ELI Welcomes its New Members

ELI is pleased to welcome the following institutional and individual Members that joined recently.

New Institutional Members

Institute of Social Sciences, Centre for Legal Research



The Institute of Social Sciences conducts research of significant importance for the scientific development of the Republic of Serbia. The Institute constitutes six scientific research centres (the Centre for Demographic Research, the Centre for Politicological Research and Public Opinion, the Centre for Economic Research, the Centre for Legal Research (CRL), the Centre for Sociological and Anthropological Research and the Centre for Philosophy) and has a staff of 42 fellows with doctoral degrees and 22 junior fellows – PhD students. The work of the Institute is based on the research of fundamental social phenomena, promoting scientific thinking and developing scientific methodology in the domain of social sciences, the professional development of scholars, cooperating with professional institutions and organisations, and implementing scientific research results in public policies.

Centro de Estudos Avançados em Direito (CEAD) – Francisco Suárez



The CEAD Francisco Suárez is a research unit in law, common to the Faculty of Law of the Universidade Lusófona (Lisbon), the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the Universidade Lusófona (Porto), and the Department of Law and Social Sciences of the Manuel Teixeira Gomes Higher Institute. The Centre's activities are intended to promote and coordinate scientific research in the area of legal and related sciences, through publications, meetings, partnerships and scientific exchanges with other institutions and researchers, both national and foreign, in order to provide services to the community. In this way, responsibility is taken for the construction of science as a heritage, contributing to the progress of this knowledge in the service of the community. The CEAD Francisco Suárez has a vast body of research staff, and it is looking forward to expanding its activities in the future.

New Individual Members

Alessio Azzutti, Centre for Banking & Finance Law (CBFL) at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Simona Caporusso, eCampus University Novedrate, Italy

Celina Daphne Marian Colquhoun, Barrister, United Kingdom

Henri Culot, University of Louvain, Belgium

Michel Heinzmann, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Christoph König, University of Innsbruck, Germany

Giovanni Fabio Licata, University of Catania, Italy

Philipp Reicht, University of Innsbruck, Austria

New Sustaining Members

Biljana Djuricin, University of Montenegro, Montenegro

Upcoming ELI Webinars

Please save the following dates for ELI Upcoming Webinars.

ELI Members' Day Webinar – The Law in the Metaverse

1 June marks the establishment of the European Law Institute (ELI). This year, ELI will be celebrating its 12th anniversary and launching the ELI Members' Day: a day to acknowledge ELI's achievements and impact as well as the individuals that have supported it from its very inception.

The celebrations on **1 June 2023**, from **19:00 to 20:45 CET**, will be open to the public and will comprise two parts: while the first will be dedicated to looking back, the second – at which a webinar on an emerging legal field will be held – will be forward looking. In future, ELI Members will be invited to propose topics for the ELI Members' Day Webinar. This year, however, ELI has selected speakers to shed light on 'The Law in the Metaverse'.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Pascal Pichonnaz (Chair; ELI President)
- Lord John Thomas (ELI Vice-President)
- Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell (Chair of ELI's Membership Committee)
- Cecilia Álvarez (Privacy Policy Director, Meta)
- Helmut Kinzler (Associate Director, Zaha Hadid Architects)
- Jacques de Werra (Professor, University of Geneva)
- Marit Hansen (State Data Protection Commissioner of Land Schleswig-Holstein and Chief of Unabhängiges Landeszentrum für Datenschutz (ULD))
- Bernard Koch (Professor, University of Innsbruck)
- Michel Cannarsa (Professor, Catholic University of Lyon)

To register please click [here](#).



ELI Project Kick-Off Webinar: Advance Choices for Future Disablement in Context

The ELI project on Advance Choices for Future Disablement will hold a kick-off webinar, aimed at presenting the project, on **15 May 2023** from **12:30–14:00 CET**.

In December 2022, the ELI Council adopted the above project under which model laws for advance choices, with appropriate supporting material, will be drafted. Advance choices enable people to give instructions, record preferences and express wishes in advance of a time when they may be disabled from doing so. The Project Team therefore seeks to respond to calls, including by the Council of Europe, on the need for the regulation of anticipatory arrangements for subsequent incapacity. At the Kick-Off Webinar, the Reporters of the [ELI project](#) will outline their project and the context out of which it arose. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Pascal Pichonnaz (Chair; ELI President)
- Christiana Fountoulakis (Project Co-Reporter; Professor, University of Friebourg)
- Ilaria Pretelli (Assessor and MCC Chair of the project; legal counsel and expert in private international law, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law)
- Adrian D Ward (Project Co-Reporter; lawyer (Scottish solicitor) and independent consultant)

To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).



Programme Overview

Detailed agenda of the 2023 ELI Annual Conference is below. To register, please click [here](#).

WEDNESDAY | 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA | UNIVERSITÄTSRING 1 | 1010 VIENNA

- 08:30–09:30 CET Registration (Council Members Only)
- 09:30–13:15 CET ELI Council Meeting
- 13:00 CET Registration (All Others)
- 13:15–14:15 CET ELI Council Lunch
- 14:25–14:30 CET ELI Membership Meeting
- 14:30–14:50 CET Welcome Address
- 15:00–16:15 CET Fundamental Constitutional Principles
- 16:15–16:45 CET Coffee Break
- 16:45–18:15 CET Ole Lando Memorial Lecture
- 19:30–21:00 CET **Opening Reception and Presentation of the ELI Young Lawyers Award and Hub and SIG of the Year Awards**
Welcome Address: Austrian Minister of Justice, Dr Alma Zadić, LL.M.
[Venue: Austrian Ministry of Justice | Museumstraße 7 | 1070 Vienna](#)

THURSDAY | 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA | UNIVERSITÄTSRING 1 | 1010 VIENNA

- 08:00–09:00 CET Sustaining Members Networking Breakfast
- 09:30–11:00 CET Guiding Principles and Model Rules on Algorithmic Contracts
- 11:00–11:30 CET Coffee Break
- 11:30–13:00 CET ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence
- 13:00–14:00 CET Lunch
- 14:00–14:45 CET **Keynote Speech: Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová**
- 14:45–16:15 CET Third Party Funding of Litigation
- 16:15–16:45 CET Coffee Break
- 16:45–17:15 CET ELI Membership Meeting and Announcement of the Council Election Results
- 17:30–18:30 CET ELI Council Meeting
- 19:30 CET **Gala Dinner**
[Venue: Austrian National Library | Josefsplatz 1 | 1010 Vienna](#)

Programme Overview

FRIDAY | 8 SEPTEMBER 2023

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA | UNIVERSITÄTSRING 1 | 1010 VIENNA

- 09:30–11:00 CET Guiding Principles on Implementing Workers’ Right to Disconnect
- 11:00–11:30 CET Coffee Break
- 11:30–12:15 CET **Keynote Speech: Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica**
- 12:30–13:30 CET Access to Digital Assets
- 13:30–14:30 CET Lunch
- 19:30 CET **Social Event**
Venue: Fuhrgassl Huber | Neustift am Walde 68 | 1190 Vienna

Hub and SIG Events

FRIDAY | 8 SEPTEMBER 2023

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA | UNIVERSITÄTSRING 1 | 1010 VIENNA

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 14:30–16:00 CET | ELI Digital Law SIG Panel on Digital Vulnerability in European Private Law | ELI Family and Succession Law SIG Panel on the Recognition of Parenthood: e pluribus unum? |
| 16:00–17:00 CET | ELI Spanish Hub Meeting | |
| 16:00–17:30 CET | ELI Ukrainian Hub Webinar on Information Security in the Conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian War | ELI Croatian Hub Panel on 10 Years in the EU: The effects of EU membership on Croatian private law system |
| 17:30–18:30 CET | ELI Global Private Law SIG meeting | ELI Fundamental Rights SIG meeting |

Events Calendar At-A-Glance

Please save the following dates. Stay up to date by visiting our [website](#) and following our social media channels.

May

9 May ELI Austrian Hub: Do We Need a Direct Claim Against Producers?
Online

9 May ELI Croatian Hub: Annual Meeting
Online

15 May ELI Project Kick-Off Webinar: Advance Choices for Future
Disablement in Context
Online

15 May ELI Business and Financial Law SIG and ELI Italian Hub:
Presentation of the ELI Guidance on Company Capital
Turin, Italy

15 May ELI Family and Succession Law SIG: The Application of the EU
Succession Regulation in the Member States
Online

16 May ELI Croatian Hub: From an Innovation Paper to a Directive –
Modernising Product Liability for the Digital Age
Online

16 May ELI Turkish Hub: ELI Draft of a Revised Product Liability
Directive Webinar
Online

17 May ELI French Hub: Members' Meeting
Online

17 May ELI Slovenian Hub: Round-Table Discussion on Proposed
Amendments to the Slovenian Constitution in Light of the TEU
and Jurisprudence of the CJEU
Ljubljana, Slovenia

19 May ELI Italian Hub: Legal Tech Venture
Turin, Italy

25–26 May ELI Austrian Hub: Company Law Forum
Graz, Austria

25–27 May ELI Croatian Hub: 8th Competition Law and Policy Conference
in Memory of Professor Vedran Šoljan
Dubrovnik, Croatia

26 May ELI Spanish Hub: VIII Annual Meeting
Valencia, Spain

Jun

1 Jun ELI Members' Day Webinar: The Law in the Metaverse
Online

8 Jun ELI Turkish Hub: ELI Principles on Blockchain Technology, Smart
Contracts and Consumer Protection
Online

13 Jun ELI Croatian Hub: The Hague Convention on the Recognition
and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil and
Commercial Matters
Online

15–16 Jun ELI Digital Law SIG: Digital Vulnerability in European
Private Law Conference
Ferrara, Italy

22–23 Jun ELI Austrian Hub: Sustainability in Corporate Law Conference
Innsbruck, Austria

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ELI in Vienna

The Secretariat of ELI, which is hosted by the University of Vienna, is located in the heart of the Austrian capital, close to the main building of the University, the representation of the European Commission in Austria as well as the information office of the European Parliament.

We cordially invite you to visit us whenever you are in Vienna.



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