



DIRECTORY OF EUROPEAN BODIES RELATING TO JUSTICE

Edition One

This directory is an attempt to put together the various bodies relating to justice that operate with the EU and the Council of Europe; it attempts to state what each body does.

It has been primarily the work of Zoe Elliott in the Judicial Office for England and Wales. I am immensely grateful to her for the work she has done to produce what I believe is a fully comprehensive directory of the many different organisations and associations.

Please let us know of all errors, corrections and additions. We shall revise it on a regular basis.

Lord Justice Thomas
Judge in Charge of European Relations

November 2008

It is organised into the following sections:

- A. General – judiciary and others
- B. Criminal Justice
- C. Civil and Family Justice
- D. Tribunals and Administrative Justice
- E. Training

A. GENERAL – JUDICIARY & OTHERS

This has 5 sub- sections:

- A1: Networks of the Judiciary
- A2: Associations of Judges
- A3: Bodies established by the EU
- A4: Bodies established by the Council of Europe
- A5: General Associations of lawyers

A1: NETWORKS OF THE JUDICIARY

1. Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union

What it does

The Network of the Presidents is an Association to promote exchanges of view and experience on the case law, organisation and functioning of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the EU in relation to the performance of their judicial and advisory functions. The Network aims to bring the Supreme Courts closer by encouraging discussion and the exchange of ideas. The members gather for colloquia to discuss matters of common interest for example EU directives that affect the Supreme Court or the common portal for case law. The Network has a board meeting every 6 months and colloquia every two years.

Since 2005, stages are organized for the Members of the Supreme Courts, as part of the Exchange Programme of European judicial authorities with the support of the European Judicial Training Network.

Contact details:

Address: Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Courts of the European Union

5 quai de l'Horloge, 75001 Paris, France

Contact: Dominique Hascher – sec.ri.courdeceassation@justice.fr 0033 0 14432 6070 Fax: 0033 0 14432 7828

Website: www.network-presidents.eu

Email: secretariat@rpcsjue.org

2. European Network of the Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

What it does

The ENCJ was formally established in 2004 and consists of national institutions in the member states of the European Union which are independent of the executive and legislature, and which are responsible for the support of the Judiciaries in the independent delivery of justice.

The **ENCJ** proposes to act as a mediator between the institutions of the European Union and the national judiciaries and it has formulated a number of objectives within the framework of the creation of the European Area of freedom, security and justice.

Contact details

Address: ENCJ Secretariat

Netherlands Council for the Judiciary
P.O. Box 90613, 2509 The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel + 31 (0) 70 361 9884 or + 31 or (0) 70 361 9840
Fax + 31 (0) 70 361 9790

Email: encj@rechtspraak.nl

Website: www.encj.eu

From 1 January 2009 Brussels

3. Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)

What it does

The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) is an advisory body of the **Council of Europe**. It provides advice on issues related to the independence, impartiality and competence of judges. The CCJE was the first body within an international organisation to be composed exclusively of judges.

By establishing the CCJE, the Council of Europe highlighted the key role of the judiciary in exploring the concept of democracy and the rules by which it operates.

Contact details

Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)

Council of Europe

Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Justice Division, Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, FRANCE

Email: ccje@coe.int

Website:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg1/legalcooperation/judicialprofessions/ccje/default_en.asp

A2. ASSOCIATIONS OF JUDGES

1. European Association of Judges (International Association of Judges – IAJ/UIM)

What it does

The European Association of Judges (EAJ) is a constituent part of the International Association of Judges (IAJ). The EAJ consists of 39 members which are national associations of judges. The main aim of the Association is to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, as an essential requirement of the judicial function and guarantee of human rights and freedom. The EAJ elects a President and he and his colleagues represent the EAJ, which had Observer status in various European forums, such as the CCJE and the CEPEJ. They also represent the EAJ before enquiries and committees of the European Commission and European Parliament. There are two general meetings a year of the EAJ members. The IAJ itself has over 70 members of national associations of judges world-wide.

Contact details

European Association of Judges Union Internationale des Magistrats Palazzo di Giustizia, Piazza Cavour - 00193 Roma, Italy

tel.: +39 06 6883 2213 fax: +39 06 687 1195

President: Mr Born Solbakken

Delegate for European affairs:

Mr. Giacomo Oberto, Deputy Secretary-General of the I.A.J

Email: secretariat@iaj-uim.org

Website: www.iaj-uim.org

2. International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates

What it does

It aims to establish links between judges, magistrates and specialists all over the world who are attached to a judicial authority of whatever nature which is concerned with the protection of youth or with the family. It represents worldwide efforts to deal with the protection of youth and family and with the criminal behaviour and maladjustment of youth. It examines legislation designed for the protection of youth and the family with a view to improving systems. It promote awareness and application of children's rights. It assists in collaboration between nations. It encourages research into the causes of the criminal behaviour or maladjustment of youth. It collaborates with international associations concerned with the protection of youth and with the family.

Contact details

President - Justice/ Renate Winter, Vienna, Austria

renatewinter@gmx.net

Website: www.judgesandmagistrates.org

3. Medel: Magistrats European pour la Democracy et la Liberte

What it does

This Association of Judges and Prosecutors was founded in 1985; it has 17 National Associations including Germany, Belgium, Cyprus, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania.

Contact details

The President is at the Court of Cassation at Rome

www.medelnet.org

4. Association des Magistrats de l' EU (European Judges and Prosecutors Association) (EJPA)

What it does

Gathers together judges and prosecutors from the European Union and from countries that have to EU membership, interested in matters of judicial cooperation and seeks applied to improve the mutual knowledge of our judiciary systems. Membership includes France, Spain

Contact details

Based at the Tribunal de Grande Instance at Montpellier

Website: www.amue-ejpa.org

5. International Union of Judicial Officers/ Union Internationale des Huissiers de Justice (UIHJ)

What it does

The purpose of the organisation is to represent its members to international organisations and ensure collaboration with national professional bodies. It works to improve national procedural law and international treaties and makes every effort to promote ideas, projects and initiatives which help to move forward and elevate the independent status of officers of Court.

Furthermore, the Union takes part in the structural actions of officers of Court, notably via its involvement in the setting up and development of national professional organisations with a view to their becoming members of the UIHJ.

It participates in investigation missions in relation to governments and international bodies.

Lastly it promotes, wherever possible, the creation of a body of officers of Court made up of professionals and high-level legal officers fulfilling the task of the officer responsible both for the service of judicial and extra-judicial documents and the enforcement of orders.

Website of UIHJ: www.uihj.com

Contact details

Jacques Isnard
44 rue de Douai – 75009 Paris
Tel: +33 1 49 70 87
Fax: +33 1 49 15 87

6. European Union of Rechtspfleger

What it does

The European Union of Rechtspfleger (EUR) is the union of professional organisations of Rechtspfleger and comparable officials in Europe. Several non-European organisations joined the EUR as associated members, thus the Union has influence not only in Europe.

Rechtspfleger are judicial officials to whom judicial tasks were transferred to be done by themselves in their own responsibility. They belong to the higher staff of the judicial organisation.

Judicial tasks have also to be transferred to comparable officials to be done in their own responsibility, above this they act in judicial procedures beside the judge.

Human Rights are a special aspect in the work of the Rechtspfleger /Greffier.

Contact details

European Union of Rechtspfleger
Theresienstrasse 148, D-80333 Munich

Tel: +49 8031 8074 372
Fax: +49 8031 8074 329

Adelheid Hell – General Secretary
Email: he.hell@freenet.de
Website: www.eu-rechtspfleger.eu

7. Committee for Court Interpreting and Legal Translation

This is a Committee of the International Federation of Translators. The Committee's primary task is to organise international meetings as a platform for legal translators and court interpreters to meet and exchange opinions and experiences. Its President is in Vienna

Website: <http://www.fit-ift.org/en/committ-legal.php>

A3: BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE EU

1. Justice Forum

What it does

The Justice Forum's was launched on 30 May 2008. Its main aims will be to improve policy making in the areas of civil and criminal justice by providing a platform for dialogue between the Commission and the national stakeholders and reviewing implementation of instruments in force and contributing to greater mutual trust at the European level. The Justice Forum will provide a permanent mechanism for consulting stakeholders, receiving feedback and reviewing EU justice policies and practice transparently and objectively.

The Justice Forum meets regularly, approximately four times a year, in Brussels. Specific themes are selected for discussion once a year by the plenary session. Where it seems more appropriate, the Justice Forum will meet as a sub-group in order to gather only the most relevant experts on a specific topic.

The Justice Forum has gathered experts from several backgrounds: Member States, judicial bodies, practitioners, specialist NGOs, academics and, ideally, users of justice systems.

Contact details

Justice Forum
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Justice, Freedom and Security, B-1049 BRUSSELS

2. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

What it does

This organisation was founded on 15 February 2007 through Council Regulation EC No 168/2007. It is based in Vienna. The launch of the Agency took place 1 March 2007, hosted by the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and the Austrian authorities in Vienna. The Fundamental Rights Agency replaces and builds on the work of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). Going beyond the work of the Monitoring Centre, the Fundamental Rights Agency will have three key functions: to collect information and data; provide advice to the European Union and its Member States and promote dialogue with civil society to raise public awareness of fundamental rights. The organisation has a panel of independent experts from various member states.

Contact details

Coordinator: Olivier De Schutter
cfr_cdf@cpdr.ucl.ac.be.

Website: www.eumc.eu.int

A4: BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (Commission Européenne pour l'efficacité de la Justice – CEPEJ)

What it does

Ministries of Justice participate in a number of organisations in the Council of Europe but the one which seems to have the most direct impact is the Commission Européenne pour l'efficacité de la Justice (CEPEJ). The aim of CEPEJ is the improvement of the efficiency and functioning of justice in the member States, and the development of the implementation of the instruments adopted by the Council of Europe to this end. It works closely with the EU.

CEPEJ is composed of representatives, appointed by Ministries of Justice, from all the 47 member States of the Council of Europe and is assisted by a Secretariat. Observers may be admitted to its work. The European Union also participates in its work.

Contact details for the CEPEJ

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice

Council of Europe

Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs

Justice Division

Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, FRANCE

Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 35 54

Fax: +33 (0) 3 88 41 37 43

Email: cepej@coe.int

Website: www.coe.int/t/dg1/legalcooperation/cepej/presentation/cepej_en.asp

2. The European Commission for democracy through law (Venice Commission)

What it does

Conceived in 1990 as an expert body to assist with the constitutions and 'institutions of democracy and the rule of law for newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union', the commission has become an internationally recognised independent legal think-tank. It contributes to the dissemination of the European constitutional heritage, based on the continent's fundamental legal values while continuing to provide "constitutional first-aid" to individual states. The Venice Commission also plays a unique and unrivalled role in crisis management and conflict prevention through constitution building and advice. It has recently opened its membership to democracies outside of Europe. In addition to its advice it holds meetings and conferences and there is a Bulletin on Constitutional Case Law (CODICES) that is published regularly and contains a digest of important

constitutional cases from the member and observer countries of the Venice Commission.

Contact details for the Commission

Venice Commission - Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Fax: +33(0)3 88 41 37 38
E-mail: venice@coe.int

Website: www.venice.coe.int/

A5: ASSOCIATIONS OF LAWYERS

1. Consultative Council of the Bars of Europe (CCBE)

What it does

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) is the representative organisation of more than 700,000 European lawyers through its member bars and law societies from 31 full member countries, and 10 further observer countries.

The CCBE was founded in 1960, as the ramifications of the European Economic Community on the legal profession started to be seriously considered. During the decades which followed and through to the present day, the CCBE has been in the forefront of advancing the views of European lawyers and defending the legal principles upon which democracy and the rule of law are based. The CCBE is an international non-profit-making association incorporated in Belgium.

Contact details

CCBE

Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée, 1-5
B-1040 BRUSSELS

T. +32 (0)2 234 65 10

F. +32 (0)2 234 65 11`or +32 (0)2 234 65 12

Website: www.ccbe.eu

2. Union des Avocats Europeens (UAE)

The European Lawyers' Union (U.A.E.) is an Association whose members practice within the European Union. Established in 1986 in Luxemburg, the Association has experienced a rapid expansion and today counts several members who are lawyers across the Member States of the European Union.

The European Lawyers' Union (U.A.E.) is a non profit Association based in Luxemburg.

Membership is open to any lawyer who is member of one or more Bars or a Law Society within the European Union.

Contact details

President
Me Francesco Samperi
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Rome- Italie
Telephone: +39 06 322 25 81
Fax: +39 06 32 65 13 71
E-mail: samperi.francesco@tiscali.it

Website: www.uae.lu

3. Council of Notaries of the European Union (CNUE)

What it does

The CNUE has embarked on the mission of promoting the notariat and its active contribution to any decision-making process of the European institutions. It does this within domains ranging from the legal aspects of citizenship and access to justice, to consumer protection. The CNUE fulfils this mission through constant dialogue with the European institutions.

Its goal is to contribute to building a common legal space in Europe and to apply national and Community law appropriately. Furthermore, it keeps its members updated on developments in European legislation and any initiative taken by the different EU institutions. It also assists in the continuous training of civil law notaries in Community law.

Website: www.cnue.eu

B. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. European Criminal Law Academic Network (ECLAN)

What it does

The objective of ECLAN is to promote academic research and education on the field of European Criminal Law.

Creating and intensifying contacts between academics and researchers specialized in the field of EU Criminal Law and facilitating collaborations and synergies between universities. Spreading relevant information through a web site and constituting a forum dedicated to reflection and training. Member of the Justice Forum.

Contact details

Veronica Santamaria (secretariat of the ECLAN Network)

Institute for European Studies, Université libre de Bruxelles Av. Fr. Roosevelt, 39

1050 Bruxelles Tel: 00 32 (0)2 650 66 64

Website: www.eclan.eu

2. Association Internationale de Droit Penal (International Association of Penal Law)

What it does

The International Association of Penal Law was established in 1924 to continue the activities of the International Union of Penal Law (1889). It constitutes a platform for the academic and scientific exchange having a consultative status with the United Nations and is guided by the principles established by the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Member of the Justice Forum.

Contact details

Mme. Catherine Thony
BP 60118/33008 Bordeaux Cedex
France

Tel: +33 (0) 5 56 06 66 73

Fax: + 33 (0) 01 55 04 92 89

Email: jf@thony/szoivac@ehu.es

Website: www.penaorgl

3. European Judicial Network - Crime

What it does

The EJM has been in existence since September 1998 to carry out EU Council recommendation of 28 April 1997 - an action plan to combat organized crime, which was prepared by a High Level Group of experts from the Member States. It is a practitioner based network of contact points within the member states. These contact points must have functions in relation to judicial co-operation in criminal matters. Their role is to provide the local judicial authorities in other EU countries with legal and practical information necessary to enable them to prepare an effective request for judicial cooperation or to improve judicial cooperation in general. The secretariat is based in the Hague

Contact details

Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague

The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0) 70 41 5572

Fax: +31 (0) 70 5570

Email: ejm@eurojust.europa.eu

Website: www.ejm-crimjust.europa.eu

4. Eurojust

What it does

This is a prosecutor's network. Eurojust is a new European Union body, established in 2002 to enhance the effectiveness of the authorities within Member States when they are dealing with the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border and organized crime. Its aim is to facilitate judicial co-operation both for prosecutors, police officers and in some cases, investigating judges

Eurojust stimulates and improves the co-ordination of investigations and prosecutions between competent authorities in the Member States. Eurojust improves co-operation between the competent authorities of the Member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests. Eurojust supports the competent authorities of the Member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross border crime.

Eurojust hosts meetings, with translation facilities, between investigators and prosecutors from different states dealing with individual cases and at a strategic level

and specific types of criminality. Eurojust fulfils a unique role as a new permanent body in the European legal area. Its mission is to enhance the development of Europe-wide co-operation on criminal justice cases.

Contact details

EUROJUST

Maanweg 174, 2516AB The Hague

The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 70 412 5000

Email: info@eurojust.europa.eu

It is has the same address as the EJM (Crime)

Website: www.eurojust.europa.eu

5. Victim Support Europe

What it does

Victim Support Europe is a network of 21 non-governmental victim support organisations in European countries, which provide assistance and information to victims of crime. It was founded in 1990 has developed victim services throughout Europe.

Contact details

Jaap Smit
Victim Support Europe
PO Box 14208 3508 SH UTRECT

Telephone: + 31 30 23207776

Fax: + 31 30 2317655

Email: info@victimsupporteurope.eu

Website: www.victimsupporteurope.eu

6. European Criminal Bar Association

What it does

The European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA) is an association of independent specialist defence lawyers. Its affairs are managed by an executive committee and advisory board elected by the membership in general assembly every three years. It aims to protect and resist where necessary any attempted diminution of defence rights.

Contact details

25 Bedford Row
London
United Kingdom
WC1R 4HD
Telephone: 020 70 67 15 36

Email: secretariat@ecba.org

Website: www.ecba.org/cms/

7. Eurodefensor

What it does

It is a NGO in the state of development, founded this year as successor to a working group of European Criminal Law Professors. With this working group, funded by EU AGIS programme, there was the Thessaloniki conference on the Europeanisation of

criminal law and criminal procedure in 2006 and published a bilingual volume "A Programme for European Criminal Justice" (Koeln-Berlin- Muenchen 2007), which consists of an alternative paper "Proposal for the Regulation of trans-national Criminal Proceedings in the European Union" and a collection of respective articles.

Of all their proposals, they attracted most attention with the idea of an institution called "Eurodenfensor", i.e. the foundation of a special figure within the confidential stages of criminal investigation in order to control police activities and to safeguard the rights of the (still uninformed) defendant.

Its members are criminal law professors and lawyers with the goal of getting just a small number of members in every EU member state

Contact Details

Professor Bernd Schuenemann
Institut f. d. ges. Strafrechtswissenschaften, Rechtsphilosophie u. Rechtsinformatik
der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet
Munich, Germany
Email: Bernd.Schuenemann@jura.uni-muenchen.de

Website: the website is being developed and is not yet operational

8. Amnesty International European Office

What it does

Amnesty International is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. In particular, Amnesty International campaigns to: free all prisoners of conscience; ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners; abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners; end political killings and "disappearances"; and oppose human rights abuses by opposition groups.

Contact details

Natacha Kazatchkine
Amnesty International – EU Office, 35 rue de Treves B- 1040 Bruxelles

Telephone: + 02 548 27 63; Fax: + 02 502 58 62

Email: nkazatchkine@aieu.be

Website: www.amnesty-eu.org

8. International Commission of Jurists

What it does

The International Commission of Jurists is dedicated to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights. EU members work through the Justice organisation which is an all party law reform and human rights organisation working to improve the legal system and quality of justice

Contact details

International Commission of Jurists, Information Desk
P.O. Box 91, 33, rue des Bains, 1211 Geneva 8, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 9793800; Fax: +41 22 9793801
Email: info@icj.org

JUSTICE

59 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5AQ
Telephone: 020 7329 5100; Fax: 020 7329 5055
Email: admin@justice.org.uk
DX 323 Chancery Lane

C. CIVIL & FAMILY JUSTICE

1. European Association of Commercial Judges/ l'Union Européenne des Magistrats statuant en matière Commerciale (U.E.M.C.)

What it does

This network is made up of magistrates –such as members of Tribunals de Commerce who are not legally qualified. It's objectives are to establish or strengthen professional ties between members by means of meetings, study groups, national or international conferences; to distribute any publication, study or report it has chosen as the information medium for its members; to take part in studies or assignments effected, where necessary, in conjunction with the legal and administrative authorities of the Council of Europe Member States and with the European Union; to ensure by means of regular meetings that there is proper coordination of the actions undertaken by all classes of association and organization represented by it.

It represents its members in dealings with the European Union, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and, more generally, with any European institutions.

Contact details

Website: www.strasbourg.cci.fr/uemc

2. European Group of Magistrates for Mediation; Le Groupement Européen des Magistrats pour la Médiation (GEMME)

What it does

Settle conflicts through mediation. Act as conciliators and mediators allowing the resolving of conflicts.

Contact details

Website: www.gemme.eu

3. European Commercial Judges Forum

What it does

There is no constitution. The forum was set up in 2003 by the Lord Chancellor's Department within the scope of the European Council Regulation for judicial cooperation in civil matters. The initial meeting was in part funded by the European Commission.

As the framework programme explains the objectives are:

- to promote judicial co-operation in civil matters, aiming in particular at ensuring legal certainty and improving access to justice, promoting mutual recognition of judicial decisions and judgments, promoting the necessary approximation of legislation, or eliminating obstacles created by disparities in civil law and civil procedures;
- to improve the mutual knowledge of Member States' legal and judicial systems in civil matters
- to ensure the sound implementation and application of Community instruments in the area of judicial co-operation in civil matters; and
- to improve information to the public on access to justice, judicial co-operation and the legal systems of Member States in civil matters.

The focus is upon these aspects which are of particular interest to judges concerned with commercial disputes.

The fourth conference took place in The Hague in October 2007. The fifth is scheduled for the spring of 2009 in Dublin

Contact Details

Website: www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/forum

4. European Patent Office

What it does

- (a) Organise and hold a bi-yearly symposium organised since 1982 by the European Patent Office in successive different member states of the European Patent Union and paid for partly by the EPO and partly by the host state. Its aim is to provide a platform for national judges from legal systems with differing traditions, to exchange experiences and to thereby promote mutual understanding in the development of European patent law.
- (b) Organise conferences involving judges and the training of judges around the world

Contact Details

Fabienne Gauye
 DIV 5.2.2
 European Patent Office
 Erhardtstr.27
 80469 Munich Germany

Email: f.gauye@epo.org
 Brussels Office
 European Patent Office, Av. de Cortenbergh, 60 1000 Brussels Belgium

Telephone.: +32 2 274 15 90

Website: www.epo.org

5. The European Patent Lawyers Association (EPLAW)

What it does

EPLAW was formed in 2001 as a non profit making corporation with a view to promote the equitable and efficacious handling of patent disputes in Europe and to strengthen the links between lawyers having litigious experience in patent law in Europe.

Contact details

Simon Braun, Avenue Louise 149/20, 1050 Bruxelles Belgium

Telephone: +322 543 7080; Fax: +322 543 7090

Jacques Isnard, 44 rue de Douai – 75009 Paris

Tel: +33 1 49 70 87; Fax: +33 1 49 15 87

Website: www.eplaw.org

5 (a) Venice Judges' and Lawyers' Forum

What it does

Organised once a year by the European Patent Office and EPLAW since 2005.

Contact details

Simon Braun

EPLAW, Avenue Louise 149/20, 1050 Bruxelles Belgium

Telephone: +322 543 7080; Fax: +322 543 7090

5 (b) Intellectual Property Judges Association (IPJA)

What it does

Promotes the harmonization of judicial approaches and procedures and contributes to the professional education and update of judges when dealing with EPLAW and the Venice Forum. Members are from the various judiciaries of Europe.

Contact Details

Judge Massimo Cuffi (President)

mascuffi@tin.it

Judge Marina Tavassi

Marina.tavassi@fastwebnet.it

Judge Gabriella Muscolo
Gabriella.muscolo@tin.it

5 (c) The Office for the Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM)

What it does

Holds a bi-annual EU Judges' conference on trademark and design law in Alicante. Also organises training of trade mark and design judges in various locations around Europe

Contact details

Alberto Casado
Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market
(Trade Marks and Designs)
Avenida de Europa, 4
E-03008 Alicante
Spain
Telephone: +34 96 513 9100
Website: www.oami.europa.eu
Email: Alberto.Casado@oami.europa.eu

5. European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters

THIS IS AN EU BODY FOR MOJs; IT IS NOT A JUDICIAL NETWORK

What it does

This was created in May 2001 by Council Decision 2001/470 CE with the objective of promoting "judicial" cooperation in civil justice. The network consists of representatives of the Member States and is managed by the Commission. It meets several times each year to exchange information and experience and boost cooperation between the Member States as regards civil and commercial law.

The main objective is to make life easier for people facing litigation of whatever kind where there is a trans-national element - i.e. where it involves more than one Member State.

In family law each state nominates one or more judges for the European Judicial Network for family law so that there is a structure through which cross border issues in cases can be resolved (see below)

Membership

MoJ's of each country leads but some send judges to deal with specific issues
All member states

Contact details

European Commission, Rue de la loi 200 Belgium

Tel: +32 2 299 16 82 Fax: +32 2 299 6457

Email: joao=Paulo.simo-es-de-almeida@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice>

6. European Network of Family Judges

What it does

The EJM in Civil and Commercial Matters created a network of specialist family judges as an adjunct to EJM national contact points. The network is made up of judges who specialise in family law and was created in 2006. It is co-ordinated by the Judicial Office of England and Wales through its International Family Justice section which manages the list of family judges and supplies this to the EJM and to the International Hague Network of Specialist Family Judges at the Hague Bureau.

The judge nominated as the contact point will be a family justice specialist of considerable seniority. The judge will have a particular interest in and experience of international family law. The judge must have much experience of deciding contested applications under the 1980 Convention; the judge needs the support of the President of the Court or Chief Justice and the Judicial Council or Court Service, both of whom must recognise the importance of this international role and will provide suitable finance. The executive government must keep the judge informed of policy developments in the international family law field and should listen to advice tendered by the judge in the formulation of such policy.

Contact details:

Email: karen.wheller2@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk

7. Groupe européen de droit international privé/ European Group for Private International Law (GEDIP)

The Groupe européen de droit international privé / European Group for Private International Law is a closed forum composed of about 30 experts of the relations between private international law and European law, mainly academics from about 18 European States and also members of international organizations. The purpose is to create an academic and scientific think tank. The Group was founded in 1991. The members meet once a year. The proceedings of the working sessions and the statements of the group are posted on its Website and published in various law reviews.

Contact details

Website: www.gedip-egpil.eu

8. Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOPIL)

What it does

The Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOPIL) was founded in 1996 and formally established as a not-for-profit organisation in 1998 by European lawyers to improve and promote judicial co-operation and mutual knowledge of legal and judicial systems of European jurisdictions in the field of personal injury law. The objectives of the organisation are: To develop co-operation and networking of personal injury lawyers within Europe; To promote access to the legal system for consumers suffering personal injury; To promote higher standards of care and safety for consumers; To promote proper and fair compensation for all personal injury cases; To support and encourage the exchange of information and knowledge.

Contact details

Dr Wolfgang Resch, Chief Executive
Imperial HOUSE, 31 Temple Street, Birmingham B2 5DB
Telephone: 0121 643 4962
Fax: 0121 643 9405
Email: wolfgang.resch@peopil.com

Website: www.peopil.com

12. INSOL Judicial Wing Europe

What it does

This is a new organisation in the early stages of being established. It is a sub-group of INSOL, insolvency professionals. They get some financial support from INSOL. Its objectives are to set up a database of insolvency courts; to publish cross border insolvency case law; to discuss and formulate an opinion on the "European Communication and Cooperation Guidelines for Cross Border Insolvency; to draft a protocol on cross border communication and to try to influence national governments and the EC regarding the incorporation of rules concerning judicial cooperation in cross border insolvencies. The judicial wing provides a forum for the judiciary to discuss issues.

Contact Details

(For general information INSOL)
Chris Laughton (Council member)
Mercer & Hole
Tel: 020 7353 1597

Website: www.insol.org

D. TRIBUNALS & ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

1. Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union

What it does

The purpose of the Association is to promote, within its financial limits, exchanges of views and experience on matters concerning the jurisprudence, organisation and functioning of its Members in the performance of their judicial and/or advisory functions, particularly with regard to Community Law. The association meet annually and hold various seminars and colloquia.

It has a Database of about 20,000 national judgments

The following are Members of the Association: the Court of Justice of the European Communities and the supreme jurisdictions and Councils of State of the Member States of the European Union which are empowered to adjudicate in the final instance in disputes concerning the activities of public administrative bodies or which are acting in an all-round legal advisory capacity as far as the drawing up of normative texts is concerned.

Contact details

Rue de la Science 33, B-1040 Bruxelles

Website: www.juradmin.eu

Secretary-general

Yves Kreins

Tel.: +32 2 2349682; Fax.: +32 2 2349900

E-Mail: yves.kreins@juradmin.eu

2. Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)

What it does

To advance legal redress for individuals vis-à-vis public authority in Europe and to promote the legality of administrative acts. Member of the Justice Forum.

Judicial - Currently 14 national administrative unions of judges have joined the Association of European Administrative Judges.

Contact details

Dr Werner Heermann (Vice President) Werner.Heerman@vqw.bayern.de

European Academy of Law, Trier contact@aeaj.org

Website: www.aeaj.org

3. European Forum of Judges for the Environment

What it does

The Forum is open to all EU and European Free Trade Association Judges. The objective of the Forum is to promote the enforcement of national, European and international environmental law by contributing to a better knowledge by judges of environmental law, by exchanging judicial decisions and by sharing experience in the area of training in environmental law. It was created with a view to raising the awareness of judges in the key role of the judicial function in the effectiveness of sustainable development. The Forum has its origins in the United Nations Programme for the Environment (UNEP).

This is a forum for judges.

Contact details

Email: president.uefje.courdecassation@justice.fr

Website: www.eufje.org

4. Association of European Competition Law Judges

What it does

The objective of the Association is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of competition law amongst the judiciary of the Member States of the EU. Its aim is to promote consistency of approach in the application of Articles 81 and 82. It was founded in Luxembourg in 2002 by a group of judges from 15 Member States and its focus is to hold conferences and seminars. It is open to all who act in a judicial capacity in connection with competition law. Its EU Commission contact is the Competition DG

Contact details

AECLJ Secretariat c/o UK Competition Appeal Tribunal, Victoria House, Bloomsbury Place WC1 A 2EB

Contact Charles Dhanowa

Tel: 020 7979 7979.

Email: aeclj@catribunal.org.uk

Website: none as yet.

5. International Association of Refugee Law Judges

What it does

The International Association of Refugee Law Judges seeks to foster recognition that protection from persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion is an individual right established under international law, and that the determination of refugee status and its cessation should be subject to the rule of law. Its European chapter plays a significant role in dealing with asylum issues in Europe. They meet annually for the European chapter and bi-annually for the international chapter.

Contact details

The Secretariat International Association of Refugee Law Judges
PO Box 1621
2003 BR Harleem
The Netherlands

Website: www.iarlj.nl

6. EURASIL

What it does

This is a Commission funded body providing liaison between judges and government officials across the EU as well as with Commission Officials. Eurasil provides a forum for exchange of Country of Origin Information (COI) and best practice among 25 EU Member States and 5 observer states (Norway, Iceland, Canada, Switzerland and USA - 30 states altogether). Sessions on particular Countries of Origin comprise presentations from Member State representatives (incl. Judges), liaison officers from countries of origin, private experts on thematic issues and international organisations.

Eurasil activities also support practitioners to enhance working relationships with each other. Eurasil's role is continuously developed to meet the goals set out in the Hague Programme and in the Communication on Strengthening Practical Cooperation in the field of Asylum.

Officials meet up to 25 times a year and judges yearly. This year they have begun to organise workshops targeted at judges on current legal issues.

Contact

Lauri.Hollman@ec.europa.eu
Telephone: 0032 2 29 63353

No website available

7. European Association of Labour Court Judges

What it does

The European Association of Labour Court Judges is an independent body of judges and academic lawyers committed to the promotion of information and contacts in the field of employment law and judicial practice. Membership is open to all countries of the European Union and European Economic Area.

It holds annual meetings

It deals with DG V and works with BERR in the UK

Contact details:

Email: admin@ealcj.org

Website: www.ealcj.org/home.htm

Convenor, Professor Alan C. Neal - alan.neal@warwick.ac.uk (Fax: +44 (0)1858-555397)

Secretary General: Colin Sara: The Crescent Centre, Temple Back, Bristol BS1 6EZ
colin.sara@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk

8 . Expert Committee of the International Labour Organisation

What it does

The ILO is a UN body. It has a Committee of Independent Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. It is probably the most respected body within the ILO supervisory mechanisms, being entirely independent and impartial, and is long-standing. It was set up in 1926 and monitors the extent to which law and practice in the ILO member states is in conformity with adopted and ratified International Labour Conventions and produces an annual report.

At present there are 18 experts on the Committee, covering all the main regions, and we are a mix of judges, practitioners and academic lawyers with particular expertise and experience in labour law, equality and human rights law or international law.

The Conventions cover almost every aspect of labour and include e.g. fundamental rights Conventions and Conventions of general application (freedom of association, discrimination and equal pay, child labour, forced labour, labour inspection, working time) and Conventions which are industry specific, e.g. seafarers, agricultural workers etc.

Contact details

Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry
Director of the International Labour Standards Dept.
4 Route des Morillon
CH-1211 GENEVE 22
Tel (41 22) 799 7155

Website:

[http://www.ilo.org/global/What we do/InternationalLabourStandards/ApplyingandpromotingInternationalLabourStandards/CommitteeofExperts/lang--en/WCMS_CON_TXT_ILS_CEM_EN/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/InternationalLabourStandards/ApplyingandpromotingInternationalLabourStandards/CommitteeofExperts/lang--en/WCMS_CON_TXT_ILS_CEM_EN/index.htm)

E. TRAINING

1. European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

What it does

The EJTN comprises the institutions specifically responsible for the training of the professional judiciary within the European Union (EU). Founded on 13th October 2000, the EJTN is a non-profit making international organisation (AISBL) under Belgian law with its headquarters in Brussels. It aims to promote training programmes for members of the judiciary in Europe with a real European dimension. Its training programme enables participants to get to know different European systems better thanks to immersion training periods at a court/prosecutor's office or at judicial training institutions.

Finally, it also develops a website aimed at all legal professionals in order for them to find useful information on the training possibilities, judicial systems in Europe, as well as EU law and case law.

Contact details

3rd floor, 16B Rue du Luxembourg,
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.
Tel: +32(0)22802242
Fax: +32(0)22802236
Aude Magen Aude.magen@ejtn.eu
Website : www.ejtn.eu

Secretary General: HH J Victor Hall Victor.hall@ejtn.eu

2. Academy of European Law [ERA]

What it does

The Academy of European Law (ERA) promotes the awareness, understanding and good practice of EU law by providing legal professionals with training and a forum for debate. ERA enables judges, lawyers in private practice, business and public administration, academics and others who encounter legal issues in their work, to gain a wider knowledge of the diverse aspects of European law.

Contact details

ERA - Academy of European Law, Metzger Allee 4, D-54295 Trier GERMANY

Brussels office: Rue Belliard 159, B-1040 Brussels, Tel: +32 (0)2 7362502

E-Mail: brusselsoffice@era.int

Website: www.era.int

3. LISBON NETWORK

The Lisbon Network was established by the Council of Europe works closely with the EJTN.

What it does

They were set up as a network for the exchange of information on the training of judges and prosecutors. The Lisbon Network aims to meet the goals of the Council of Europe, i.e. in particular the independence and efficiency of justice. Its main goal is to help with the development of training magistrates, in particular through the strengthening of exchanges of experience between the judicial training institutions and the common examination of shared problems. They meet twice a year, once generally and also a plenary and other colloques.

Membership

All the member States are represented in the Network. The members of the Network are national judicial training institutions.

Contact details for the Lisbon Network

Address: Council of Europe, Directorate General of Legal Affairs
Division for the judiciary and programmes,
Avenue de l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex FRANCE
Ana Rusu
Secretary to the Network
+33 (0)3 90 21 54 56
Email: lisbon-network@coe.int

Website: www.coe.int/t/dg1/legalcooperation/judicialprofessions/Lisbon/

4. EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

What it does

EIPA is one of the primary centres of European learning and development for the public sector. Founded 25 years ago, EIPA is the place where people who deal with European affairs can learn in a multi-cultural environment benefiting from their combination of practical know-how and scientific excellence.

Contact Details

European Institute of Public Administration
PO Box 1229
6201 BE
Maastricht (NL)
Tel: +31 43 3296 222
Website: www.eipa.nl

F. Responsibilities within the European Commission and Parliament

Parliament

1. Directorate General Justice Freedom & Security

The Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security is one of the European Commission's 36 departments. The role of the European Commission is to make proposals for European Union legislation. It also monitors how this legislation is implemented once it has been adopted by the EU Council of Ministers. However, in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security - a new area of European Union competence - the European Commission shares its right to make legislative proposals with the Member States.

The European Commission has been involved from the beginning in the discussions to bring Justice, Freedom and Security matters within the ambit of the European Union. It set up a small task force for justice and home affairs when the Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992. This was expanded into a full directorate-general in October 1999. Its present general Director is Jonathan Faull.

Contact Details

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/justice_home/index_en.htm

2. Directorate General for Competition

What it does

Helps to enforce the competition rules of the Community Treaties ensuring that competition in the EU market is not distorted and that markets operate as efficiently as possible, thereby contributing to the welfare of consumers and to the competitiveness of the European economy.

Contact Details

European Commission
DG Competition
Rue Joseph II/ Josef II straat 70
1000 Brussels

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/competition/>

COUNCIL

3. Legal Affairs Committee

What it does

1. The interpretation and application of European law, compliance of European Union acts with primary law, notably the choice of legal bases and respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;
2. The interpretation and application of international law, in so far as the European Union is affected;
3. The simplification of Community law, in particular legislative proposals for its official codification;
4. The legal protection of Parliament's rights and prerogatives, including its involvement in actions before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance;
5. Community acts which affect the Member States' legal order, namely in the fields of:
 - a. civil and commercial law,
 - b. company law,
 - c. intellectual property law,
 - d. procedural law;
6. Environmental liability and sanctions against environmental crime;
7. Ethical questions related to new technologies, applying the procedure with associated committees with the relevant committees;
8. The Statute for Members and the Staff Regulations of the European Communities;
9. Privileges and immunities as well as verification of Members' credentials;
10. The organisation and statute of the Court of Justice;
11. The Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market.

4. Civil Justice Affairs

What it does

1. The protection within the territory of the Union of citizens' rights, human rights and fundamental rights, including the protection of minorities, as laid down in the Treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
2. The measures needed to combat all forms of discrimination other than those based on sex or those occurring at the workplace and in the labour market;
3. Legislation in the areas of transparency and of the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data;
4. The establishment and development of an area of freedom, security and justice, in particular:
5. Measures concerning the entry and movement of persons, asylum and migration as well as judicial and administrative cooperation in civil matters,
6. Measures concerning an integrated management of the common borders,
7. Measures relating to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
8. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, Europol, Eurojust, Cepol and other bodies and agencies in the same area;
9. The determination of a clear risk of a serious breach by a Member State of the principles common to the Member States.