

# E.L.F.A.

## European Law Faculties Association

Secretary Office

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President's Newsletter October 2009

Dear ELFA Members,  
Dear Deans and Colleagues,

As the President of the ELFA Board, elected at the last General Meeting in Fribourg, I have the privilege to give you an update on current affairs of our association before we meet at our next annual conference in Ljubljana.

First of all, let me once again thank our outgoing President Pascal Pichonnaz (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) for having organised our last annual conference in such a splendid manner. It was a major success and the feedback from the participants was very enthusiastic. They appreciated both the high level of the presentations and the practical applicability of the main conclusions. Let me also express my gratitude to the University of Fribourg for its kind hospitality.

**The 2009-2010 Board of ELFA** is composed of the following members: Prof. Janez Kranjc (University of Ljubljana – President), Prof. Jacek Petzel (University of Warsaw – First Vice-President), Prof. Manuel Bermejo Castriello (University Carlos III of Madrid – Second Vice-President), Prof. Hans Van Houtte (University of Leuven – Treasurer), Anne Klebes-Pelissier (University of Strasbourg – Member) and Prof. Reiner Schulze (University of Münster – Member). The secretary of ELFA is Mrs Helena Ferro de Gouveia. Those who took part at our last annual conference in Fribourg already had the opportunity to meet her in person. She is the organising force behind our newsletters and the new ELFA website.

Since the last annual conference, the Board has met two times. Let me briefly outline the main items on its agenda.

**1. The resolutions of ELFA:** The Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of ELFA in Fribourg were distributed among the members and sent to several Ministries of Justice and Ministries of Education in the home countries of ELFA Members. The text of the resolutions can be found on the ELFA website at <http://elfa-afde.eu/ResolutionsFribourg.aspx>.

**2. Financial Issues:** As announced at the last General Assembly in Fribourg, ELFA had to reimburse the European Commission part of the sum received within the framework of the Grant Agreement on Thematic Network Projects.

**3. The Tuning II Project:** Following the decision of ELFA members at the last General Assembly, as well as bearing in mind the poor results of the previous Tuning project, ELFA is no more directly involved in the project. It is now run entirely by the Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, with ELFA assuming no financial or any other responsibility therefor. We did, however, provide some help in identifying the ten law faculties taking part in the project.

**4. EJLE (European Journal of Legal Education):** After Routledge, the publisher of the printed edition of EJLE, decided to terminate the publication of the journal because, as they stated, it was "extremely difficult to coordinate [their] sales and marketing efforts and consequently subscriptions have remained at a disappointingly low level", the Board has decided to publish it in electronic form on-line. Besides the problems affecting the printed edition, the main idea behind the decision to go online was to make EJLE more flexible and better-suited for a swift reaction to important and time-sensitive events. In order not to forego its established high quality standards, the refurbished online publication has two parts. For those interested in the more researched and scholarly discussion, there is the peer-reviewed part. Here, all

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the articles have to be reviewed and are published only if peer-review has been positive. The editor of this part of EJLE remains Professor Julian Lombay.

To facilitate the immediate communicating between members, however, there is now also a non-reviewed part of the journal. All sorts of texts dealing with topics of interest for ELFA members, such as the announcements of important events, invitations to co-operate etc., can be published here. To make EJLE even more accessible to ELFA members, the Board decided to publish non-English texts as well. I thus heartily encourage you to make EJLE a useful tool for the ELFA members and a true platform enabling the exchange of ideas concerning legal education. We have the tools – let us make as much use of them as possible.

**5. The ELFA Website:** The new ELFA website has become fully operational. The difficulties in accessing it have been fixed and it is ready to become and serve as the main forum of European law faculties.

**6. The next General Meeting** will be held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from **25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2010**. The topic of the conference will be **Teaching law in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**.

The conference, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the Bologna declaration, will be organised in two parts. At the plenary session, the Bologna process will be assessed by different speakers. In the workshop part of the conference, three working groups will be reconsidering the position of particular subjects in the legal curriculum (general subjects, subjects developing meta-competences and subjects developing common approaches to teaching transnational legal disciplines).

We have invited some renowned speakers and we hope to receive valuable initiatives and input from all of you.

**The General Assembly will be held on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> in the late afternoon.**

You are thus cordially invited to save that date in your agenda. Detailed information will follow in December.

In conclusion, let me wish you a successful and not overly stressful academic year 2009-2010. Its challenges, too, will doubtlessly enrich the discussion at our next conference and stress the importance of joining our efforts in the field of legal education.

In the meantime, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Janez Kranjc

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