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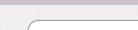
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C-LAW.ORG IN EUROPE

If one looks at the European legal scholarship in the post-enlargement era, there are certain imbalances and unilateralism regarding the flow of ideas, academic exchange, knowledge of foreign law, and the very presence in the international discussion. If one takes a closer look at the landscapes of post-enlargement Europe, one will quickly identify the existence of a threefold asymmetry: (a) asymmetric impact on EU legal policy (W-EUE), (b) asymmetry between Eastern and Western Europe in mutual understanding and awareness of each others' law and business environment (W-E), and (c) asymmetry in the orientation and academic exchange of Central and East European legal scholars and practitioners, which is clearly and presently pro-Western in principle (W-E-E).

Given the common experiences and similar problems faced by the majority of the new Member States, there is a clear case for stronger representation of the CEE-position in the European-wide discussion. This policy imbalance suggests a reason to integrate the legal community of the new Member States and create a platform that will ultimately help make the voice of Central and Eastern Europe more powerful in Europe.

New member states perceived the accession to the European Union as the (re)integration with the West. Another dimension, the integration within and in Central and Eastern Europe, has been widely omitted in the discussion. However it should be noted that for countries like Poland, Hungary, Slovakia or Cyprus, the accession to the EU not only opened new relationships e.g. with Germany, France or Spain, but also created new relationships with the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Lithuania, and other accession countries.

To rectify the abovementioned asymmetries (policy, legislative, information, etc.), action must be taken. C-law.org was envisioned to embark upon measures to help remedy this asymmetry problem.

Quoted after A. Radwan, 25 thoughts on European Company Law in the EU of 25, European Business Law Review, 2006, p. 1693 at pp. 170-173.

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ABOUT CENTRUM C-LAW.ORG

Centrum C-Law.org is a non-profit, think tank-type, non-governmental international organization comprised of legal scholars and practitioners from more than 20 countries, including all of the new member states of the European Union and short-listed membership candidates. Absent pan-European organizational form for NGOs, C-Law.org operates and has legal personality in accordance with the Polish Act of 7 April 1989, Law on Associations (Towarzystwo z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością). The working languages of C-Law.org are English, Polish and German, which reflect upon the diverse international composition of the organization's membership. Current members of C-Law.org bring vast international experience and have worked, studied or obtained academic degrees both in their own countries of origin and abroad.

We are open and invite to cooperation and support all individuals and institutions who are concerned with and care about highest technical, professional and ethical standards in legislation, legal practice and scholarship as well as wish to see CEE's stronger presence in the EU and international debate on the development of company and commercial law.



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Centrum C-Law.org is situated in Poland (Krakow), a location that gives the organization the advantage of becoming a central research base and meeting point for legal scholars and practitioners in Western, Eastern and Central Europe. For instance, Poland sparked off political change in the former Soviet block in 1989, and is now the European Union's largest accession country (2004). Because of its geographical location and historical connections, Poland has a rich and long tradition of gap-bridging and forging relationships between Eastern and Western Europe. C-Law.org desires to contribute to this tradition on the academic level. An important reason to establish Centrum C-Law.org was an attempt to restore balance in the debate about the future harmonization and development of company and commercial law in Europe, and to augment the audibility of Central and Eastern European (CEE) voices therein. The European Commission legislative procedures require wide consultancy before issuing directives and regulations. We would like to open a path into this discussion for CEE, and to create a strong and influential organization with regional and European significance, an objective that is being accomplished through our successful actions undertaken on the international and EU-level. In our work we largely incorporate comparative and economic analysis, as well as incline to functional approaches to take account of recent international developments and comply with highest standards of modern company and commercial law scholarship.



Arkadiusz Radwan

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

Centrum C-Law.org has targeted three specific long-term goals:

- the improvement of legislation and legal practice in the areas of commercial and corporate law in Eastern and Central Europe;
- the promotion of high professional standards and corporate governance throughout Europe, with a particular emphasis on European Union new member states; and
- the facilitation of cooperation of Central and Eastern European scholars, practitioners, policymakers and stakeholders in order to make their voice more audible on European and international fora.

In order to achieve these two overarching goals, the organization establishes a research centre that functions as a hub for dialog centered on corporate governance in Europe, aims at fostering the mutual understanding of legislative processes and legal systems, and enhances the quality of law and legal practice with respect to the improvement of professional ethics standards amongst practitioners. Centrum C-Law.org seeks to achieve its goals through independent scientific research, academic exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue and related activities.

ACTIVITIES

To achieve its statutory goals, the Centre's activities include:

- Organise conferences and seminars at international and national levels to bring together academics, practitioners and legislators working in the areas of company and commercial law or in the general business environment
- Promote multidisciplinary research encompassing law, economics, finances and management;
- Conduct its own or commissioned legal and empirical surveys using the Centre's own resources or with funding provided by sponsor institutions;
- Give opinions on laws and draft legislation, as well as on specific questions arising in corporate and commercial legal practice;
- Provide advice and assistance with the drafting of laws, codes of best practice in Corporate Governance, and with the formulation of policy objectives;
- Publish, both in traditional print and electronic form;
- Set up and improve infrastructure necessary for scientific research, such as libraries, electronic databases etc.
- Provide training in commercial law, company law and related fields;
- Take other actions designed to contribute to the improvement of commercial law and corporate law practice as well as to entrepreneurial awareness

For a detailed record of running and completed projects please refer to our website at www.c-law.org

SYMBOLS AND MEANINGS

Foreign inspiration and borrowing is a common phenomenon both in sciences and arts. A meaningful example in this context may be the ornamental door of the Trinity Church located at the junction of Wall Street and Broadway (Manhattan, NYC) modelled after the porta of the Florence Baptistery. Also in analysis we study foreign institutions and get inspired by international ideas, while contributing ourselves to this creative ferment. This comparative approach of Centrum C-Law.org is reflected in our logo, which contains three different paragraphs symbolically depicting different legal systems. Association's acronym (C-Law) refers to a quadruple "C" in the full name of the organisation ("European Centre for Comparative Commercial and Company Law"). Yet another meaning can be derived from the organisation's acronym, namely claw (German: Kralle, Polish: pazur, szpon) might be associated with sharp-witted, astute and piercing. These are the characteristics that we are committed to adhere to in our work and research.



I WANT TO BE A PART OF IT, C-LAW, C-LAW!

Being organised as an international Association, Centrum C-Law.org offers various membership categories, including:

Individual Membership categories:

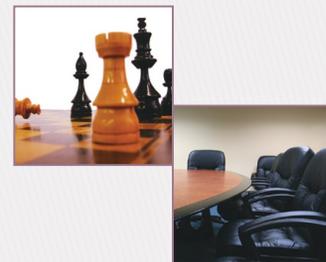
- Academic Member
- Ordinary Member
- Student Member

Institutional Membership categories

- Regular
- Premium:
- Benefactor
- Sponsor
- Partner

By joining C-Law.org you will become a part of a network assembling international experts, from whom many play pivotal role in their respective countries, both in the scholarship, law-making, and legal practice. You will also have the opportunity to participate in the activities of the Association. By that you will be given not only a chance of scientific exchange, but also a unique opportunity to develop professional relationships and personal ties.

For more information go to www.c-law.org/application.php



*Paraphrasing excerpt from Martin Scorsese 'New York, New York' - movie's soundtrack by Lisa Minelli (1977), known mostly from its later interpretation by Frank Sinatra.