



New European Justice Stakeholders Forum (EJSF): 2nd annual plenary

‘Access to Effective Justice for EU Citizens’

Monday 24 April, 2017 09h30 – 15h00

European and Economic Social Committee (EESC), Brussels
Room JDE 61
Rue Belliard, 99, 1040 Brussels

Hosted by **Mr Arno METZLER, Vice President Group III, EESC**

Keynote by **Therese COMODINI CACHIA, Member of the European Parliament**

Final Programme

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

09:30: Welcome coffee/registration

10:00: Welcome, Arno METZLER, VP, Group III & Spokesman for the Liberal Professions, EESC

10:05: Key note address, MEP Therese COMODINI CACHIA, MT, EPP (Legal Affairs committee)

10:15: Session I

‘Digitalisation and access to justice: challenges and opportunities’

Overview: Digitalisation and innovative technologies are making their impact on the legal services and the legal profession. Benefits include lower legal costs and greater access for EU citizens and new business opportunities for the legal profession. On the other hand, new technologies present challenges for the lawyer/client relationship including client privilege and the security of data, as well as for the legal profession generally posed by new legal tech players – how to ensure a level playing field? The European Commission is working on a new initiative on the digitalisation of company law and is broadening its focus on the impact of technology. Meanwhile, the European Parliament is calling for EU rules for the fast-evolving field of robotics, to settle issues such as compliance with ethical standards and liability for accidents involving driverless cars.

Keynote: MEP Heidi HAUTALA, FI, Greens



Moderator: Diana WALLIS, President European Law Institute, Vienna

Speakers:

- MEP Heidi HAUTALA, FI, Greens
- Dr Bartłomiej KURCZ, Team Leader Company Law, DG JUST European Commission
- Julen FERNÁNDEZ CONTE, EU Director, Abogacía Española
- Corrado MALBERTI, Italian notary, Professor University of Luxembourg, Chair of the CNUE (EU notaries) Company Law Committee

11.15: Coffee break

11:45: Session II

‘Rethinking EU citizenship in the wake of BREXIT’

Overview: Brexit raises access to justice issues for UK and EU citizens and poses challenges for lawyers and their clients. What is EU citizenship? What are the rights guaranteed by EU citizenship, including the notion of acquired rights? How can the rights of EU and UK citizens, including free movement, be protected? How could ‘associated citizenship’ work for UK citizens post Brexit? What are the implications for free movement of UK and EU citizens cross border, including the Irish/Northern Irish border?

Keynote: MEP Pedro SILVA PEREIRA, PT, S&D, Vice-Chair Constitutional Affairs Committee

Moderator: Christine SULLIVAN, Attorney and Manager Worldwide Private Clients Practice, Fragomen

Speakers:

- MEP Pedro SILVA PEREIRA, PT, S&D, Vice-Chair Constitutional Affairs Committee
- Helena RAULUS, Head of Office, UK Law Societies’ Joint Brussels Office
- Alan MCCARTHY, Partner, A&L Goodbody

12:45: Lunch

Keynote lunchtime presentation on “Effective Justice for EU Citizens”: Judge Wojciech POSTULSKI Secretary General European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

13:30: Session III

‘UNGPs on business and human rights for EU lawyers, citizens and business’

Overview: the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights are guidelines, based on international conventions on human rights, on how States and business should prevent, address and remedy human rights abuses. In June 2016, 5 years after the adoption of the UNGPs, the EU Council adopted conclusions



on the UNGPs supporting their implementation and drawing particular attention to the need for EU member states to provide ‘effective remedies for victims of business-related human rights abuses’. The Council called on the European Commission to address in the issue in a future Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct. The UNGPs pose specific challenges for lawyers who represent both the victims and perpetrators of abuses, and for lawyer/client privilege. How should lawyers advise clients in complying with the UNGPs? How should lawyers apply the UNGPs within their own business? How can the EU, as a global standard setter, assist in implementing the UNGPs, and provide guidance to the legal profession? Should the EU interventions be binding or not?

Keynote:

MEP Anne-Marie MINEUR, NL, GUE/NGL

Moderator: Jacquelyn MACLENNAN, Partner, White & Case

Speakers:

- MEP Anne-Marie MINEUR, NL, GUE/NGL
- Dafni GOGO, Senior Policy Officer Unit C/2 DG JUST, European Commission
- Pedro ORTUN SILVAN, Director DG Enterprise, European Commission
- Graham SMITH, Member of the Cabinet EU Ombudsman
- Prof Cees VAN DAM, Human Rights in Business Project, Professor of International Business and Human Rights, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University.

14:45: **Concluding remarks:** Arno METZLER, Vice President Group III EESC

14:50: **Closing speech on “Access to Justice under EU Law”:** Paul NEMITZ, Director Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law, European Commission

15:00: **CLOSE**