

European Law Faculties
Association

Europäische Vereinigung
der Rechtsfakultäten



Asociación de Facultades de
Derecho en Europa

Association des Facultés de
Droit en Europe

ELFA RESOLUTION ON “THE UNITY OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING”

The European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) uniting over two hundred law faculties from Europe, assembled at its Annual General Meeting in Münster, on the sixteenth of March 2013 to discuss the challenges, problems and chances which arise from the present developments in the tasks of law faculties with respect to the unity of research and teaching

considering that,

- * the law has developed further over centuries as a cultural achievement of crucial significance for society and politics also by means of the unity of research and teaching;
- * the unity of research and teaching belongs to the essential and indispensable features of the law faculties in Europe;
- * in light of the cultural significance of its subject-matter, the teaching of the law must remain inseparable from the academic engagement with research; it will be damaging to both elements to separate them;
- * legal research is enriched by the unity with teaching, in particular through the constant discourse between researchers, practitioners and as the future generation of jurists, scholars and students;
- * European integration and especially the development of an area of freedom, security and justice governed by the rule of law can expand and deepen the possibilities for law faculties in Europe to work together in research and teaching and to develop common views on the unity of both tasks;

has adopted the following Resolution:

1. The European law faculties consider both research and teaching as their core tasks. The unity of both tasks within law faculties guarantees the appropriate quality of teaching and the effectiveness of research for the present and future practice of law, bearing in mind the historical and conceptual foundations of law in society. Legal research is both individual and collaborative; it is not merely monodisciplinary but also multidisciplinary in its facets and in its relevance for policy making in areas of major societal importance.

2. Neither the financial difficulties of public institutions nor commercial interests can justify a restriction of the function of law faculties to just teaching and omitting research, nor the creation of new faculties or law schools without equipping them with sufficient potential for the tasks involved in research.

3. This also applies to measures with an indirect effect on the unity of research and teaching. A particular risk lies in the inadequate economic conditions of faculty staff leading to their undertaking additional occupations alongside teaching instead of being active in research.

4. The European law faculties therefore request the politically responsible institutions:

- * to make sufficient financial resources available for appropriate facilities for law faculties to enable them to guarantee both teaching and research of an appropriate scope and quality;
- * to ensure appropriate economic conditions for faculty staff and that there should be a sufficient number of staff to ensure that research and teaching of high quality can be undertaken;
- * to consider the activities in research as well as in teaching when evaluating law faculties;
- * to support initiatives of law faculties in creating close links between research and teaching, in particular projects on the integration of new research results in teaching and on the inclusion of students and of practitioners (with the framework of “life-long learning”) in research.

5. The European Law Faculties Association asks the institutions of the European Union,

- * to support the law faculties in their efforts to develop further the close links between research and teaching within the scope of their programmes for research and innovation and within the scope of their measures for developing an area of freedom, security and justice governed by the rule of law;
- * to promote, together with law faculties and their European association, the discussion between the political and academic institutions in the European Union and in the Member States on the questions of common standards with respect to the level of legal education including its link to research;
- * to recognize the social relevance of research in law by ensuring an appropriate level of funding at European level in particular in the context of the Horizon 2020 programme.