

synergy

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Introduction to IB 2000/2001

Training

International Criminal Court

Moot Court Competitions

Magazine of The European Law Students' Association

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE
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ORIENTATION IN THE U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM
JULY 9–AUGUST 3, 2001

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Contents

Current

Introduction to the International Board 2000/2001	4
President's Words	5
Guide to Legal Studies 2000/2001 available	9

Events

Jurist of the Year Award	16
Bilateral ELSA Slovenia - ELSA Malta	
ELSA Malta on the Slopes	6
ELSA Slovenia in the land of Maltesers	7
Pan-European Conference -	
Euroatlantic integration of the southern European Countries	11
ELSA Crakow focus on International Relations	28

International Criminal Court

ELSA in New York, ICC PrepCom	12
ELSA at the core of International Law	29

Moot Court Competition

First shot of a great event in France	10
The Mini Moot Court Competition in Denmark	8

Focus - Training

ELSA - a workout machine from IKEA	14
ELSA Portugal - the true Spirit	19
Training with ELSA International	24

Seminars & Conferences

List of ELSA's international events 2000/2001	20
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Looking back

An ICM Fairytale	18
19 years of ELSA	22

Editorial

After the comeback and success of the previous issue, Synergy is now surfing on a wave of success. Apart from those few moments of frustration when some individuals didn't understand the concept and purpose of deadlines, which on my part resulted in long nights and no sleep, this issue has been a pure pleasure to produce.

Disregarding the fact that the articles, the people in the photos and the people producing this magazine have all changed since the last issue, everything has remained identical. We, and the ones who spoke to us liked the facelifts that were made last time. Therefore the layout and the structure has remained unchanged, and most importantly the text boxes are still there!

Before I encourage you to make that pot of coffee and escape from your law books for an hour or so, while enjoying a brand new issue of our members' magazine, I want to thank all of you who contributed to this magazine by submitting articles, pictures and giving me ideas. As always without your contribution the magazine would run the risk to be one-track minded and "slightly" boring to read.


Now, time has come to say enjoy this second issue of Synergy 2000!

Katarina Klepczynska

IB 2000/2001

The house is quiet. It is Saturday and I am sitting in the office taking advantage of the calm and quiet morning hours. My body is in pain... last night, half of the board went out for yet another jogging round. Two of us in a desperate attempt to stay fit and healthy and the remaining one, in fear of having to show up five tyres around the waist when keeping up the tradition of stripping on stage during council meeting. So far so good, even though the heart is beating like crazy and I have to gasp for breath all the time, we managed to keep up our training schedule and now we are just waiting for the result.

While waiting I think I better introduce you to the team:

Michael "El Presidente Salsa" Sullivan
 You cannot miss him if you happened to be in the same house (nothing to do with his height). The keyword is LOUD... and you can constantly hear him

What is the International Board?

The International Board is the supreme executive body of ELSA. It is composed of seven positions, elected by the Council at the Spring International Council Meeting for a one-year period.

These members of the International Board work full-time in Brussels at the International Headquarters of ELSA on a voluntary basis.

The main activity of the International Board is to co-ordinate the National and Local Boards of the member countries, by collecting and redistributing the information provided and to ensure the maximum active participation in all the events.

Another very important activity of the IB is to co-ordinate the collaboration with externals, meaning International organisations, firms, governments other students associations, etc.



say "u ejja!!!!" Sometimes it takes him a while to understand what you are talking about, but when he does he can turn everything into dollars and pounds. In addition to the money mind and the sexy smile, he has a fantastic skill of breaking the ice when meeting new people. Lately he is constantly asking everyone how to cook this and that, and we suspect that he has decided on a career change... cook, housewife, god knows what????!!
 Oh ... why the salsa? ... Well ... it's all he cooks!

Michael Zammit Maempel, Secretary General, is one of the two Maltese craving for sunshine. Contrary to "El presidente" he doesn't like slutting around on meetings with potential sponsors, but you can always trust that things will be done if Mike is in charge. One of his funny habits is hiding chocolate bars and Nutella cans all over the house, and what is even worse is that he is always walking around licking a spoon with Nutella. Michael hates animals, by saying this he destroyed the board's dream to have an "ELSA dog".




Katarina Klepczynska is a cheerful 23-year-old Swedish girl with Polish origins, extremely emotional after a few drinks and willing to party every day if necessary.
 On top of that, she is always the first to wake up early in the morning, and moreover, she doesn't even need an alarm clock. Some of us sometimes find it pretty frustrating... In a few words, she is a lovable, hardworking, early-rising, sponsor-charming, aerobic-freaking (in the middle of night), hard-core-partying, our favourite marketer. There is maybe one more thing



to be said about her – she is known for her slogan "When we party, we party hardy!"


Adriana Padovan, VP S&C. Adriana is constantly laughing and you cannot resist laughing along. She is not what you would call a morning person, one can more or less make experiments a la Alfred Nobel in her room and she still won't notice. When it comes to work she is extremely determined and you will not convince her unless you come up with very good arguments. Once upon a time she used to play in a rock band (ha!) and she seems to all of a sudden have remembered those wonderful years... the result is a constant disco in the office.



Annika Kempainen, being a true Finn she tends to be somehow quiet until her blood flow is diluted with some national drinks, but as far as I know there are no lack of this in the Academic Activities workshop. Annika has great experience in working in different associations, but evidently ELSA is the best. She is a REAL ICQ-freak and seems to make new (male) acquaintances all the time. Thanks to her extremely impressive integration into the Brussels social circles our working conditions have become liveable.



Nils Istad is a rather quiet fellow. He comes from Norway and by his looks he is a true Scandinavian; you know blonde, tall and blue eyes, this to the satisfaction of the board's girl-trio. A wannabe health freak ... one of his new "firm" decisions on this matter is to stop smoking. The exception from this very firm rule is the party nights (not few!) and the fact that he is walking around with tobacco under his upper lip. To his and others astonishment he is actually the oldest in the board 2000/2001.



After a month of transition, the ELSA House Training Week and the constant flow of new information, which seemed at times very abstract, at times completely useless we were completely trashed. Slowly but safely we climbed from the state of only being the Board of Pukes (as named by the board 2000) to the state of understanding and recognition of being the International Board.

Having accepted the situation we focused on our task. On the first board meeting we agreed upon a few things; first that we are the best international board ever, the funniest and most inspiring, second that our motto will be "no guts no glory". We will be aiming in all the directions in order to make sure that our goals are achieved. However we have no intention of level with the ground all that will come in our way. No, the mission statement is to "stop and reflect". We don't want to rush forward without looking backwards. ELSA has achieved many good things during the years and it would be obscure and stupid not to recognise them. Having said this we still feel there are things that can and should be changed.

One thing we realised when entering office is that the time we will be able to put on our specific area is not comparable with the time we will have to put in fundraising for ELSA International. Accordingly, it is somehow hard to achieve the goals and plans, we sat up for each area. We do not believe that this matter of dividing the time is good for our association. We do believe that the International Board should be more than a fundraising team. In consequence this board will look into alternative methods of getting sufficient fund for ELSA International to function.

The biggest project ever to hit our association, ELSA ONLINE, is unfortunately still pending. We harass, beg, pray and hum mantras every day that this project will start kicking very soon. As a second step we already started working on establishing a brand new website to go along with the database.

The ongoing schemes are many but the one that have to be mentioned is the long-time wished and newly establish International Trainers Pool. Finally the consolidation of the network is touchable and hopefully the results will appear soon.

Having said this we hope that you believe that the board of 2000/2001 can and will do its best to continue the good work of the previous board and move the association one step forward to the common goals and aims we, as ELSA members have set up.

Katarina Klepczynska
 VP Marketing
 ELSA International

President's Words

Dear all,

Since I have already been introduced by Kasia, and my reputation has already been scarred, I will refrain from saying more about myself since I will only risk making the opinion you have of me worse.

Being "patriotic" towards an association I will start off these few words with a big cliché which may still have the effect intended "Don't ask what you association can do for you, but think what you can do for your association"

In the past four years I have always believed, as I still believe now, that this is the driving force behind our association. This Idea has been embodied in the - well known, but seen by the few - infamous ELSA Spirit.

This is what ELSA is about, commitment towards an ideal expecting nothing in return... just like marriage one may say. Being involved in ELSA should put you in the position where you deserve to wear one of those old ELSA T-shirts saying "My partner is jealous of ELSA" This is the type of commitment I like to believe people have and which I expect. This is what being involved in ELSA is, a full time commitment for the association and its members.

As the new President, what I can promise to you is all my time and energy. Following the footsteps of my predecessor Anders, I shall do my best to help ELSA progress steadily, so as to be there for you members to benefit in the best way you can. There are many opportunities offered through the network, the secret is to reach out for them and to pursue them in the spirit of ELSA. The association is you members who are to participate actively to make things happen. This is what I would like to see, a continuation of your commitment towards ELSA and each other. The strong point of our association is that it is spread over 39 countries. You should keep this in mind, that you should create benefits which could be enjoyed by as many of your fellow members as possible.

Having said all this, the truth is that at the end of the day ELSA will give you more than you have ever imagined...real friends, good memories and an opportunity to develop one's character and discover one's true self and capabilities.

Michael Ellul Sullivan

President

ELSA International

ELSA Malta on the Slopes

Bilateral ELSA Slovenia with ELSA Malta

Andreja Grum and Katja Pecek ELSA Slovenia

There we were, stranded in the maze of Frankfurt Airport trying to figure out where Gate A something was. Babies were whining, tempers were rising and the plane never seemed to arrive. Finally a sexy female voice beckoned us and off we were to Ljubljana. Parents had constantly reminded us of the hidden dangers of avalanches, abominable snowmen and lunatic snowboarders, but we were all out to conquer the mountains.



Katja and Andreja from ELSA Slovenia warmly welcomed us at the airport and one of the many endless bus rides began. "Come on everybody, hurry up", Katja cried for the first of millions of times, as the guys decided to empty their bladders against the trees of the capital's park, where we had to rendezvous with the rest of the Slovenian clan.

People were sent to their respective hosts and the first night out kicked off in something that looked like a gay bar.

The next morning, the prospect of seeing the snow for the first time in our lives loaded us with huge expectation and buzz. After settling into the chalets, our first outing on the snow began, but due to the poor technique shown by most of

Malcom Falzon ELSA Malta

us, we just settled for building snowmen and bombarding other skiers passing by on the chairlift.

The nightlife was great, as barrels of Slovenian wine and pitchers of beer were downed, which probably contributed to the twists, turns, dizziness and countless falls that marked our remaining skiing days. Our heroic stunts were also broadcast on national television, being the only idiots foolish enough to face an evening blizzard that scared off even the professional skidders.

Anyway, after the fourth day of skiing, mostly on our backside, we were proud of our achievements (however limited and futile these were) and quite pleased to leave the snow for the beautiful city of Ljubljana. The crowded streets and open-air cafés were charming. We rocked a couple of great clubs and bedtime never came before sunrise. By the end of it, drunk with fatigue but really really unwilling to leave, departure time arrived, as we saluted each other singing Gregor's anthem "Take me down to the Paradise City.....".

Before we knew it, there we were, at the Passport Control of Malta International Airport with nothing to declare but fantastic memories, sore limbs and huge nostalgia of our adventures on the Slovenian slopes. We heartily thank ELSA Ljubljana for having given us Mediterranean surfers and sunbathers the opportunity and privilege to ski and experience the hidden fun and marvels of Slovenia and its capital.

Malcom Falzon
Vice President Marketing
ELSA Malta

Apparently the Maltesers (because they are dark and sweet like the famous chocolate Maltesers) enjoyed our time together so much, that they decided to invite us back to Malta - temptation that one can't resist!

As Malta is very popular among Slovenian tourists, the flights were overbooked, so it was quite a struggle to get tickets. Then the final countdown began, but there were so many things to do: health insurance, appropriate sun block factor..., oh and by the way ; the very last day before departure our national air transporter kindly informed us that our flight was overbooked so we had to go fourteen hours earlier through Vienna . But then again travelling first class wasn't so bad. The Maltese stewards got our female delegates drunk by the time the plane took - off. So you can imagine our smiles when we landed.

Thursday 3rd August 2000

All, those of you, who were at the ICM Malta in October, will probably recall the hot sunshine? Well, multiply it by three and you should get the picture.

The first test of our nerves was the ride from the airport to the homes of our hosts. The basic rule of Maltese traffic: "There are NO rules!" And the bumpy roads guarantee you a roller-coaster drive (on the wrong side for continental Europeans). After settling in, we hit the beach for the first session of sunbathing.

By the end of the first day we were pretty hungry and the Maltesers took us to PizzaHut. Since we had to wait for our table we decided to spend time usefully by learning necessary Maltese swear words. We must have been pretty good because a random passenger started yelling at our teacher. Our lesson was over when we got our table. In half an hour we slowly transformed into a blocks of ice due to supernatural air-conditioning. We did our warming up later in Paceville - which is nightlife district.

Friday 4th August 2000

Enthusiastic start, at 9 am (for some of us in the middle of the night). First we went to see the cave Ghar Dalam. Due to the early morning hours we were all craving for a cof-

fee, so we forced James, our guide for the day, to take us to the nearest coffee house. After we recovered, we were able to continue our sightseeing tour in Valletta; St. John's Cathedral, Upper Barrakka Gardens with the magnificent view of the Grand Harbour, and President's Palace. There were still a few more things to see, BUT due to the heat we unanimously voted on going to the beach instead.

Saturday 5th August 2000

Our hosts decided there is no further need of waking us up in the middle of the night, so we went to sandy beach Mellieha Bay at lunch time. We got quite a tan except Andreja who remained as white as a yoghurt commercial.

In the evening we were invited to traditional Maltese Festa in the village Lija where Roberta lives. We enjoyed the spirit of the event and watched the longest fireworks display ever from the roof of Roberta's house, while eating famous Maltese pastizzi. Of course Paceville was our last stop, again.

Sunday 6th August 2000

OOOPS, behind the schedule again. So we skipped the tour of Mdina and went straight to Fontanella for cakes that were more chocolaty than chocolate itself. But we had the stop at famous Mdina Dungeons. As we were quite late for our boat to Comino we had another rally drive on Maltese roads but we managed to do quick drive through sightseeing.

The cruise to the island Comino by night was one of the memorable experiences in this week. After the landing the captain prepared BBQ, we danced on the beach and had a night swim. After the return back to Malta half the delegation was so tired that they went straight to bed, but the other half continued parting in karaoke bar where famous Malcolm and Uros did Malcolm's famous Tom Jones's dance and sang The Kiss.

Monday 7th August 2000

Finally, GOZO!!! We heard lots of exciting things, but Kristel's (girls headquarters) and Chris's (boys headquarters) houses were far beyond our expectations. Party was wild and the neighbours nice. Oh we have to mention that we had to undergo the necessary ritual of being thrown in the pool fully dressed. Some of the mobiles didn't survive the shock!

Tuesday 8th August 2000

Got up with the king of all hangovers (I wonder why) went straight to the beach hoping that the cold water would do wonders. The enthusiastic ones (not many!) went for sightseeing and tasted traditional Gozo's cookies. Despite exhaustion, it was worth it! At the dinner by the sea we got all excited over the cheap housewine, that we ended up in singing traditional ELSA songs. We continued the happy hours in the nearby bar until the departure of the ferry.

Thursday 10th August 2000

The moment one sets foot in Malta time stops. So, we hadn't noticed it was our last day already. We did the last minute shopping, sending "thank you postman" postcards and at last but not least had to do the packing and slowly say goodbye.

Thanks to the airlines we stayed in Malta an extra two hours, even Michael, the IB President came to wave us goodbye. There were tears but we went through the gate laughing watching Malcolm dancing his faster version of Tom Jones's Sex Bomb.

As the lights of Malta were disappearing we remembered the legend of Calypso and Ulysses; The mermaid kept Ulysses on her island (Gozo) for seven years. Now we know that Calypso is only the imaginary person needed as an excuse for Ulysses to prolong his wonderful time in Malta.

It was an amazing week with great people and wonderful places. That is one of those special memories that will stay in our hearts forever.

THANK YOU ELSA MALTA!!! SEE YOU IN SNOWY AND FREEZING SLOVENIJA - JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!!!

What is a Bilateral Study Visit?

A Bilateral Study Visit occurs when two Local Groups decide to visit each other (normally for a period of a week).

The receiving Local Group takes care of the logistics, and of the social and/or academic programme.

After this first visit, as the term "Bilateral" indicates, it is time for the Local Groups to trade their role and, the now receiving one becomes the visitor.

Denmark

The Mini Moot Court Competition of ELSA Aarhus,

In September 1999 ELSA Aarhus got a new local board, and everyone had their heads filled with great ideas for what to do in ELSA. The President and The Secretary General had attended the ELSA House Training Week in Brussels, and were inspired to make a small Moot Court Competition in ELSA Aarhus.

Marianne Stisen

ELSA Aarhus

The underlying motivation was to create a greater knowledge and interest for moot court competitions and to inspire lawstudents in Aarhus to enter The Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The idea was to give the participants an opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practice without having to spend too much time and energy on it - so the concept of a three day Moot Court Competition was born.

The ELSA Moot Court Competition

The ELSA world has been dreaming about having its very own Moot Court Competition (MCC) for a long, long time.

For a number of years, the co-operation agreement with ILSA concerning Jessup Moot Competition kept us from developing our plans further, but now we have finally reached the point where it is realistic to make the dream come true. Last March it all became a bit more concrete as at the Academic Activities workshop at the International Council Meeting in Warsaw took the decision of having WTO Law as the topic of ELSA's MCC. We proceed, slowly but surely. Slowly, because creation of a high-quality international MCC takes its time when you start from scratches. Surely, because this is something that ELSA groups from north to south, from east to west, have agreed upon to an extent rarely seen within ELSA.

However, all this takes a lot of work and effort, and hereby all of you are invited to contribute to the work of the MCC working group. If you have experience in organising MCCs, want to share your ideas and give your input to what the ELSA MCC should be like, this is your chance! The first step to take would be to subscribe to the MCC working group mailing list by sending a blank email to elsa-mcc-wg@egroups.com. Help us to create the event in that will be the greatest of all in the history of ELSA! The International Board is looking forward to hearing from you!

There were loads of things to do; we started preparing the project after the exams in January 2000. We had to draw up a set of rules, create the case, locate distinguished judges and most importantly, we had to find students who wanted to participate. We also hoped that the law firms, which are corporate partners with ELSA in Denmark, would assist us with their expertise.

All the Professors and lawyers that we contacted for help were very supportive of the idea, and mentioned that the universities in Denmark should get more involved with it. One lawyer felt that a

student could learn more by taking part in a Moot Court Competition for one day than he or she could learn in class in a week.

Eight participants were divided into four teams: two teams were to be plaintiffs, the other teams to be defendants. The best plaintiff and the best defendant would meet each other in the Final. The subject of the case was constitutional law, but the formulation of the problem was kept a secret until the first day of the competition.

The Court was set with three judges: a law Professor, a lawyer and a Judge, who all agreed to play their part in the Competition. The corporate partners provided us with a lawyer for each team, who was the team instructor for the day of procedures. He or she were to advise the team and help them through the competition. Every team was given the name of the Law Firm that supported them. (Team Bech-Brunn & Trolle and Team Dragsted Schlüter Aros were plaintiff and Team Gorrissen Federspiel Kierkegaard and Team Kroman Reumert were the defendant.)

April 5. 2000, The Mini Moot Court Competition of ELSA Aarhus was in session. Two days earlier the case had been handed out to the participants who had only little time left for research and preparation.

The competition took place in an old courtroom where the atmosphere and the surroundings were just right. When the Competition started, one could see that the participants were nervous, but after a while they became more calm as they got into the case and the procedure. In the Final, Team Dragsted Schlüter Aros met Team Gorrissen Federspiel Kierkegaard. Both teams did their best, but Team Dragsted Schlüter Aros won the competition by only one point ahead of the other team.

All the participants agreed that it had been a great and learning experience. So I think it is alright to say that it was a success, and we hope that The Mini Moot Court Competition of ELSA Aarhus will become an annual event.

Guide to Legal Studies in Europe 2000/2001

The brand new 2000/2001 edition of the Guide to Legal Studies in Europe has just been published. The latest edition covers nearly 300 law schools in 38 countries. Those of you who are already familiar with one of the previous issues of ELSA GLSE know the advantages it offers when planning your studies abroad. With GLSE one has the opportunity to learn not only about the legal courses offered but it also gives a compact overview to the background information of each country featured, such as history, geography, and the political system, just to mention some examples. Furthermore, the book includes plenty of more detailed information that facilitates one's life abroad; answers to questions regarding official holidays, most popular sports, main TV channels and newspapers are provided.

Let's not forget about the main part of the book, the legal information! Career possibilities for law graduates, the court structure, access to legal professions by foreigners... all this can be found in the GLSE. However, the most extensive part of the GLSE covers different universities and colleges that offer courses on law. The book proceeds systematically, first introducing the city in question, giving valuable information for instance on its main attractions, accommodation facilities and places frequented by students. After that, there is a brief introduction of the university, its faculties, admission requirements and the procedure for foreign students, sports facilities, language courses and so on. Finally, the book focuses on the law faculty, the degrees offered, cost of matriculation, system of examination, postgraduate and summer courses... What's more, contact informa-

tion of the local ELSA group or other student organisations is also available. If some of your questions still remain unanswered after having studied carefully all the data, no need to worry! Contact addresses and names, e-mail addresses and websites are given, so obtaining further information is made as easy as possible.

The GLSE 2000/2001 can be ordered directly from the publisher: Bruylant, Rue de la Regence 67, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. Phone: +32-2-512 98 45, Fax: +32-2- 511 72 02 or from the other partners of Law Books in Europe: website <http://www.staempfli.ch/lbe.htm>

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First Shot for a great event in France

Claire-Judith Feldmann VP Marketing, ELSA France

For the 1st time in its history, this year France welcomed a Moot Court Competition. It started in February with the semi-finals in Paris and in Aix-en-Provence and ended on the 3rd and 4th July, in our great and beautiful capital.

The final phase of the competition took place in the civil Supreme Court with some of the most famous law specialists as a jury. The specificity of the French MCC is that it is exclusively based on human rights and fundamental liberties ; this makes the competition maybe harder but really passionate: the team members really feel like real lawyers and took the exercise not like a school one, but as if the life and death of their virtual client was in their hands.

The competition started at 9 am with the discovery of the case (the national board wrote it, so it was...hum...some may say viscous but exciting for most of them!). For this final phase, the two teams had the chance to practise and to study in the prestigious library of the civil Supreme Court.

At 5 pm, time was over for the study and the teams went to the Grand Chamber of the Court to prove that their argumentation was the best. Both the participants and the audience enjoyed the exciting atmosphere of the competition, and even for the jury the event offered a refreshing change to their everyday work.

As you can imagine, the organisation of this event was also a great deal for the national board and for the Parisian one which greatly helped us. Of course, and as it often happens, just three weeks before the beginning, we did not have any money in our ELSA wallet! Nothing at all but a lot of stress and some great projects like hiring a famous caterer, a restaurant, a hotel and even a river-boat ! But luckily for us, at the last minute, three of the companies we had contacted replied us that they were

interested in our project, and everything could go on!

So the teams had no excuse any more to run away and as both of the teams had put a lot of effort to the preparation work their performance in front of the judges was truly impressing! It was not easy for them to "play" this game in front of these prestigious people in the jury, their friends and relatives. And the best won. Aix-en-Provence is the proud first winner of the French MCC !

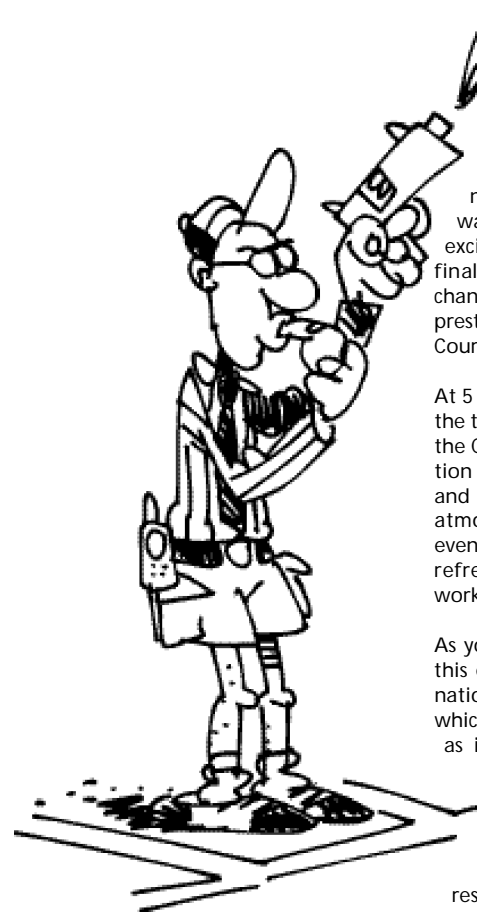
After the competition, we all went to an Italian restaurant in downtown Paris, in the Marais (a very famous quarter known for its restaurants, its pubs, its shops). After the restaurant, we went on a river boat for an awesome party till the end of the night. And because we are proud Elsanians in France, we were all very very happy (!) (just ask Olivier ELSA Paris President for some details!) and sometimes even crazy! The party went hard, the music was loud and good and no one fell in the Seine (Affew!).

At 6 am, we had to leave the boat but, because we wanted this event to be an exceptional one, it was not over ! Everyone went to sleep a little while and at noon, we all met to have a picnic. We first had thought to do this picnic in a park in the city but the rain was against us that day; so we stayed in the youth hostel where almost everyone was staying and we had the picnic right in the middle of the hostel. Yes one may call this a squat...

And then it was really over. Everyone left to catch a train or a plane ; all were exhausted but happy and promised to come back next year.

Now, do you feel sorry for not having been there to witness all this fun? Would you like to party hard with the French Elsanians?

Don't worry, we will do the second shot next year and of course, you are warmly invited! All of you, proud Elsanians! You are all welcome in the most beautiful city in the world for the second edition of the French MCC...next year in Paris...We all hope to meet you there...



Paneuropean Conference Euroatlantic integration or the southeastern European countries

Vlatko Nakov President ELSA Republic of Macedonia

OHRID, MACEDONIA
12-15 MAY, 2000.

Once upon a time in a little, but very beautiful country called the pearl of the Balkans in its most beautiful city by the Ohrid lake, a Conference was held. It was a Conference for waking up the young minds of Southeastern Europe organized by the best student organisation in the region- The European Law Students Association, the cream of the youth in Republic of Macedonia. The Conference was entitled "Euro Atlantic Integration of the Southeastern European Countries" and it was held from 12 to 15th, of May 2000 in Ohrid.

ELSA-Republic of Macedonia worked very hard for this Conference and they managed to organise it successfully. Many ELSA members from Southeastern European countries participated in the Conference, there were participants from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Hungary and Romania.


The experts, from the Law Faculty in Skopje, the Council of Europe and NATO, covered many interesting issues, such as: What is Euro-Atlantic Integration? Democracy in multicultural societies, Multiethnic development and democratic citizenship challenges in South-Eastern Europe, The conditions which a country has to fulfill to become a member of the EU, the process of membership, NATO as a political-military

alliance. NATO's current agenda, NATO's role in Macedonia and in Southeastern Europe. The Open Door Policy.

And now the most interesting part of the Conference - "THE SOCIAL LIFE". Every night all the participants had organised night parties in Ohrid. And as a consequence of those parties every morning we were forced to expend the beginning of the Conference. More about the social life from the pictures and from the other happy participants.

That is in brief what happened in Ohrid and after 15th of May everybody with a great sorrow in their hearts lived happily ever after.

Vlatko Nakov, President



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76821 MONT-SAINT-AIGNAN / FRANCE
E-mail : Philippe.Guillot@univ-rouen.fr

Inscription à l'Université de Rouen = 979 FRF + Inscription au CTEUR = 750 FRF

Coalition for International Criminal Court in New York

It's been exactly seven weeks since I first woke up in the city that never sleeps. Maybe it was because of the jetlag, but it was one of those exceptional mornings when I wake up in a smashing mood. Whistling that old Sinatra song I asked myself the daft habitual question that I ask myself nearly every morning: 'What am I going to do today?' However, I don't remember the answer ever being so exciting.

Being in New York is thrilling in itself; being there for ELSA makes it even better; being there to work at the United Nations makes it unforgettable. I wish I could capture with words the feeling I had every time I entered the U. N. Headquarters - that immense building by the East River - not as a tourist, but as a representative of Europe's largest law students' association, an NGO with special consultative status.

What is consultative status?

Non-governmental, non-profit public or voluntary organisations may be admitted into a mutually beneficial working relationship with the United Nations by attaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This status is based on Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations and on ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 adopted in 1996. The rights and privileges enumerated in detail in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, enable qualifying organisations to make a contribution to the work programmes and goals of the United Nations by serving as technical experts, advisers and consultants to governments and Secretariat. Sometimes, as advocacy groups, they espouse UN themes, implementing plans of action, programmes and declarations adopted by the United Nations. In concrete terms this

entails their participation in ECOSOC and its various subsidiary bodies through attendance at these meetings, and also through oral interventions and written statements on agenda items of those bodies. In addition, organizations, qualifying for General Category consultative status, may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC. Organisations granted status are also invited to attend international conferences called by the U.N., General Assembly special sessions, and other inter-governmental bodies. (The participation modalities for NGOs are governed by the rules of procedure of those bodies).

ELSA's special consultative status

Organizations wishing to apply for General Category must be "concerned with most of the activities of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies".

Felix Ronkes Agerbeek ELSA Leiden

These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach. Special Category is granted to NGOs "which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC". These NGOs tend to be smaller and more recently established.

Organisations which "can make occasional and useful contributions to the work of ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies" are included in the Roster. These NGOs tend to have a rather narrow and/or technical focus. ELSA is an NGO with special consultative status.

ELSA and the ICC

ELSA has been involved in the establishment of an International Criminal Court, a permanent court for trying individuals accused of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. ELSA is one of the members of the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC). The Coalition brings together a broad-based network of over 1,000 NGOs, international law experts and other civil society groups. The main purpose of the CICC is to advocate for the creation of an effective, just and independent International Criminal Court. As member of the CICC, ELSA members have actively participated at several meetings of the United Nations Preparatory Committees for the International Criminal Court in the UN Headquarters in New York from 1996 to 1998.

In December 1995, the UN General Assembly established a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) to finalize a text for the Statute of the International Criminal Court to be presented at a convention of plenipotentiaries. In six sessions of the PrepCom the ICC statute was

drafted. On the 17th of July 1998, 160 countries participate in the UN Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, Italy) and vote in favor of the Rome Statute for the ICC. Currently the ICC Rome Statute has 98 Signatories and 14 Ratifications. The ICC will be formally established after 60 countries have ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Court shall have its seat in The Hague.

The June PrepCom

From 12-30 June 2000 another PrepCom meeting took place. The issues were related to Elements of Crime, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Rules of Procedure and Evidence. A truly European delegation represented ELSA: Natassa Alvizou (from Greece), Pascal Arnold (from Switzerland), Niki Mertz (from Germany), Hege Peterson (from Norway), Jochen Prinsen (from the Netherlands), Giedrius Sabaliauskas (from Lithuania) and me (from the Netherlands). It was our task to attend the plenary sessions and to assist the CICC. One of the most important tasks was to make and maintain international contacts. At the

UN, 'ELSA' proved to be a magic word. Almost every European we encountered used to be an ELSA-member when he or she was still a student.

While attending the meetings, writing reports, gathering information and working together with interesting people from all over the world - judges, country delegates, other NGO representatives -, you can feel you're at the heart of international politics. For everyone who's interested in law and international politics, it's the best and most exciting place to learn. Because everyone within the delegation was an experienced ELSA-member, we all knew that ELSA is not only about education, but also about entertainment. We sure had a lot of fun together. At work, but also while enjoying New York. Although we spend most of our days working, there was still enough of time to do some sight-seeing or to go out with the friends we made at the U.N. It was a highly recommendable, intense and extremely valuable experience.

How to apply?

The next ICC PrepCom meeting will take place from November 27, 2000 - December 8, 2000. Calls for applicants are sent out on the All-of-ELSA mailing

list several weeks before the event takes place. The call for applicants gives application deadlines and detailed information about the requested knowledge in order to take part in the event.

All applicants are asked to send in an application including
- a letter of motivation
- a personal CV and
- an ELSA CV

The participants are selected by ELSA International on the grounds of both their knowledge about the respective topic and their experience in ELSA.

ELSA International will inform all applicants about whether they have been selected or not. The names of the selected participants will be forwarded to the UN responsible for accreditation. Once you have been admitted by the UN responsible all is set for you to be an ELSA delegate and take part in a UN event.

More info on ELSA and Human Rights: www.ins.nl/elsa/keyareas/human/index.html.



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A small amount of scholarships is available.

ORGANISATION/INFORMATION/BROCHURE:

Centre for Postgraduate Legal Education
University of Nijmegen, Faculty of Law
For the attn. of Ms Mariëlle Cornielje LL.M.
PO Box 10520, 6500 MB Nijmegen
The Netherlands

Telephone: + 31 24 3613090 / 3615852

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Website: www.pallas.llm.nl

ELSA

A workout machine from IKEA?

ELSA is an association, which can seem quite hard to fully understand when you, as a fresh student, meet it for the first time. As if it were not enough that it covers 39 countries, within our three key areas there are several ongoing projects, and on top of all this there are the so called supporting areas which themselves constitute big parts of our activities. To make matters worse ELSA goes through constant development. New projects are added and others removed. While working with ELSA you also meet external challenges of various kinds.

Li Axrup

ELSA Sweden

One of the responsibilities of Internal Management is to give our members adequate knowledge about ELSA and a possibility to develop their personal skills. Among other projects we have the Member Educational Cycle, MEC, which means that every member in ELSA shall receive both training about ELSA as an association and possibility to develop their personal skills. The person responsible for Internal Management is basically supposed to draft a manual and arrange educational classes so that people can put their workout machines together and make them work.

Besides trying to be on top of the ELSA projects and areas, imagine that someone tells you that you are supposed to train with ELSA as well. And how do they think that is supposed to happen? ELSA is just like a workout machine from

IKEA which is supposed to make you fit, but you have to put together the content of the box first. And if someone constantly changes the conditions, it does not make things easier, does it? It's hard enough trying to understand how the workout machine works and how to put it all together from parts produced in different countries by different producers.

Construction Education classes

How are you supposed to understand it all? As mentioned above, ELSA has supporting areas that help ELSA work and develop. One of these supporting areas is Internal Management.

We think it is important that you, a member of our association, receive more self-knowledge and learn more about the way you work in a team. That is one of the essential experiences that ELSA offers, which the traditional education lacks means to provide students. That experience is instead provided through the different activities that ELSA arranges, seminars, academic activities and STEP-jobs, through the working experience you receive when arranging these activities, and through training.

The local ELSA groups, the national groups and ELSA International, arrange training. At these events you have the possibility to learn more about ELSA and receive personal skills. One example of such an event is the training weekend arranged by ELSA Sweden in Lund last spring. During this weekend, members of the local group, board members of the local, national and international level and "old" ELSA members (ELS) met in order to learn more. There was training in time management and communication, which gave us a possibility to find new solutions to very old problems. We also learned more about ELSA through one advanced ELSA training, focusing on aspects often lost by experienced members, and one general ELSA

training for newer members. The program also contained some training on how to approach and keep sponsors and how to take care of external relations.

Muscles to fight with on the working arena

No matter whether you are interested in getting actively engaged in ELSA or just developing skills that the legal education has little room for, ELSA provides possibilities to supply those needs. So, if you are a member of a board, make sure your board arranges some training for its members and for yourselves. And to all you students not on the board - keep your eyes open and take the chance when you get it.

At first you might feel like you are given a box from IKEA, and none of the parts fit. Well, I can comfort you with the fact that once you have put the machine together and made it work, you are well trained. With practice you will be able to put anything together and see possibilities, for yourself and others, which you did not see before. And you will find

that once you get the hang of it, this working machine it is very easy to use and it provides muscles, which not every law student has. And I bet you will have lots of use for those muscles at the working arena.

Li Axrup, Secretary General,
Elsa Sweden

What is the International Trainers Pool?

The ITP has been set up in order to put the experience of former ELSA members to good use.

It is composed of a number of trainers who were once ELSA members, and who have received training in a variety of skills such as:

- Public Speaking Skills
- Moderation
- Team-building

... and of course, ELSA knowledge.

Their task is to travel to ELSA groups across Europe and offer training sessions according to the needs of each group, and after that group has sent a request asking for help in a particular area.

If you feel your ELSA group could benefit from training, please contact ELSA International and we will try to work something out!

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Jurist of the year award 2000 The man with the scales

It was 8 o'clock when the train arrived at Aversa station.

Under the rising sun of a shiny morning one man was standing alone in the middle of the platform with his red suitcase and a strange blue box.

Valerio took a look at that guy. Giusy had told him: "Look out for a man with a pair of scales!" "A man with a pair of scales???" "Yes, scales, balance, you know?"; "Oh, well, scales". "Are you the man with the scales?", Valerio addressed him. "Yes I am!": the contact was made!



Amadeo M. Vanara ELSA Torino

That man had arrived from the Far-North of Italy with a mission: bringing the trophy of "Il Giurista dell'Anno 2000", a crystal balance (the Scales of Justice), from Turin to Caserta without breaking it: Mission Impossible III !!! But, at least he had done it: Valerio's Lancia Beta Coupé rapidly brought the trophy to Novotel Caserta, where the Italian ELSA Presidents' Meeting would be held.

The "man with the scales" was the first to arrive there: he had had an awful night on an Italian wagon lit, but that was a great satisfaction indeed. Giusy was really tired: organising the VI edition of "Il Giurista dell'Anno" the most important public event of ELSA Italy, had been really hard, but the satisfaction of being the president of the OC of the prize where the Italian lawyer of the year, chosen by law students all around the country, would be rewarded, was a real source of pride for her and her whole staff.

Moreover, in the meantime, they had to organise the Italian PM and almost all the LGs were expected; around 100 people to gather, feed, please and cuddle: she was really lucky that also Livia and Rosaria were on the command bridge. The atmosphere was really great: the hotel was gorgeous, the cuisine deserved three stars on the red guide, the wonderful Royal Palace of Caserta, splendour of the kingdom of Naples with its golden rooms and its marvellous gardens, only few minutes away at the end of the big avenue: red carpet treatment worthy for a king!

The three days went fast through hard work, huge and active discussions under the supervision of President Big Mario, night-long parties and deep swims in the hotel pool.

Finally, before a glamorous audience in dress suits –all the guests-, in the ancient royal residence, Prof. Grossi, one of the greatest historians of Italian law, was crowned "Giurista dell'Anno 2000" by the Italian students: history as the grounding of the future!

The prize giving in the frame of the wonderful residence of San Leucio, with folkloristic music, a minstrel who sang the deeds of Ferdinando King of Naples: "Viva viva Ferdinando, viva viva il Re nasone: è un re napoletano!" (Long Live Ferdinand! Long live the big-nosed King! he is the Neopolitan King!), the

great gala dinner; and then, after midnight, a crazy disco night around (and mainly inside) the swimming pool of the hotel till 3 o'clock (luckily for the other guests, the hotel is quite sound-proof). The new ones were hit of a brand new ELSA-mania, the elder restored of fresh ELSA Spirit® ...

Ah yes ... the elder: what happened of our "man with the scales"?

Well, the legend tells that, after a great Pizza Margherita at the oldest pizzeria in Naples (by appointment of H.M. Fabio Maurano, President of ELSA Napoli) and the best cup of coffee ever tasted, after "only" 8 hours of "fast" train he came back home, but with his heart is still there with the best friends he ever had: ELSA People !!!

A serious note about the event...

The "Jurist of the Year", being the most important "public" event organized by ELSA Italy, is a kind of yearly landmark for the association.

We can say that, having it made to several national newspapers and a couple of tv stations, under this point of view it has been quite a success.

Moreover, the "Jurist of the Year" has seen this year, as a side but equally important event, the works of the Italian NPM, one of the most attended ever and animated by a renewed "working" spirit (besides the ever present ELSA spirit, of course).

All in all, three days that rewarded the ones involved with lot of satisfactions and will of making even better next time!

By Guido Constantini,
ELSA Italy

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An ICM Fairytale

Li Axrup and Louise Wallin OC ICM Øresund

Once upon a time not very long ago... Well you all know the story how ELSA Copenhagen and ELSA Lund were elected hosts for the autumn ICM 2000. For those of you who were at the ICM in Warsaw but for various (spiritual) reasons do not remember and for those of you who have not heard the story we will give you an update.

It all started with parts of the Danish and Swedish delegations in a bar in Warsaw. Two being old and sly and two young and gullible. (The younger happened to be presidents of ELSA Copenhagen and ELSA Lund) With tears in their eyes the elders spoke vividly about the new bridge and the joining of the two countries, Denmark and Sweden. The new possibilities of this dynamic region were brought forward with great enthusiasm, which soon spread to the two young presidents.

Before any of them knew it, it was September. All that was left of that sunny day in Warsaw was the Quest given to them. Soon people from all over Europe would come on a pilgrimage and expect things. They would expect somewhere to sleep, something to eat, a bridge to pass and a place to have their grand meeting. The list of demands was getting longer.

The OC quickly learned that nothing is given for free. Like the dancers of "Fame" they paid in hard work, blood, sweat and tears. Although the OC had been working hard all summer their sponsors had not and when the computer stopped co-operating, the fax machine did not arrive, the press was asking for details, Danish and Swedish was respectively hard to under-

stand and the IB wanted more information than any of them had, the OC started looking for a scapegoat. The elders made themselves scares, would they be the targets of the fury? But the younger knew better than to blame their own. The problems the OC was facing were not to be blamed on students such as themselves.

Whose fault is it that sponsors have 5 weeks of vacation, some people need visas for entering Denmark and Sweden, the university lacks funds, the name tags have 39 different flags, Swedish and Danish are different languages and that the day only has 24 hours and the week only seven days? The scapegoat was now given. The only ones with power to influence problems of this dignity are of course the politicians... Hey, they were even the ones deciding to build the bridge inspiring the old and sly and the young and gullible.

Being members of a non-political association the OC found themselves unauthorised to deal with all encountered problems. A simple solution was given; if things were not defined as problems they were not! No problems were therefore defined during the continued fulfilment of the quest.

As you are reading this, the critical point has passed. It is October and the OC hopes that you have enjoyed this first bilaterally, in six months, arranged International Council Meeting. For the sly elders it is now time to join the workforce of lawyers, even older and slyer. The younger are now less gullible, a bit older, and lot more slyer! And we are sure that they will all live happily ever after.

The Organising Committee of ICM
Øresund through
Li Axrup and Louise Wallin

What is the International Council Meeting (ICM)?

The ICM is the highest decision-making body of ELSA. It takes place twice a year - in Autumn and Spring.

It is composed of the representatives of the National Boards of each member and observer country. The Council decides on the policy and direction that the organisation will follow and discusses the problems faced by ELSA. The participants will also get the chance to improve their skills both in ELSA matters (by attending the Workshops and making contacts with people from different cultures, with different points of view, yet with the same ultimate goal - the development of ELSA.) and in professional matters (by receiving training by externals on various interesting subjects). The Council gathered in the Spring ICM elects the International Board.

ELSA Portugal **the true Spirit**

Sofia Candeias and Rita Chedas ELSA Portugal

ELSA Portugal first Training Weekend took place last April . After the usual trouble and confusion with dates, schedules and places, we decided to choose a small (and I mean really small, tiny, minuscule!) village lost in the maps near the coast, by the seaside. Luckily the hotel was reserved almost exclusively to us , and that gave us complete freedom to expand, and of course, to teach and learn (almost) all about ELSA (yes, the Spirit was included in this special package!) among other essential things.

The participants came from four different Local Groups and the trainers were from the National Board. The participants arrived on a rainy Friday night, so the general introductory training was only given after a very nice - and "drinky" - dinner. But, like everything in ELSA Portugal, this wasn't an ordinary dinner starting in the right time. Two of the groups got completely lost before they found the Hotel , so as all the mobile phones were disconnected and some of us were starving (yes hunger was the only thing that made us react) to start the dinner, we decided to call the police. Two minutes after it, the disappeared group arrived and we sat down

for dinner. However, the police decided to appear after " les hors d'oeuvres" to start the "Big Hunt in the Portuguese Roads". After one hour of apologies, arguments and explanations we decided to invite them to have dinner with us... and then finally the dinner was served. The first night ended with the Greatest Room Party we've ever had! It wasn't a real



Party it was more of a special Training Class to show the new members what they should do to honour the ELSA Spirit. Obviously the trainers had to show them how to do it!

The second day started (as usual) after the established hours. After a great breakfast we had some Workshops (FM, S&C, BEE, STEP). Just after dinner the girls were left all alone in the restaurant... (someone told us a Macho Latino training was occurring in one of the rooms!). They were, actually, preparing a very special contest - The election of Miss Bundinha (the translation? well just guess): each girl must dance the most sensual way she can, she must stand upside down, and some other strange trials. The winner was Piny, the samba girl!

But the most expected training occurred at night. It was a kind of ELSA Spirit Class - Part II. As we all know this area requires some knowledge and lots of experience. We played a game called Footy Paper where the aim is to follow a route along which the participants had to find some OC check points. Points were given for each correct answer and taken when someone couldn't drink a complete ELSA Drink! After singing Johnny and some other lawyers' songs, I must confess the end of the night isn't very easy to remember for some of us, so. We still had courage to finish the night /morning in a disco.

Three months later ELSA Portugal organised, as proof of the remaining Spirit and friendship, the first ELSA Summer: summertime, vacations, beach, sunshine. The perfect conditions to celebrate ELSA Spirit!

If you can't imagine it, don't worry, next year we'll be here to receive you all. Just try it and you'll never forget it!!

Sofia Candeias (Secretary General) and Rita Chedas (Vice President Academic Activities), ELSA Portugal

List of international events

2000/2001

October

Minority Rights – Roma People, Problem or Challenge?

25th October – 29th October 2000
Bratislava, Slovakia

Language: English (Slovak, translation provided)

Contact information:
ELSA Bratislava
Safarikovo nam. 6
81806 Bratislava
Slovakia
Tel: +421 (0)7 592 44 179
Fax: +421 (0)7 529 66 126
Email: elsa@flaw.uniba.sk
Website: www.elsa.sk

November

Germany and Poland in the EU? – Development in Law and Social Politics

2nd November – 5th November 2000
Görlitz, Germany

Language: English

Contact information:
ELSA Germany e. V.
Anja Costas
Rohrbacher Str. 20
69115 Heidelberg
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)6 221 60 14 58
Email: buvo@elsa-germany.org

The Restriction of the German Basic Rights – the powerful State

16th November – 19th November
Regensburg, Germany

Language: German

Contact information:
ELSA Regensburg
Torsten Kraul
Universitätsstr. 31
93040 Regensburg
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)941 584 15 93
Email: Torsten@Kraul.de

Bicentenary of the Drawing up of the French Civil Code: Genesis and Implications

16th November – 18th November 2000
Caen, France

Language: French

Contact information:
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Noëlle Tertrain
Université de la Paix
14000 Caen
France
Tel: +33 (0) 2 31 69 35 85
Fax: +33 (0) 2 31 69 36 00
Email: noelle.tertrain@wanadoo.fr

Seminar on English and American Law (SEAL)

24th November – 26th November 2000
Köln, Germany

Language: English

Contact information:
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Alex Cruse
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Albertus Magnus Platz
50931 Köln
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)221 32 37 67
Email: alexcologne@gmx.de

December

Tax Law in the 21st Century

1st December – 3rd December 2000
Heidelberg, Germany

Language: German

Contact information:
ELSA Heidelberg
Marc Jacob
Friedrich-Ebert-Anlage 6-10
69 117 Heidelberg
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)6221 18 93 51
Email: mjacob@mpiv-hd.mpg.de

The Kopaonik School of Natural Law within the permanent theme – Justice and Law!

13th Decembre – 17th Decembre 2000
Ski Centre Mt. Kopaonik, Yugoslavia

Language: English, Serbian

Contact information:
ELSA Belgrade
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Tel: +381 11 3241 501 ext. 524
Fax: +381 11 3221 299
Email: elsa@verat.net
Website: www.elsa.org.yu

January

The Russian Law System – Law in Challenge of Time

19th anuary – 21st January 2001
Passau, Germany

Language: German

Contact information:
ELSA Passau
Alexander Kiesslich
Innstr. 40
94032 Passau
Germany
Tel: +49(0)851 75 60 060
Email: alexanderkiesslich@hotmail.com

February

Patent Law

2nd February – 4th February 2001
Mainz, Germany

Language: German

Contact information:
ELSA Mainz
Marlene Frank
Johannes Gutenberg Universität
Haus Rechtund Wirtschaft
Jakob-Welder-Weg 4
55099 Mainz
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Tel: +49(0)6131 39 22 008
Email: sweet.Anna@metropolis.de

Sports and Law

8th February – 11th February 2001
Osnabrück, Germany

Language: German

Contact information:
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Tatjana Knaup
Dekanat Rechtswissenschaften
Heger-Tor-Wall 14-16
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2001 – an IT odyssey

- taking you through the challenges of Information Technology and Law
21st February – 25th February 2001
Oslo, Norway

Language: English

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March

The Development of Law in Poland before Entering the EU
4th March – 9th March 2001
Bruehl, Germany

Language: German

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May

The Mediation, Part II, Verhandeln in der Wirtschaft und im Strafrecht (ATA)

11th May – 13th May
Linz, Austria

Language: German

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Child Abuse at Home and on the Internet

May
Island of Krk, Croatia

Language: English

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June

E-Law: E-commerce in Cyberspace
Wild Wild West in the World Wide Web
31st May – 3rd June 2001
Erlangen, Germany

Language: German

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Law of Stocks

15th June – 17th June 2001
Bonn, Germany

Language: German

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Contract and Social Law
21st June – 24th June 2001
Bayreuth, Germany

Language: German

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July

Organised Crime
5th July – 8th July 2001
Freiburg, Germany

Language: German

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Mergers and Acquisitions
13th July – 15th July
Göttingen, Germany

Language: English

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19 years of ELSA - Austrian Founders look back

On May 4, 1981, the European Law Students' Association was founded in Vienna, Austria, by law students from Austria, Hungary, Poland and West Germany. Over the past 19 years, the originally small but always internationally oriented association has turned into a vast network of 39 European countries.



Markus Büchele and Gregor Wenda | ELSA Austria

It was crucial that students from the, at that time, Eastern bloc had the opportunity to travel to international seminars through official contacts and invitations. This made the creation of an organisation such as ELSA even more attractive.

In simple terms: Was ELSA initially some kind of discussion forum and travel club?

EW : Well, at least I would say that in the early days these elements were among the most important ones. We had some international students' associations at the end of the 70s and the beginning of the 80s. However, these did not focus on legal issues and had only limited access to Eastern Europe. When starting ELSA this was the first real attempt ever to connect the "East" and the "West" on the level of law faculties. We, the students in the "West", eventually understood that a serious academic discussion would never be possible without the "East" joining us. Despite the Iron Curtain we succeeded in establishing long lasting personal contacts and a solid co-operation.

Was the founding process difficult? After all, you were lacking any infrastructure....

MG : In those days much was done with the aid of the ÖH, the Austrian National Union of Students. As you may know, Ernst and I also worked for the ÖH at that time. In the early 80s, the Union was dominated by law students. This had a positive impact on our projects

Markus Büchele and Gregor Wenda, both with ELSA Austria, spoke to Michael Goldinger and Ernst Wurz, the Austrian founders of ELSA, who shed light on the historical events surrounding ELSA's creation.

This past May, ELSA celebrated its 19th birthday. What can you tell us about the idea that led to the foundation of the association here in Vienna almost two decades ago?

Ernst Wurz (EW) : At the beginning of the 80s, the so-called East-West-Conflict was a central topic. Our goal was to get law students from ALL over Europe together and to realise a vivid exchange of ideas and information beyond any ideological borders. Questions dealing with the quality of the different European legal systems were truly burning for lawyers at that time.

Michael Goldinger (MG) : Insofar, the political discourse was of undeniable importance. For example, shortly before ELSA was officially founded, a legal workshop took place in Warsaw which dealt with the role of states in legal systems. This proves the strong tendency toward the said discourse.

since there was a strong interest in supporting law students from Austria as well as other countries.

EW : It's a fact that the first Austrian ELSA officers all belonged to the Austrian Students' Union and that most of the initial projects were mainly financed through ÖH funding.

Today, ELSA in Austria and the Austrian National Union of Students cooperate pretty well in various fields. Nevertheless, ELSA is completely independent from the ÖH. In accordance with the international, non-political status of ELSA, the Statutes and Standing Orders of ELSA Austria even stipulate a so-called "Incompatibility" of simultaneous positions in ELSA and the ÖH.

EW : This certainly makes sense today as ELSA is primarily internationally oriented and carries out other tasks than the ÖH! The non-political character of ELSA is easier to guard with this Incompatibility Clause. Back in the early days, however, the inter-connection between ELSA and the ÖH was the result of a logical development, and I must admit that it facilitated a lot after we had started out!

What was the actual foundation of ELSA like?

MG : In May 1981 we had the legendary meeting in Vienna that led to the foundation of ELSA. We had already been to some international meetings with law students, especially from Germany, before. Then the Austrians began to bring the Hungarians along while the Germans had the contacts with Polish students. All of a sudden, a total of four countries instead of just two sat down at one table.

EW : I remember us sitting in the Hotel Regina in Vienna and feeling the materialisation of our vague idea to found a law students' association for the whole

of Europe. Subsequently, we elaborated our first articles of association and drafted a basic structure while formulating certain goals. The Polish and the Hungarians severely discussed particular portions in the statutes. Since Vienna was the venue of that meeting, it was obvious to immediately register the new-born association with the competent authorities in that city.

How did you come up with the name ELSA?

EW : This name was clear right from the beginning! Our first logo looked quite similar to the one still in use today. At that time, however, we designed it by assembling some small, adhesive letters.

MG : English has been the common ELSA language right from the start! Therefore the association's name was also written in English.

It was pressing to overcome any existing differences; don't forget, we had both Communists and active Christ Socialists among the first ELSAnians in 1981.

EW : The political background was definitely not important! After all, we already had the vision to expand and enlarge.... We even had a list with contact addresses in 10 to 12 additional countries.

What did the first Board of ELSA look like and have the contacts you established back then lasted over the years?

EW : I was the first President of ELSA after the association's foundation, Michael was the Vice-President. Moreover, all the other countries also had at least one representative in the Board. Of course, this was no big deal with a total of only four member states....

Meanwhile the contacts with my former colleagues basically ceased to exist. I recall having met a Hungarian once - but this was already 10 years ago.

MG : ELSA earned me a lot of personal experience but I haven't been in touch with most of my fellow Board members any more.

What is your impression of ELSA today? Would you have expected this incredible development?

EW : It is impressive to see that ELSA has really got somewhere in its early life! In 1981 we expected 10 to 12 countries. Now there are 39 countries and 200 local groups and traineeships all over Europe are provided. This is remarkable!

MG : One of ELSA's initial goals was to enable law students from the Eastern bloc to attend legal seminars in Western Europe. Fortunately, the political pre-suppositions have changed completely in the meantime, and ELSA has launched a variety of new programmes. It's great that the seminars do only constitute one part of ELSA's spectrum of activities today.

In March 2001 the city of Vienna will be the venue of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of ELSA. ELSA Vienna, enjoying support from ELSA Austria and the ELS, is already up to its ears in the preparatory work. Which advice would you give ELSA officers and members?

MG : Never get lazy or sluggish! Don't rest on your achievements but proceed in working on the expansion of the network and the opportunities of ELSA!

EW : Carry on fostering the mutual understanding both from an academic and a social point of view! ELSA has always been a forerunner with regard to building bridges, such as between the "East" and the "West". This path is the right one to continue walking on!

The ELSA House Training Week

Coming back from my three weeks of learning the Spanish language in Spain, what turned out to be three weeks of “European integration” (not for ELSA-purposes, by the way), I arrived in Brussels for another week of that. A week of meeting ELSA-members from all over Europe, a week of learning about ELSA and its structure, a week of improving individual skills you can use being in an ELSA local board. I am talking about the ELSA House Training Week (EHTW).



I did not know what to expect. I had some knowledge of ELSA on a local level in Leiden, but I did not really have a clue what to expect from the International Board or other local groups. Anyway, I learned about all that very quickly!

Workshops & lectures

Unfortunately I missed out on the first two days of the Training Week, but my dear fellow board members filled me in. The weekend turned out to be an appetiser for the rest of the week. There was a general introduction on ELSA on Saturday, followed by a drink with sponsors later that day. Sunday was a quiet day, because of the fact that most people preferred staying in their beds rather than playing the games scheduled at 10 o'clock that morning! Anyway, 'our' Felix - he is from Leiden -

Eveline van Erp ELSA Leiden

gave a training on the International Criminal Court later that day. He was head of the ELSA delegation that went to New York in June to represent ELSA on the preparatory commission on International Criminal Court. He made the participants aware of how influential ELSA can be as a Non Governmental Organisation with a consultative status in the United Nations. In the afternoon the first key-area and supporting-area training sessions took place. During the rest of the day new people arrived and everyone agreed on one thing: the EHTW so far embodied all the ingredients to be a great experience!

On Monday, the day I arrived, there was training on public speaking by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. A simple conclusion: it is always good to practice this skill! It surprised me how easy it is to speak in public when you are seated in the audience, and how difficult it is to tell the same story facing a group of people you are not afraid of when you are on 'their' side. We were taught how to keep the nerves under control and we were given some tricks for getting across the things you want to say in the best way.

On Wednesday, we had another two useful training sessions on soft skills. Andersen Legal, ELSA International's STEP Development Partner, gave a training on Communication and Loeff Claey's Verbeke delivered training on Marketing.



The trainer from Andersen Legal showed us with some simple games how difficult it can be to understand what another person is trying to tell you. She showed us the many different aspects to keep in mind, when you want to communicate effectively. It is not only important what you say, but it is also important how you say it. Obviously “body-language” plays a key-role, as was pointed out. Another major cause of misunderstanding, that people tend to forget, is the way your speaking-partner interprets what you are trying to tell him/her. Every person has got his own framework formed by personal experiences, social environment and many other things, which influences the way he/she will interpret your story. We should all be aware of that! The things we heard in the communication-training were not things we did not know, but it is good that the importance of good communication was pointed out to us once again.

The second lecture on marketing especially drew my attention, because I will be a VP Marketing this year. The trainer from Loeff Claey's Verbeke gave us some interesting tips on setting up a marketing-plan and how to market ELSA.

Many other lectures and workshops followed during the week. The International Board also delivered training sessions on specific themes, needed being in an ELSA-board. The subjects differed from Budget-making and Fundraising to Evaluation etc. I think that I have said enough about the learning-aspects of the EHTW. Let me talk about the fun the EHTW was!

European integration by night

Learning (for some participants half-asleep) during the day and partying at night: it is a fatal combination and therefore it is not surprising that most of the people I spoke or e-mailed after the EHTW were not in their best condition. Nevertheless one of the things everyone enjoyed the most during the EHTW was the pubcrawl on Monday. The inhabitants of Brussels got to see a strange spectacle: groups of young people running around in the centre, entering a pub and running out of the pub in less than two minutes after entering! The game was like this: divided in groups of 4 ELSA-members, you had to go to 15 pubs that were on a list, and in every pub each group member had to drink one beer. The group that would finish drinking all 60 beers first, would win the pub crawl. Of course it did not occur to my group to cheat (give beers away, leave beers unfinished, having a fifth person added to the group), so we were literally “crawling” (and burping) through Brussels by the end of it!

Furthermore we went to a big disco one night: l'Espace de la Nuit. There were cameras there, filming us dancing. Our movements were projected on another wall, so also other people present must have had a great night, watching the ELSA dance!!!

The Karaoke-bar was also ‘the place to be’. It is hard to explain the atmosphere there. Sometimes I really had to close my eyes, because the ugly shirts people wore gave me a headache! But when you were singing, you just closed your eyes and you imagined yourself standing on a huge stage in front of a large crowd, wearing beautiful shirts!

After having been a participant of the EHTW, I can really say that the ELSA-spirit has captured me. I really enjoyed meeting people from all over Europe, and I think that having contact with each other really can help us during the next year. For the Leiden-board it was also good to spend a week together; it gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better. I would not have wanted to miss the EHTW for the world!

Eveline van Erp
Vice President Marketing
ELSA Leiden

ELSA International would like to thank the following sponsors for their support in organising the ELSA House Training Week

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Dear ELSA Local Group, dear ELSA Member. Already heard something about ELS? No?

It is about time that this changed, because ELS offers you the opportunity to involve young lawyers with professional experience in your projects!

ELS is an abbreviation derived from ELSA Lawyers Society. As alumni organisation of ELSA it naturally constitutes its members of ex-ELSAniens, of which many were active on a national or international level during their university years. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it must be stressed that a previous activity in a National Board or in the International Board is by no way a condition of admittance to ELS. On the contrary, an increasing proportion of our new members are young lawyers who used to be active on a local level in ELSA and who continue to commit themselves to the aims of ELSA.

ELS is still a young organisation, which currently counts approximately 200 members. As each year a larger number of graduates, who still are interested in staying linked to ELSA in manner geared to their personal situation, leave the student organisation ELSA when entering into professional life, the positive tendency of an ever growing number of ELS members is expected to continue. Because of its still over viewable size ELS does not know any local or national levels, but one sole European level. Its 8 member Executive Committee is



Silja Greischel ELSA Lawyers Society

therefore multinational. The only exception to the practised "lean management": we have recently appointed a so called Representative in most of the countries where ELS is represented, who acts as ELS contact person in that country. A list of all Representatives is attached. In the event that your country does not yet have a national Representative, please contact the Executive Committee of ELS (els_exec@hotmail.com) if you are interested in receiving more information about our association.

The main aim of ELS is to support the work of ELSA in all areas to the best of its possibilities. In other words: ELS offers ELSA Local Groups and National Boards access to an existing network of young and already active lawyers, of whom many have made their professional entry in international law firms, European/international institutions, major banks or well-known commercial associations.

What does this actually mean for you? For example: You are planning a seminar on the theme "international business law" and would like to contact a large international law firm in order to obtain one of its lawyers as a speaker. You have been able to find out that an ELS member is currently working as a lawyer in that firm. Instead of having to work hard on finding out who could be the right person to get in touch with in that firm, you can directly contact the ELS member. Your advantage: you do not have to elaborate and explain extensively what ELSA is (an alumni knows that) and you can surely count on his co-operation (an alumni still feels the ELSA Spirit...). The alumni will perhaps be prepared to give the presentation him/herself, or otherwise will seek to find a competent speaker for the seminar among colleagues.

In the areas of AA, STEP, Marketing and Fundraising, it can also be helpful to contact an ELS-member. The essential advantage always is: a "senior" will feel com-

mitted to ELSA in a particular measure and will be motivated to support you. It is essentially up to you to decide on how and to which extent you want to involve ELS members in your activities.

Of course we can not guarantee that for each of your requests, an ELS member will be able to help out with advise, contacts, lobbying or sponsoring. After all, none of us has yet moved up into the highest management regions or been elected into the European Parliament... (we are working on it!). But with an ELS member you can always reckon with the readiness of commitment to your request!


If you want to know where ELS members can be found and what they are doing professionally: We have published a "Directory", containing the data, including professional information, of our members. Apart from an alphabetical index, geographic and firm related listings are also included. We distribute the "Directory" at about twice a year to our members, the IB and all National Boards of ELSA. Do not hesitate to contact your National Board, your ELS Representative or the undersigned (e-mail: silja@gmx.net) for further information.

Finally, a plea which at the same time is a recommendation: Draw your alumni's attention to the existence of ELS. Many

alumni would like to continue supporting ELSA's aims in a way that takes into consideration their professional qualification. Please give these people the tip that we exist: ELS is open to all alumni! The growth of ELS also provides you with one major advantage: The more alumni we have, the better a network we can offer you for organising your projects!

I hope you will be in contact with us soon!

Silja Greischel
Secretary General
ELSA Lawyers Society

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International relations of Elsa Cracow

This year ELSA Cracow decided to develop its international relations with several ELSA Groups in Europe. We started off by collaborating with ELSA Groups in Eastern Europe and after that we worked on developing co-operation with ELSA Germany, especially in Heidelberg and Saarbruecken.

While enjoying the May weather, the students were taken around Cracow and other sites in the area, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, the salt mine in Wieliczka and the castle in Przegorza_y.

Our co-operation with ELSA Ukraine started in April, but our contacts began many months earlier. To start with, in April 2000 a group of 15 students from ELSA Cracow went to Lviv (Ukraine) where they spent a week. During their stay, the students did not only enjoy the beauty of the city, but participated at a seminar and some meetings, which included lectures on Ukrainian Constitutional Law and International Relations between Poland and the Ukraine. Naturally, we also had many cool parties!

This initial co-operation was followed up with a two-week stay in Cracow in May 2000 of our colleagues from several universities in Ukraine. At the same time, the seminar "Poland - Ukraine: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow", was organised. The most important lecture was conducted by Prof. Andrzej Zoll (current Ombudsman for Poland and former President of the Constitutional Tribunal) about the role of the Constitutional Tribunal, the judicial process, the role of the judge, and the new Penal Code. We had very pleasant meeting with the Patron of ELSA Cracow, Prof. Stanislaw Walto_ who showed us round the Jagellonian University and spoke to us about its history.

ELSA Cracow returned to the Ukraine at the end of June, this time visiting the capital, Kiev. Two days were obviously not enough to see the whole city, but it was enough time to allow the Polish students to admire the beauty of the Orthodox Churches and the oldest monuments in Kiev, such as the Golden Gate and St. Sophia Sobor - both dating from the 11th century.

Our contacts ELSA Germany began almost a year ago at the Polish NCM in Torun- we had discussions with Doreen Meissner (VP S&C NB), Marta Janowicz and Katharina Schaller (Directors for Polish-German Partnership Program) and so it began.

In February 2000, we participated in the seminar "Rechtsentwicklung und Rechtskultur in Polen von dem Beitritt zur EU" (The development of the Law and of the Legal Culture in Poland in connection with Accession to the EU) in Bruehl. We planned our Study Visits with Arlette Kumor (Heidelberg) and Rainer Grosshans (Saarbruecken) Of course we could not afford to miss the German NCM in the beautiful city of Tuebingen (June 2000) with its amazing parties!

Immediately after, we went to Heidelberg, where we were shown all the beautiful monuments of this city, and where we attended several lectures. We visited the Supreme Court of Germany and Bundesverfassungsgericht (Constitutional Court of the Federal Republic of Germany) in Karlsruhe. A week later a group of German students visited us in Poland, where we organised the seminar "Poland - Germany, and European Integration". Our guests were also given some lectures on Polish Constitutional Law, reforms of Polish Civil Law and the process of harmonisation of Polish Law with EC Law. We also took our guests on a day-trip to the beautiful Pieniny mountains where we went river-rafting on the Dunajec river. It was a brand new experience for all of us! In the evenings we organised parties or went to pubs and discos - especially in old cellars of the Old Town. Our German friends returned to Germany after a week and we were all sad, but we all promised to keep in contact.

We would like to thank ELSA Lviv and ELSA Heidelberg, for the wonderful co-operation we found from them, and for welcoming us to their cities, for journeys and visits, for pub- crawling and parties! Our next projects will be Study Visits with ELSA Saarbruecken and ELSA Prague. We hope our collaboration with ELSA from all Europe will develop further, and we would like to take this occasion to invite all of you for Study Visits with ELSA Cracow, and of course with other Local Groups in Poland!

Andrzej Rataj
VP S&C
ELSA Cracow (Poland)

ELSA at the core of International Law!

Rome. Capital city of Italy and center of European history. Today blessed with mass tourism, tasteful pizza, tropical summer nights, and once in a while - historical international events.

But why spend time in this ancient city - indoors?! And why do so with a time schedule so packed, you'll hardly make it to Pantheon's restaurants before they close at midnight!!

ELSA Report from the Rome Conference 2000

After two years in exile, the International Criminal Court again topped the agenda at Rome's Capitoline Hill. In the very heart of the eternal city.

ELSA International representatives Mario Albano, Alessandra Kieffer and Espen Nakstad challenged the burning Mediterranean sun and walked up Capitolino's steps early one morning in July. Well accompanied by Ambassadors, UN diplomats, NGOs, Ministers, and Government representatives from most

European and North American states. It all turned out being an interesting and fun conference. And a meeting point for all those involved in the ICC process - two years after the historic Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rome, where the ICC treaty was negotiated.

With the lack of sleep comparable to an ELSA ICM, everything was settled for three days of intense debate, lectures, round table discussions, and never ending afternoon sessions.. Just like in 1998, when ELSA was represented in Rome - and the following five UN PrepComms in New York City, at which ELSA delegates and other NGOs spent months working on the Rome Statute and its annexes. There's no doubt about it. The European Law Student's Association has played an active role in the ICC process from the start. But why?!



Espen Nakstad ELSA Norway

What is the 'ICC'?

The proposed International Criminal Court (ICC) will be the world's first permanent court with global jurisdiction over the most serious international crimes, namely genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It will have jurisdiction over crimes occurring both in international and internal armed conflicts. And over crimes against humanity such as 'disappearances' that occur in the absence of conflict.

Unlike the existing "World Court" (the International Court of Justice) in the Hague, which hears law suits between governments only and cannot prosecute individuals, the ICC will investigate and bring to justice individuals (not countries) who commit the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. - But only cases which national governments are unable or unwilling to prosecute.

As a permanent and global court, the ICC will likewise differ from the special International Criminal Tribunals created by the UN Security Council for atrocities in the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. It will not become another 'ad hoc tribunal', but a permanent International Criminal Court.

The ICC is today widely heralded as a momentous milestone in the protection of human rights. The globalisation of justice, led largely by the historic ICC process, marks a decade of rapid developments in international affairs.

And, according to most CICC NGOs, this will hopefully be an antidote to some of the many dangerous global forces of the modern era.

History

The history of the ICC initiative begins with the unsuccessful efforts to establish

an international tribunal after World War I. After World War II, the Nuremberg and Tokyo military war crime tribunals set the stage for efforts to create a permanent court. Though called for in the 1948 Genocide Convention, efforts to establish a permanent court were delayed for decades by the cold war and refusal of governments to accept an international legal jurisdiction.

The chronology of the ICC is long, but among the more recent events are the establishment of a temporary ad hoc tribunal for Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1993, which strengthened the discussions for a permanent Court.

In 1994 the Rwanda war made the Security Council establish a second ad hoc tribunal for Rwanda.

In 1994 the ILC presented a final draft Statute on the ICC to the General Assembly and recommended that a conference of plenipotentiaries was convened to negotiate a treaty to enact the Statute. The GA established an ad hoc committee on the ICC to review the draft Statute.

In 1996-98 the GA convened six PrepComm meetings to continue to draft the ICC Statute.

In June-July 1998 160 countries participate in the Rome UN Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. Member states overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Rome Statute for the ICC. In February 1999 Senegal became the first State Party to ratify the Rome Statute, followed by Trinidad and Tobago, San Marino, Italy - and as for August 2000 a total of fourteen states have ratified the treaty.

The Rome conference 2000

As the major event dealing with the Rome Statute and ICC after the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference, the Meeting of July 2000 successfully updated its participants on the work done so far in the ICC process, - the process towards the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

More than an ICC News Room, Meeting point for the parties involved and 'status report provider', the Rome conference



optimistically claimed to pinpoint the crucial questions concerning a quick ratification of the ICC treaty, - as well as drafting the various ways towards a fully operational International Court.

PrepComm issues of the previous five sessions in New York - and the upcoming ones - were discussed thoroughly by the delegates. So was the ratification process of today and future prospects for a rapid ratification and successful establishment of the Court at its site in the Netherlands.

The conference delegates also discussed several important technical questions regarding the Rome Statute and its annexes, - such as the PrepComm draft texts of June 2000. There were also discussions on ways to enhance the effectiveness and political acceptance of the Court, as well as the big challenges to come, e.g. the draft texts on 'the crime of aggression', which has no deadline and could potentially delay the process significantly.

ELSA has received gratitude for its ICC work in various fora over the past years. Also from delegates to the Rome Conference of July 2000.

It is not a big surprise. After all ELSA now has a special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and is member of the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for the establishment of an International Criminal Court, the 'CICC'.

Since 1995 ELSA has participated in most efforts made - together with the United

Nations - for the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court.

European Law Student's Association will most likely be represented at the upcoming UN sessions. And thereby see the successful establishment of ICC through. Unfortunately, this will take time. An estimated 2-4 years has been mentioned by the head of CICC. And the ratifications of fall 2000 will be crucial in that regard.

Nevertheless. It has been a pleasure observing the rapid changes of International Law during the last year. And especially to do so with ELSA, like at the Rome Conference 2000. International Law is still an underdeveloped field of Law. But that is also what makes it both fun and challenging, not at least when working on the ICC!

Espen Nakstad
Vice President Seminars & Conferences
ELSA Norway

ELSA International in Brussels, Belgium, edits Synergy. Articles are based on contributions from students and young lawyers from all over Europe and are edited at the discretion of the Editor

Contributions

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