



in brief

Newsletter

October - December 2017

In the present issue:

- First lecture of the series "Thyssen Lectures" by the President of the Federal Constitutional Court, Professor Andreas Vosskuhle
- Award of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Professor Andreas Vosskuhle
- The European Commission has awarded to Prof. Christina Deliyanni, Secretary of CIEEL, the Jean Monnet Chair for the Protection of Social Rights in the EU
- CIVIL JUSTICE programme
Collaboration between CIEEL & ERA: 'Seminar about better Applying the EU Regulations on Family and Succession Law'
- Brexit: Draft Guidelines for the second phase of negotiations



1st Lecture of the series

Thyssen Lectures

by the President of the Federal Constitutional Court,
Professor **Andreas Vosskuhle**

Within the framework of CIEEL's cooperation with the 'Fritz Thyssen' Foundation, a series of lectures will be organized over the next four years on the subject "Europe as a community of law and values".

The first lecture of the "Thyssen Lectures" series took place on Monday, 27 November 2017, in Thessaloniki, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and on Tuesday 28 November 2017 in Athens at the Goethe Institute. Professor Andreas Vosskuhle, President of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany and a member of the Advisory Scientific Council of the 'Fritz Thyssen Foundation' developed the topic "The Idea of the European Community of Values".

Professor Vosskuhle, after referring to the Eurozone crisis, the immigration flow and Brexit, he underlined that the European Union is primarily a community of values, an area of freedom, security and justice, which we should constantly elaborate on, as it has been recently stressed out, in particular with regard to refugee issues and terrorism.

At both events in Thessaloniki and Athens, the participation of academics, judges, lawyers and students was extensive and triggered a really interesting discussion.





Award of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Professor **Andreas Vosskuhle**


On the occasion of the very first lecture of the series "Thyssen Lectures", which was given by Professor Andreas Vosskuhle, the School of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki awarded him the title of Doctor Honoris Causa.

The ceremony was scheduled to take place at the Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center, however due to extraordinary weather conditions and the subsequent late arrival of Mr. Vosskuhle, it took place prior to the lecture of the Professor at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thessaloniki.

The ceremony opened with the addresses of the Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Periklis Mitkas, and of the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor George Dellios. Professor Konstantinos Gogos from the Law School gave the honors' speech and, referring to Professor Vosskuhle's academic course, he praised his contribution to the formulation of the jurisprudence of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, to which he was appointed Vice-President in May 2008 and President in March 2010.

The event was completed with the reading by Professor Dellios of the Decision of the Law School to award the title of Doctor Honoris Causa and the awarding of the Title to Professor Vosskuhle.





FROM
ERASMUS
TO
ERASMUS+
A STORY OF
30 YEARS



The European Commission has awarded to
Prof. Christina Deliyanni, Secretary of CIEEL,
the **Jean Monnet Chair**
for the Protection of Social Rights in the EU

By decision of the European Commission, the Jean Monnet Chair, entitled "EU Social Rights Protection and Comparative Legal Cultures", has been awarded to the Law School of AUTH for the three-year period 2017-2020. The Chair is operating from September 2017 under the direction of Professor Christina Deliyanni-Dimitrakou, Secretary of CIEEL.

This honorary distinction is awarded on the basis of excellence in teaching and aims at enhancing the knowledge about European unification and its various manifestations and implications. As part of the Jean Monnet projects, all proposals are assessed on the basis of academic value, following a rigorous evaluation process.

Jean Monnet Chair holders deepen teaching in EU studies in an official curriculum of a higher education institution, conduct research activities in the field of European integration and provide specialized guidance to future professionals on European and comparative law issues. They also participate in national and European awareness and publicity events, in cooperation with policy makers and civil society organizations, and create networks with other academics and research institutions supported by Jean Monnet actions.

Within this framework, the Jean Monnet Chair of the Law School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki will seek, over the three-year duration of the program (2017-2020), to promote comparative legal research and teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in the field of the protection of fundamental social rights in Europe.

Furthermore, the Chair will organize seminars for students from other Departments of the Aristotle University, young lawyers, judges and teaching staff, as well as conferences and educational meetings.





SEMINAR



CIVIL JUSTICE programme

Collaboration between CIEEL & ERA: 'Seminar about better Applying the EU Regulations on Family and Succession Law'

Under the Justice Programme 2014-2020, the Academy of European Law (ERA), located in Trier, Germany, together with 10 Judicial Training Bodies and Bar Associations from 11 Member States and with the support of the European Judicial Training Network and 4 associate partners, is implementing a project regarding the EU Regulations on Family and Succession law. The main objective is to develop training materials for the support of legal practitioners in order to actively apply several EU Regulations in the field of civil justice.

CIEEL, acting as an associate partner of the above research institutions under the coordination of ERA, undertook the obligation to implement part of the programme, following the submission of a relevant proposal which was positively evaluated by the European Commission.

In this framework, CIEEL organized at its premises (the auditorium 'Dimitrios Evrigenis') a two-day seminar which took place on the 15th and 16th of December 2017 and in which 23 lawyers and 10 judges from all over Greece participated.

During the first day topics about family





law were discussed. Professor Vassilios Christianos, Director of CIEEL, elaborated on the issues of cross-border divorce and maintenance (Brussels IIa and Maintenance Regulations) and, afterwards, Professor Christina Deliyanni-Dimitrakou, Secretary of CIEEL, analyzed the relevant provisions of Regulation Brussels IIa about parental responsibility in a cross-border context, including child abduction. The second day of the seminar concerned cross-border succession and Professor Evagelos Vasilakakis presented the main features of the Succession Regulation.

All lectures were followed by a workshop, where the participants were asked to work on a "case-study and to discuss on the answers provided by all of them.

Overall, the evaluation of the seminar was very positive and the participants considered the seminar to be relevant to all up-to-date developments.





Brexit

Draft Guidelines for the second phase of negotiations

On the 15th of December 2017, the European Council, in an EU 27 format, reviewed the latest developments in the Brexit negotiations. EU27 leaders agreed that in the first phase of the Brexit negotiations sufficient progress has been achieved. This progress was reflected in the 8th December 2017 Joint Report of the negotiators of the European Union and the United Kingdom Government concerning the first phase of negotiations about the United Kingdom's orderly withdrawal from the European Union under Article 50 TEU.

According to the Joint Report, both parties have in principle reached agreement on the following three areas, which were examined during the first phase of negotiations: a) the protection of the rights of EU citizens' in the UK and of the UK citizens' in the EU; b) the framework for addressing the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland and c) the financial settlement between UK and EU.

EU citizens, residing legally in the UK, and UK nationals, residing legally in the EU on the specified date of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, fall within the scope of the Withdrawal Agreement. As far as Northern Ireland is concerned both parties recognize the need for avoidance of a 'hard border', including any physical infrastructure or related checks and controls. Furthermore, both parties have agreed on a methodology for the financial settlement. This methodology consists of a list of components, a set of principles for calculating the value of the financial settlement and arrangements for the continued participation of the UK in the programmes of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) until their closure.

On this basis, EU27 leaders adopted the Draft Guidelines for the second phase of negotiations, where they will also discuss on the transitional arrangements as well as on the overall framework for the future relationship. The European Council agrees to negotiate a transition period covering the whole of the EU acquis. Such transitional arrangements, which will be part of the Withdrawal Agreement, should be clearly defined and precisely limited in time and in the best interest of EU. Moreover, the European Council reaffirmed its wish to establish a close partnership between the EU and the UK. UK has stated its intention to no longer participate in the Customs Union and the Single Market after the end of the transition period, so the European Council will adjust its approach as regards trade and economic cooperation in the light of this position.

Following these Guidelines adopted by the European Council on the 15th of December 2017, the European Commission has addressed on the 20th of December 2017 a Recommendation to the Council to begin discussions on the next phase of the orderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The draft negotiating directives set out additional details on possible transitional arrangements. The Commission recommends that the transitional period should not last beyond 31 December 2020.

In line with the European Council's Guidelines, the General Affairs Council shall approve these additional negotiating directives on transitional arrangements in January 2018.

