



www.eucriminallaw.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017

In accordance with the Associations' Guiding Principles, ECLA UK is pleased to present our 2017 annual report. We will be placing this on our website and sending it to OLAF.

The 2017 programme was organised by our Committee and once again we must record our heartfelt thanks to the School of Advanced Study of the University of London (formerly the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies) and 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.

Grateful thanks also go to the Cambridge Law Faculty and its efficient and helpful webmaster Daniel Bates, who hosts and maintains our website www.eucriminallaw.com

ECLA (UK)'s constitutional objectives, drafted on 11th December 1990, remain

- (a) to promote the study of European criminal law and procedure
- (b) to provide a forum for practitioners, academics and professionals to discuss policies and developments in relation to European criminal law and procedure
- (c) to co-operate with and assist other bodies engaged in research and evaluation of such policies and developments
- (d) without prejudice to the generality of the above, to promote awareness of economic crime, including in particular fraud and corruption in relation to the Budget of the European Union and to contribute to and support the work of the other European Associations and bodies engaged in the protection of the financial interests of the European Union.
- (e) in pursuance of the aforesaid objectives to extend membership to professionals of all disciplines in the public, private or academic sectors who have an interest in European criminal law and procedure and in preventing or combating

economic crime and corruption within the EU; to provide training and information on relevant topics; to hold meetings, seminars and conferences for the purpose of sharing expertise, developing skills or promoting debate on topics of interest to members; to assist with research into relevant matters; to liaise with other bodies and promoting contacts with those involved in similar activities in different legal jurisdictions; and to contribute papers and advice in any appropriate form to government or non government organisations within the EU and elsewhere on relevant topics.

It is perhaps worth reminding ourselves, in these uncertain times, that the spirit of curiosity and friendliness permeating our Association lives on.

The House of Lords has continued to champion the cause of commonsense during the Brexit process and ECLA UK plans to look more closely at these topics in the coming year, beginning on 6th Feb 2018 with a look at Criminal Justice co-operation between the UK and Ireland. See also:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldcom/16/1602.htm>

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-select/brexit-uk-irish-relations/Response-to-Lords-European-Union-Committee-Brexit-UK-Irish-relations.pdf>

During 2017 we again enjoyed well informed and entertaining speakers from a wide variety of legal and associated disciplines. 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 2017:

7th February: ***Security legislation under fire: CJEU judgement in Watson and its implications (if any) for the UK and Ireland.*** Recently retired as the Government's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, David Anderson QC shared his thoughts with us.

7th March ***What's new at the CJEU ?*** Our President Professor Spencer chaired this informed round up of CJEU criminal law cases, led by Professor Estella Baker of de Montfort University and Dr. Irene Wieczorek.

11th April ***Cybercrime and its implications for effective risk based responses*** Professor Mike Levi, Professor of Criminology at Cardiff University, Tony Wilson and Gary Kibbey and former SOCA officer, took us through the legal and regulatory maze surrounding Online fraud, hacking, strategic threats and child abuse.

16th May ***EU Criminal law round up special: what will Brexit do for us, or not, as the case may be ?*** Professor Spencer, Baroness (Sarah) Ludford, Margerie Bonn from the Dutch

Ministry of Security and Justice and Professor Steve Peers, from the University of Essex began the debate which will surely continue until at least March 29th 2019.

*3rd October **People Trafficking** Under the Chairmanship of Mike Kennedy, former President of Eurojust, Pam Bowen, CBE the CPS lead operational policy adviser specialist in people trafficking and slavery issues and Pedro Assares Rodrigues, Europol Team Leader of the Trafficking in Human Beings team updated us on the efforts being made throughout the EU to combat the horrors of trafficking and “modern slavery”.*

*7th November **The Victims Directive – a 2017 reprise.** Dr Andrea Ryan, University of Limerick and Rhiannon Evans from the NGO Supporting Justice discussed the findings to date of a project headed by Dr Maria Mousmouti (CECL) funded by the EU Commission, "Developing Directive - compatible practices for the identification, assessment and referral of victims".*

*12th December **Mutual Recognition of Restraint & Confiscation Orders in Europe.** His Honour Judge Michael Hopmeier, Professor Anna Maria Maugeri, University of Catania and David Trovato from the Serious Fraud Office gave us an update.*

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

Elections at the AGM brought plaudits for Julian Owen, who is standing down from the Committee to spend more time driving steam trains on the Swanage Railway and the reelection of our President Professor John Spencer, Treasurer Richard Atkins and Secretary Tricia Howse. Vice President Helen Malcolm QC, Dr Simone White, Prof Estella Baker, Constantin Stefanou, Prof Steve Peers, Prof. Mike Levi, Tony Wilson, Mike Kennedy and HH Judge Michael Hopmeier remain in office as do our Scottish (Lorna Harris, CBE) and Irish Committee members (Prof Andrea Ryan, University of Limerick). Dr Constantin Stefanou (IALS), Niall Coghlan and Gemma Davis (University of Northumbria) were co-opted onto the Committee.

We wish all our sister Associations, and OLAF, a successful and productive 2018. We cordially invite any member from another Association, or OLAF, to drop in on any of our events if they are in London.

Wishing our fellow Associations and OLAF staff the very best of luck during 2018,

Professor John Spencer, CBE, QC, President, ECLA UK (jrs1000@cam.ac.uk)

Tricia Howse, CBE, Hon Secretary, ECLA UK. (TriciaGhowse@gmail.com)