

AN INTRODUCTION TO LAW EUROPE

- 1 Law Europe EEIG is an international association of independent law firms specialising in business and commercial law. Its members comprise over 600 lawyers who provide readily accessible legal services worldwide. The close working relationship between member firms enables them to provide to each other immediate cost free responses to preliminary enquiries as to the law in the local jurisdiction; to facilitate client referrals to a law firm in the relevant jurisdiction on which the referring firm and the client can absolutely rely; and to exchange ‘know how’ and specialised information.

- 2 Law Europe’s current members, together with the cities in which they are based, are as follows:

Schmidtmayr Sorgo Wanke	Austria
Philippe & Partners	Belgium & Luxembourg
Campinho Advogados	Brazil
Plá Coelho Advocacia	Brazil
Dyulgerova & Penkova	Bulgaria
Eliades & Partners LLC	Cyprus
Czerwenka & Partner	Czech Republic
Dahl	Denmark
Amal Osman&Ehab Yosr Law Firm	Egypt
DMH Stallard	England
Pontus Lindberg & Co	Finland
Pallier Lemaitre Vigneron Bardoul	France
SCP Levy-Roche-Lebel & Associes	France
Walter Rechtsanwälte	Germany
Remé Rechtsanwälte	Germany
Studio Legal Bertora	Italy
Philippe & Partners	Luxembourg
Reidy Stafford	Republic of Ireland
Dragomir & Asociatii	Romania
Macdonalds	Scotland
Bonfill Advocats	Spain
Delphi	Sweden
Grendelmeier Jenny & Partners	Switzerland
Teekenskarstens Advocaten	The Netherlands
Ongoren Law Office	Turkey
Vogt & Resnick	California, USA

3 History of Law Europe

Law Europe was founded as a European Economic Interest Grouping in 1992, following a series of meetings between interested firms in the previous year.

The Statutes of Law Europe were drawn up to comply with the EU Directive on the composition of EEIGs.

Initially, the group comprised a dozen law firms within the EU, and it was the intention to restrict membership to a relatively small number for ease of management and to promote a close relationship between all members. Subsequently, however, it was resolved to admit member firms from outside the EU, and in particular to permit US law firms to apply for membership, and the number of members accordingly grew.

Currently Law Europe's policy is to accept new members both from within the EU, and elsewhere, and it is intended that the group should be allowed to expand to up to forty members.

Law Europe has recently negotiated a sponsorship agreement with the European Common Lawyers Association, (ECLA) a group comprising the national organisations of in house counsel in 19 European jurisdictions. Law Europe is working closely with ECLA in a number of ways, including the promotion of international conferences and national seminars, and the bringing together of Law Europe's members with in house counsel throughout Europe.

4 Recruitment

Prospective members of Law Europe make application in the first instance by completing the application form on the group's website(www.law-europe.com).

Thereafter, a prospective new member will be visited by the Secretary General of Law Europe or one of its managers, and a comprehensive due diligence exercise is undertaken. Thereafter, subject to the approval of existing members, the new member is admitted to membership. Law Europe is seeking new members in all those EU jurisdictions in which it is not represented, together with new members from other major economic areas.

5 Management

Law Europe is managed by a board of six managers, one of whom is appointed as Chairman by the members in general meeting. Managers are elected for a term of two years and are eligible for reelection for one further term of two years; in this way, the rotation of managers permits a wide cross section of individual lawyers to take part in the management of the group.

The day to day administration of Law Europe is in the hands of the Secretary General and of the Deputy Secretary General (who specialises in the recruitment of new members); both of these attend the meetings of the Board of Managers.

6 Conferences

The members of Law Europe meet at an annual conference, held in one of the cities in which the group is represented. The conference is planned by the host firm in conjunction with the managers and the Secretary General. Member firms are encouraged to send as many delegates as possible to widen the number of close personal relationships that have developed among individual lawyers over the years. Recent conferences have been held in Lisbon (2005) Glasgow (2006) Hamburg (2007) and Rio de Janeiro (2008). The 2009 conference will be held in Bucharest.

7 Practice Groups

To ensure the continuous awareness of legal developments relevant to cross border transactions, Law Europe operates a series of practice groups whose members exchange information as to important changes in local laws, provide documentation for use by other members and their clients, and meet to discuss developments in the particular areas of law concerned.

8 Exchange Programme

An extremely successful exchange programme has been established to enable lawyers, and particularly younger lawyers, to spend time in the offices of other members to familiarise themselves with the local jurisdiction.

9 Subscriptions

The annual subscription for each member firm is calculated by reference to the number of lawyers in the firm. Full details of the subscription structure will be supplied to prospective members on request.

For new members the subscription is reduced by 50% in the first year of membership and by 25% in the second year of membership. It is the intention to introduce a continuing discount of 25% for all member firms outside the EU with effect from January 1 2009.

QUALITY CONTROL

Quality Control is in the interest of all members of Law Europe and the future of Law Europe.

The essential elements of Law Europe's quality control are reliability and promptness of responses.

Quality Control is carried out by Law Europe on the basis of the following principles accepted and complied with by all members. The quality controllers are the Secretary General, the Chairman and the Managers of Law Europe.

The 'Ten Commandments' of Law Europe's Quality Control are as follows:

- 1 Reliability
- 2 Trustworthiness
- 3 Efficiency
- 4 Professionalism
- 5 Honesty
- 6 Clarity
- 7 Promptness
- 8 Reactiveness
- 9 Tolerance
- 10 Participation

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