



www.eucrimallaw.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

In accordance with the Associations' new Guiding Principles, ECLA UK is pleased to present our 2011 annual report. We will be placing this on our website and sending it to OLAF; with a special personal copy to Francesco di Angelis, who has not been at all retired in 2011 but has become a father again ! Congratulations Francesco, from all your friends in the UK.

Thanks in great measure to Dr Simone White and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, we had a very full seminar programme during 2011. Our 6 seminars covered general EU criminal law and post Lisbon developments as well as Roadmap progress and the thorny issue of Defence rights. We now have a great many more members who work for defence legal firms and we have welcomed a number of academic members too. Our membership has increased by nearly 30% in the last 3 years.

At our 2011 AGM Professor John Spencer was re-elected President and the Officers are now: Vice President: Gibson Grenfell QC, Hon. Sec: Tricia Howse, Hon Treasurer: Julian Owen. Other Committee members are Prof Estella Baker, Prof. Helen Xanthaki, Dr Simone White, Tony Wilson, Prof. Mike Levi, and John Todd.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS DURING 2011

8th Feb 2011: The Extradition Review, discussed by the Rt Hon Sir Scott Baker, Chairman of the Review Panel.

17th March 2011: European Union Bill, explained by Prof. John Spencer; after which we had our Annual General Meeting.

16th May 2011: "It takes two to tango" an afternoon seminar chaired by Lord Tomlinson on the new relationship between the Council of Europe and the EU. Speakers included Dr Simone White & Dr Vasil Kirov from OLAF, Caroline ten Dam from the EC Legal Service, Wolfgang Rau from Greco, Livia Soica Becht from Moneyval and Dr Tobias Lock from University College London.

21st October 2011: Defence Rights in the EU” another afternoon seminar led by Dr Simone White of OLAF with Dr Marianne Wade, Jodie Blackstock of Justice and Daniel Mansell of Fair Trials International and Prof John Spencer.

17th November 2011: EIO progress update from Kenny Bowie & Sara Khan of the Judicial Co-operation Unit at the UK Home Office.

12th December 2011: Implementation of articles TEU chaired by Professor Spencer and discussed by Aled Williams of Eurojust, Prof Katalin Legeti from the University of Luxembourg, Valentina Cavolo and Dr Simone White from OLAF.

Despite this galaxy of star speakers, we were able to mount all these seminars entirely free (save for a small charge for lunch in October) thanks to the enormous generosity of both our speakers and the IALS. Special thanks must go to OLAF, for making Dr White available for seminars and for Committee meetings. We find our close links with OLAF useful and supportive. Thanks to Dr White, we are able to circulate EU consultation papers and other interesting publications “hot off the press” to our members.

Special mention must also be made of our website www.eucriminallaw.com which is hosted by the Centre for European Legal Studies in Cambridge; and its efficient and helpful webmaster Daniel Bates who gives his services to ECLA UK gratis.

You can see speakers’ notes and slides from the year’s programme on the website. We welcome feedback on its contents to tricia.howse@hotmail.co.uk

We can thus maintain our annual subscriptions at only £20 (£10 students) – a sum unchanged since 1999!

In December 2011 our President Professor John Spencer spoke at a seminar organised at the European Parliament on the future of EU criminal law, and also gave evidence to the House of Lords European Committee, which is holding an inquiry into the EU’s policy on criminal procedure.

Delegates from ECLA UK attended conferences run by other European Associations during the year, including those at ERA Trier, Warsaw and Budapest.

Using our handy “yellow pages” of other Associations’ officers, we were able to put members in touch with local lawyers for professional purposes. Special thanks this year to the Associations in Lithuania and Estonia for their help ! We also find that we can put researchers in touch with each other too.

For details of our 2012 programme of seminars, please see:

www.eucriminallaw.com

Tricia Howse, CBE. Hon Secretary, ECLA UK.