



Lay Judges and Justices in Europe: international symposium 17 - 19 July 2010

Venue: European Academy Berlin, 46/48 Bismarckallee, 14193 Berlin, Germany

OBJECTIVE

This symposium is designed to further cooperation and collaboration between European associations and organisations of lay judges and justices of the peace, with the objective of elaborating a European Charter of lay judges and justices. The project is designed to be supported in the form of a "European Day of lay judges" within the scope of the Civil Justice funding programme operated by the European Commission. This international symposium entitled "European volunteering in administering justice" is being organised as a cooperation between the Federal association of Lay Judges and the European Academy Berlin. During the meeting in Helsinki in October 2009, cooperation and collaboration took place in the form of surveying national approaches and experience of active citizens' participation in the legal system. The intention is to interlink volunteer justices with specialised knowledge – such as for example commercial or mercantile judges – or justices who on the basis of overall experience of life, when sitting on the bench, represent the ordinary citizen – such as the lay judge tradition in Germany (Schoeffen) or magistrates – as well as lay arbitrators or mediators and justices of the peace, with one another.

In addition, the symposium is aiming to intensify and institutionalise the contributions made by lay people in administering justice within Europe. It is intended that national associations will exchange views and experience both about parameters of lay persons' official duties and also about implications of judicial reforms. Legal cultures and judicial systems in European countries will come into contact with one another and improve mutual understanding. This symposium is designed to underpin the principle of participation by lay people in European justice within Europe and for Europe. Against this background, lay judges and justices may fulfil a significant function in increasing comprehension of the law in Europe.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 17 July 2010

11.00-13.00

optional programme section

participants arrive individually

a sight-seeing tour (by boat) in the centre of Berlin will be available for participants who arrive early in the day

10.30

departure from the European Academy Berlin

11.30

sight-seeing tour by boat, landing place: Moltke Bridge

13.00-13.45

light refreshments



13.45

participants register/ complete formalities

14.00

symposium begins

welcome address

GISELA VON DER AUE

Regional Minister of Justice, Berlin

message of welcome

DAGMAR ROTH-BEHRENDT

Vice-President of the European Parliament

written message of welcome

SABINE LEUTHEUSSER-SCHNARRENBARGER

Federal Minister of Justice, Germany

14.30

Developments in European law and implications for the work of lay judges and justices in Europe

a committed plea

HASSO LIEBER

President, Federal Association of Lay Judges –DVS e.V.

15.00

The work of lay judges and justices and associations

selection, training, implications for one's job, influence(s) on procedures

JOHN THORNHILL

Chairman, Magistrates' Association (England and Wales)

URSULA SENS

President, Association of Lay Judges – DVS e.V. (Germany), North Rhine-Westphalia regional branch

16.00

coffee

16.15

MATTI LAUKKANEN

Chairman, Suomen Lautamiehet ry (Finland)

RALF ASPLUND

Secretary, Suomen Lautamiehet ry (Finland)

16.45

FRANCISCO LASHERAS DOMÍNGUEZ

President, National Federation of Associations of Lay Justice

President, The Democratic Association of Lay Justice (Spain)

18.00

Barbecue / buffet and social meeting in the Academy garden

SUNDAY, 18 July 2010

The second day is designed to highlight the wide variety of lay justices and judges. Justices with specialised knowledge and experience of life are faced with different conditions in their work from justices who represent the ordinary citizen and bring to bear their overall experience of life and notions of justice when they pass judgement. Bodies acting as mediators or arbitrators work in a different way from arbitration courts. Highlighting both areas which we have in common as well as individualities will contribute towards forming the basis for a draft pan-European Charter for public participation in justice administration systems.

8.00	departure from the European Academy Berlin
9.00	Visit to the Federal Parliament building
12.00	lunch for all
13.00	The work of the expert lay arbitrator or justice Initial presentation: RAINER SEDELMAYER, Austrian Association of expert lay assessors (commercial or trade justices); President of the European Association of Judges in Commercial Matters
13.45	The work of lay judges in criminal justice as representative of the ordinary citizen (in Germany: Schoeffen, magistrate etc.)
16.46	Initial presentation: FRANCISCO LASHERAS DOMÍNGUEZ President, National Federation of Associations of Lay Justice; President, The Democratic Association of Lay Justice
14.30	The work of lay judges in agricultural jurisdiction Initial presentation: tbn
15.15	The work of the justice of the peace and lay arbitrator Initial presentation: HEINZ WINKLER Vice-President, Federal Association of Lay Arbitrators – BDS e.V.; President, Berlin, regional branch
16.00	Ideas and discussion on fundamental elements in a European Charter of Lay Judges Meeting of the European Network of Councils of Judges Report: JOHN THORNHILL President, Magistrates' Association Discussion chaired by DR. ANDREA DESPOT Deputy Director of the Academy
18.30	evening meal (dinner) for all the evening is free for participants' own activities

MONDAY, 19 July 2010

9.00

departure from the European Academy Berlin

9.30– 10.30

Meeting in the Federal Ministry of Justice

Message of welcome given by

MINISTERIALDIREKTOR DR. WOLFGANG SCHMITT-WELLBROCK

Head, department of judicial administration

followed by

Discussion and tour

11.00

Visit to the largest criminal justice court in Europe, in the Moabit district of Berlin

Welcome and introduction

PROF. DR. DR. PETER SCHOLZ

Vice-President of the Court of Berlin-Tiergarten

Tour of the court building and activities

DR. PETRA CARL

Spokesperson for Berlin criminal courts

13.00

light meal

followed by

Farewell message and closing remarks

HASSO LIEBER

President, Federal Association of Lay Judges –DVS e.V.

DR. ANDREA DESPOT

Deputy Director of the European Academy Berlin