



# *in brief*

## *Newsletter*

June 2017

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## Completion of Twinning Project

### **GREECE - FYROM**

On May 30 2017, it took place in Skopje the event for the finalization of the Twinning light project entitled "Further Harmonization of Tax Legislation with the EU Acquis" which was eventually launched on 30 September 2016, under the partnership of the Ministry of Finance and the Office of Public Revenues, on the part of the Beneficiary Country (FYROM), and of CIEEL and the Independent Authority of Public Revenue, on the part of the member state (GREECE).

The event was attended by the FYROM Minister of Finance, Mr. Kiril Minoski, who stressed out the importance of the project, taking into account his country's need for the continuation of implementation of EU directives in national legislation. Mr. Jaromir Levicek, Head of Finance Affairs of the EU Delegation, underlined that each government should aim to create a tax system based on the principles of transparency, accountability and fair tax competition. It was also strongly argued, that he expects further improvement in the capacity of the Ministry of Finance of FYROM and the Office of Public Revenue to implement the proposed changes in domestic tax legislation in order to ensure effective tax collection. Finally, the Head of the liaison office of Greece, Ambassador Mr. Dimitris Giannakakis, underlined that the completion of the project is of great importance, since it marks the successful conclusion of the first twinning project implemented between the institutions of the two countries, Greece and FYROM.

At the end of the event, it was held the last meeting of the Steering Committee, during which it was expressed the mutual satisfaction of the two countries about the outcome of the program, as well as the aiming for their future cooperation.



## Lecture by Professor **Fabrice Picod** on the fight against fraud within the EU

On the 6th of June 2017, Mr. Fabrice Picod, Professor at the Panthéon-Assas University of Paris II, gave a lecture on the fight against fraud and the free movement within the European Union at "Dimitrios Evrigenis" amphitheatre of CIEEL. The event was organized by CEEL, in collaboration with the French Institute of Thessaloniki and the support of the French Consulate in Thessaloniki.

Professor Picod initially underlined that, since fraud stands as one of the most serious dangers weakening the process of European integration, the European Union considered it essential both to introduce a specific legal framework and to establish the Anti-Fraud Office, the so- 'OLAF' ("European office of Lutte Anti-Fraude").

The fight against fraud does not pertain only to criminal law or the protection of the EU's financial interests, but it rather refers to EU law as a whole. In this context, the CJEU has accepted restrictions on the fundamental freedom of movement in order to tackle illegal immigration, tax evasion and counterfeiting, while public procurement law justifies the exclusion of potential contractors, who commit or have committed fraud.

The event was concluded with a stimulating debate, coordinated by Professor Vasilios Christianos, Director of CIEEL.



**FRAUDE**



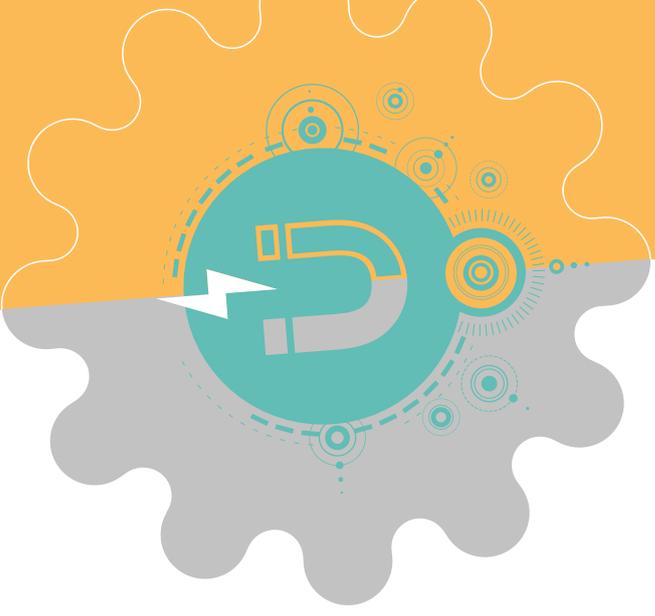


## Event on the **fundamental values of the European Union** in cooperation with the 'Fritz Thyssen' Foundation

Within the framework of CIEEL's cooperation with the 'Fritz Thyssen' Foundation, and on the occasion of the visit of the President and the members of its Advisory Scientific Council at CIEEL's premises, on Saturday the 24 June 2017 an academic event took place, attended by members of the Foundation and CIEEL's academic staff, Professors of the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, as well as the German Consul, Mr. Walter Stechel, and members of the German community of Thessaloniki.

The event started with the presentation by Mrs. Vasiliki Kapsali, teaching fellow at the Law School of the University of Thessaloniki and the University of Neapolis in Pafos, of the research program "Urgent Legislative Procedures in the Legal System of the European Union", of which the kick off meeting was held on 13 and 14 January 2017 at CIEEL with the funding of the Thyssen Foundation. Mrs Kapsali, while stressing out the importance of the program dealing with a particularly up-to-date and original topic, she referred to the main issues of the research and the progress made so far.

Afterwards, Professor of Theology, Mr. Vasilios Markidis analyzed thoroughly the subject of fundamental values of the European Union, approaching the theme from both a legal and a theological point of view and making extensive references to the distinction between Eastern and Western Europe regarding the formation of tradition, culture and religious consciousness. At the heart of his speech, he focused on Greece and the relations between the state and the church, giving representative examples of the modern period. After Professor's Markidis' lecture, a further discussion on the same subject took place between Professor Mr. V. Skouris, President of CIEEL, and Professor Mr. A. Vosskuhle, President of the German Federal Constitutional Court. The discussion, coordinated by the President of Thyssen Advisory Scientific Council, Professor of Theology Mr. Christoph Marksches, was particularly enriching and it was empowered by key questions and accurate observations from the audience.



CONFERENCE

CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION  
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REACTIVATING  
**PUBLIC & ETHICAL SPACES**  
IN A HIGHLY POLARIZED SOCIETY

Sixth Annual

Stavros Niarchos Foundation  
International Conference  
on Philanthropy

From the 21st to the 23rd of June 2017, the annual International Conference of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation ('SNF') took place at the exquisitely designed new premises of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Culture Center in Falirio, Athens, which was inaugurated last February.

The conference focused on the different perspectives of philanthropy, with emphasising on the impact and the results it may have on various areas of our era. The guests and speakers of the Congress were distinguished academics, artists and journalists, as well as members of major NGOs around the world.

Given that SNF has funded CIEEL in order to integrate in its academic staff four young researchers in the prospect of preventing our country's 'brain drain', members of CIEEL were invited to the conference. Dr. Eftychia Mouameletzi, Research Director of CIEEL and Co-ordinator of CIEEL's State Aid Unit, as well as Mrs Dimitra Gambas and Mrs Alexandra Zisopoulou, members of CIEEL's academic staff, attended the conference.

Amongst the most interesting sessions of the conference, was the debate on the political, economic and social evolution in various European states, elaborating on the national identity in the modern era of globalization. In this context, the role of sports activities as a tool for tackling social problems was also discussed.



## Deputy Head of OECD Anti-Corruption Division is visiting CIEEL

On the 30th of June 2017, Mr. William Loo, Deputy Head of OECD Anti-Corruption Division, accompanied by Mr. Efstathios Tsirmpas, analyst of the same Division of OECD, visited the premises of CIEEL and met with Professor Mrs. Christina Deligianni, Secretary of CIEEL, and Mrs Eftychia Mouameletzi, Research Director of CIEEL. Professor Mrs. Despina Anagnostopoulou also attended the meeting, during which the central role of OECD, as a co-ordinator of international action against bribery and corruption, was extensively discussed along with the possibility of a future cooperation between OECD and CIEEL.

It is noted that Greece, being a member of OECD since 1961, ratified with Law 2656/1998 the " OECD Convention on combating bribery of foreign public servants in international business transactions", which entered into force in February 1999. In this context, OECD cooperates with the Greek Ministry of Justice organizing various informative events and training seminars.



# Brexit

## A year after the referendum

On the 26th of June 2017, over a year after the Brexit referendum result, the British government published its proposals for the status after the withdrawal of both the European citizens, residing in the UK, and of the British Nationals, residing in EU states. The highly anticipated document has been regarded, according to Pre-sident Tusk, as inadequate to fulfill the European Council's expectations, since it entails the risk of deteriorating the situation of citizens.

As far as the status of Europeans living in the UK is concerned, the British government proposed their distinction in three categories, based on the time of their arrival in the UK and the duration of their residency. More specifically, the EU citizens, who are already residing in the UK for five years, are entitled to apply for a residence permit of an indefinite period pursuant to the Immigration Act of 1971. On the other hand, those who arrived in the UK before the 'cut off date' (without clarification regarding the meaning of the term and whether it refers to the withdrawal notification on 29.03.02017 or to the actual withdrawal date), but who are not residing in the UK for the five years' period, shall be allowed to continue their residence in UK till the date when the five years' period will be completed. Upon this date, they will also be entitled to apply for a residence permit of an indefinite period. In contrast, EU citizens that arrive in the UK after the 'cut off date' will be allowed to remain there temporarily, however, if they wish to extend their stay they shall be obliged to comply with the legislation in force in the current time. Further more, the British government is proposing that a two-year grace period from the date of UK's withdrawal should be established, in order to all its EU residents be awarded the necessary residence permit.

On the contrary, the proposal of UK regarding the status of its nationals that reside in EU countries is extremely elliptical. The only relevant reference concerns the need, that UK nationals should be granted a right of residence for an indefinite period in the certain member state country and that their access to social benefits and services should continue to be maintained. At the same time, it is argued that the EU is expected to ensure the protection of their rights, without clarifying, either the measures to be taken or the ways to review their implementation.

