
New European Justice Stakeholders Forum ('EJSF'): Opening Event

'The Future of Justice in the EU: challenges & opportunities'

Tuesday 16 February, 2016 8h30 – 14h30
European and Economic Social Committee (EESC), Brussels (room JDE51)
Rue Belliard, 99, 1040 Brussels

Programme

Format: panel discussion, short presentations followed by interactive, moderated open discussion of all participants.

8:30: Welcome coffee/registration

09:15: Welcome, Co-host Arno Metzler, VP, Group III EESC

09:20: Key note address, European Commissioner for Justice, Vera Jourova

09:25: Opening remarks, Chair JURI, MEP Svoboda

09:30: Session I

'Impact of technology on the future of EU justice'

Overview: : the rise in the use of technology has had a huge impact on the legal sector, leading to outsourcing, the unbundling of legal services, growth in on-line provision (including through mobile phone apps), automated solutions and comparison websites. On the one hand, this has facilitated access to justice for those who might not previously have considered such a solution. On the other, it raises significant questions over the future regulation of the legal sector eg the status of new online legal platforms (highlighted in the 2015 European Commission consultation on on-line platforms and the collaborative economy). How should governments, the legal professions and citizens react to the changes?

Moderator: Fernando Paulino Pereira, Chair of EU Council e-justice working group

Speakers:

- Diana Wallis, President European Law Institute, Vienna
 - Jurgen Tiedje, European Commission Head of Unit DG GROW E1 (consumers/digital single market)
 - Anders Permés, Head of Legal & Founder, Agreement 24
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10.45: Coffee break

11:05: Session II

'Migration and the Rule of Law'

Overview: the huge flows of migrants that have prompted such a crisis within the EU have also caused a crisis for the rule of law, which is being tested in two opposing directions: first, the current law is ignored by migrants and Member States alike as if 'playing by the rules' has no meaning; and second, the EU's values of solidarity, humanity and respect for human rights are ignored as borders close and migrants endure harsh and sometimes life-threatening conditions. What is the outlook for the rule of law if the crisis persists for years?

Moderator: David Conlan Smyth, Chair CCBE Migration committee

Speakers:

- Morten Kjaerum, Chairman of the Board, European Council for Refugees and Exiles
- Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director of Human Rights, and Migration Co-ordinator, Council of Europe
- Dr Hans Corell, Co-Chair of the Council of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association (Former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations)
- Gabrielle Williamson, Partner, Luther Law Firm

12:30 Lunch, kindly provided by The International Bar Association (IBA)

13:00: Session III

'The rising role of International Courts in law making'

Overview: There has been significant growth recently in the number of international courts. Although most of the activity has been in the international criminal field, the European Commission has recently proposed an international trade court to deal with investor-state disputes. Increasingly the European Courts are setting new standards e.g. on data privacy - overruling 'Safe Harbour agreement; future ruling on how to categorize 'Uber' and similar online platforms. Europe has, in addition, a long post-war experience of the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights. Do international courts, dealing with a variety of jurisdictions and their national particularities, bring a new perspective to decision-making? Since Europe has taken the lead with its own courts, does it have specific experience to bring to future developments?

Moderator: Lord Justice Geoffrey Vos, President of European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Speakers:

- José Antonio Gutiérrez-Fons, Chambers of the President ECJ Koen Lenaerts
- Michel Benichou, President CCBE

14:15: **Concluding remarks**, Michel Benichou, President CCBE

14:20: **Closing speech**, Ms Tiina Astola, new Director General for Justice, European Commission

14:30: **CLOSE**