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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016

In accordance with the Associations' Guiding Principles, ECLA UK is pleased to present our 2016 annual report. We will be placing this on our website and sending it to OLAF.

2017 started strongly despite the Brexit vote in June 2016 – our President, Professor John Spencer QC, was awarded the CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in the New Year's Honours. We strongly suspect that the Government hopes that, if he has the Empire to play with, he will leave the EU alone. This is unlikely to be the case.

The 2016 programme was organised by our Committee once again and we must record our grateful thanks to the School of Advanced Study of the University of London (formerly the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies), in particular to Belinda Crothers, whose hard work and kindness made it all possible. Thanks to the School's generosity, ECLA UK's lecturers and seminars remain entirely free to attend; speakers' travel expenses and administrative costs are met by our membership fees.

Thanks also go to the Cambridge Law Faculty, its Centre for European Legal Studies and its efficient and helpful webmaster Daniel Bates, who hosts and maintains our website www.eucriminallaw.com

During the year the UK electorate voted, by a small majority, to leave the EU. The Association tried hard to help ensure that the public was adequately informed of the legal implications of "Brexit"; but it is quite clear that a great many people voted for variety of matters that had little to do with membership of the EU. The House of Lords' European Committee is publishing a series of papers on aspects of "Brexit" which we commend for their content and objectivity:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-select-committee-/news-parliament-2015/brexit-co-ordinated-inquiries-publication-week/>

ECLA UK intends to remain an Association, if this is acceptable to other members, after Article 50 notice has been given and beyond. Perhaps, like Turkey, we might remain in the

status of a potential candidate country for the foreseeable future ?! We certainly believe that we can continue to observe the objectives of the Associations' 2011 Guiding Principles:

- the dissemination of information, the advancement of knowledge and the promotion of research in relation to the protection of the EU financial interests at a national level;
- through contacts between Associations, the improvement of cooperation and mutual assistance between different jurisdictions and the increase of knowledge of other legal systems;
- the stimulation and promotion of debate on issues relating to the protection of the financial interests of the EU;
- contributions to the development of relevant aspects of national and European criminal law.

During 2016 we again enjoyed well informed and entertaining speakers from a wide variety of legal and associated disciplines, including legal translators, specialist private prosecutors and psychological and demographic researchers. ECLA seminars are conducted strictly according to Chatham House rules and following the seminars only material provided by our speakers is placed on our website. ECLA has been wholly apolitical since its inception and members join in their personal capacities.

CALENDAR OF ECLA UK SEMINARS DURING 2016:

Mon 1st February at 4.30 – 6.30. “What’s new in the EU” Our President’s popular round up of developments in European Criminal law during the preceding year.

Mon 14th March 4.00 – 6.00. “Lost in Translations”, an examination of the legal problems associated with implementation (or non implementation) of this Road Map right.

Tues 26th April 2.30 – 6.00 “Domestic Victims”- the European Protection Order and domestic violence

Mon 9th May 2.00 – 6.00 “Criminal law consequences of a Brexit” continuing our studies on unintended legal consequences of political decisions and referenda

Mon 6th June 4.00 – 6.30. “Practical Update on the EAW “ news for practitioners on recent developments relating to the European Arrest Warrant.

Mon 11th July 2.00 – 6.00 “Private Prosecutions & the recovery of compensation in the EU”

Mon 3rd October 2.00 – 6.30 “A measure of last resort ? Pre-trial detention decision-making in the EU” , discussing Fair Trials’ coordinated research across 10 EU Member States examining the practice of judicial decision-making on pre-trial detention.

Monday 7 Nov 2.00 – 6.30 “Legal Issues in Security and Money Laundering”

Monday 5th Dec 2.30 – 6.00 (+AGM) “Legal responses to 3rd country Migration in Europe”

Details of speakers and papers are available, with their kind permission, on the website www.eucriminallaw.com (Usual copyright terms apply).

For 2017 Professor John Spencer remains President, Helen Malcolm QC Vice President, Dr Simone White Communications Officer and Tricia Howse the Hon. Secretary. Hon Treasurer Julian Owen has been succeeded by Richard Atkins. Other Committee members remain Prof Estella Baker, Constantin Stefanou, Prof Steve Peers, Prof. Mike Levi, Tony Wilson, Mike Kennedy and HH Judge Michael Hopmeier. We have additional Committee members representing Scotland (Lorna Harris, CBE) and Ireland (Prof Andrea Ryan, University of Limerick).

It is with great regret that we hear of Lothar Kuhl’s departure from OLAF. Lothar has been a good friend to all the Associations and has on several occasions participated in our UK seminars and conferences, with dry humour and considerable knowledge. We shall miss him and wish him well in his new post. Why it should be that experienced officials must be moved away from the areas that benefit from their knowledge and expertise is one of the abounding mysteries of bureaucracy, worldwide.

We wish all our sister Associations, and OLAF, a successful and productive 2017. We cordially invite any member from another Association, or OLAF, to drop in on any of our events if they are in London.

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