

Denmark

Date: 13 March and 24 April 2006
Location: DLA Nordic law firm, Ved Stranden 18, Copenhagen
Organised by: DLA Nordic and ASSER Institute

Number of experts invited: 300

Number of experts present: 16 confirmed interest, 7 present

1. Experts present

Andreas Christensen (DLA Nordic law firm, partner)
Ketilbjørn Hertz (Ministry of Justice, consultant)
Kim Østergaard (Copenhagen Business School, lecturer)
Kristina Maria Siig (South Denmark University, associate professor)
Michiel de Rooij (Asser Institute, senior researcher)
Ole Lando (Copenhagen Business School, professor)
Peter Gjørtler (Lexnet - European Information, director)

The following experts confirmed specific interest in participation, but were unable to attend on the various dates proposed:

Ana Mercedes López-Rodríguez (University of Århus, lecturer)
Anette Kronborg (University of Copenhagen, associate professor)
Erik Werlauff (University of Aalborg, professor)
Joseph Lookofsky (University of Copenhagen, professor)
Linda Nielsen (University of Copenhagen, professor)
Michael Elmer (Maritime and Commercial Court, vice president)
Palle Bo Madsen (University of Århus, professor)
Peter Arnt Nielsen (Copenhagen Business School, associate professor & College of Europe, professor)
Ulrik Rammeskov Bang-Pedersen (University of Copenhagen, professor)

2. Agenda

- a. Opening by Peter Gjørtler
- b. Presentation of the project by Michiel de Rooij
- c. Discussion

3. Report on the meeting

The first meeting was called by inviting the members of the Danish Association for European Law (Dansk Forening for Europarett), which is the Danish member association of the FIDE (Fédération Internationale du Droit Européen). The membership includes almost all Danish academics and practitioners with an interest in EU issues.

The meeting was located at the DLA Nordic law firm, which acts as secretariat for the Danish association. The idea was in the future of the project, possibly to use the association as a basis for the proposed network. Unfortunately, the response to this general invitation was very limited.

Subsequently, it was decided to call a second meeting based on invitations sent individually to Danish experts in the field of private international law. Based on the reaction to the first general invitation, the use of advertising in Danish law journals was discarded. A secondary reason for this decision was that in Denmark such journals, including the journal of the lawyers and economists' trade union, have very early deadlines, thus making it difficult in practice to use the journals for announcing the meeting.

In the invitation, the experts were informed that the Asser Institute and IPR Verlag operated a project for a feasibility study, commissioned by the European Commission, on the creation of a European research network in the fields of international private law, civil law and civil procedure, and that Peter Gjørtler was the Danish correspondent for the project.

As background for the project, the experts were informed that the Commission wished to improve and strengthen links at European level between its work of creating an area of civil justice and academic research and practical experience available in the fields concerned, and that the setting-up a network of experts and information systems in the field of private international law was intended to improve cooperation in European research.

For the discussion part of the meeting, the experts were requested to consider the following issues:

- What are your expectations in and your suggestions for the network?
- Which essential requirements should the network meet?
- Assessment of your personal support and interest in the network.

At the meeting, the project was introduced by Michel de Rooij from the Asser Institute. As for the first meeting, the law firm of DLA Nordic hosted the second meeting. The experts had been offered that it could also take place at any other location, and for travel within Denmark, it was indicated that the project might have access to limited funding.

The participants in general reacted very positively to the idea of a network for international private law. They did not find that other networks covered this area, and they found that a network for exchange of opinions would be very useful for both practitioners and academics. They expressed concern about the definition of a mandate for the national mandate if it was to be used as an instrument for giving consolidated national opinions to the European Commission at any formal level.

However, there was general agreement on using the network as a non-official platform for the provision of points of view that might be used by the Commission. Furthermore, there was agreement on the need for a core secretariat in order to maintain the existence of the network, and that such a network would need financing from the EU.

It was agreed that the network would not need its own infrastructure, but might well be integrated into an existing structure, such as the Danish Association for European Law, which is the Danish member association of the FIDE. This would enable the immediate creation of a wide network, and the EU financing would permit the association to arrange special meetings dedicated to issues of international private law in relation to EU law.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gjørtler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Gjørtler

Copenhagen, 20 May 2006