



## Annual Conference of the European Forum of the Legal Professions

### The Media and the Legal Professions: Trust in the Judiciary Requires Trust in the Media

Enhancing Cooperation between Two Pillars of Democratic States

Brussels & Online, 1 December 2023 (9:30-17:30 CET)

#### Speakers

**Judit Bayer**, associate professor of media law and international law at the Budapest Business School / **Nicola Canestrini**, Italian defence lawyer, European and international criminal law / **Patrick Gielen**, judicial officer, secretary of the International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ) / **Maria Gkana**, judge of the Greek Council of State, former member of the Executive Board of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ) / **Wolfgang Lämmer**, Honorary President of the Europäische Union der Rechtspfleger (E.U.R.) / **Vasko Magleshov**, journalist at Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) / **Andrea Moravčíková**, Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Slovakia / **Reinhard Müller**, editor at the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung / **Jean-Philippe Rageade**, Director of the Academy of European Law (ERA) / **Sabine Matejka**, EAJ Vice-President / **Andrada Persu**, lawyer member of the Executive Board of EYBA / **Pierre-Dominique Schupp**, vice-president of CCBE / **Kees Sterk**, senior judge, professor of European Administration of Justice at the Maastricht University / **Viktor Vadász**, Director of Programmes of the Academy of European Law (ERA) / **Dirk Voorhoof**, professor emeritus at Ghent University / **Dorota Zabłudowska**, judge of the Gdańsk-Południe District Court

#### PARTNERS



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des Cours Supérieures de Justice  
de l'Union Européenne



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# Programme

## Friday, 1 December 2023

09:00 Registration of participants

09:30 Welcoming the participants  
**Jean-Philippe Rageade**

### Keynote speeches

09:35 The relationship between media reporting and public trust: Manipulation and fake news  
**Judit Bayer**

Journalistic ethics and the challenges journalists encounter when covering legal matters  
**Reinhard Müller**

10:25 Discussion

10:40 Coffee Break

### Roundtable discussion on the image of justice in media reports

Moderated by **Sabine Matejka**

11:00 **Interventions**

- The institutional communication strategies of the judiciaries
- The importance of accurate media reporting for both the lawyer and client
- The image of court staff and bailiffs within and outside the judiciary
- Professional journalists and influencers
- Responsible reporting versus click-bait journalism

Discussion

**Panellists**  
**Nicola Canestrini**  
**Maria Gkana**  
**Wolfgang Lämmer**

12:30 Lunch Break

### Interventions on responsible press reporting

Chaired by **Pierre-Dominique Schupp**, vice-president of CCBE

14:00 The influence of the media on certain court cases, and the transparency of the judiciary  
**Dirk Voorhoof**

How can media influence a fair trial  
**Andrea Moravčíková**

What do journalists need from legal professionals for responsible press reporting  
**Vasko Magleshov**

Discussion

15:10 Coffee Break

### Roundtable discussion on the common interests of journalists and legal professionals in a rule-of-law crisis

15:30 **Interventions**

- Rule-of-law backsliding, in particular, attacks against freedom of the press and independence of the judiciary
- How to raise the voice of the legal professionals in a rule-of-law crisis
- How bailiffs and court staff interact with the public
- Social media and how the new generation can shape a positive image of the legal professions?

Discussion

**Panellists**  
**Dorota Zabłudowska**  
**Patrick Gielen**  
**Andrada Persu**  
**Kees Sterk**

17:00 Closing words  
**Viktor Vadász**

For programme updates: [www.era.int/?132359&en](http://www.era.int/?132359&en)  
Programme may be subject to amendment

## ABOUT THE STAKEHOLDERS:

The **European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)** unites the national institutions in the Member States of the European Union which are independent of the executive and legislature, and which are responsible for the support of the Judiciaries in the independent delivery of justice.

The **Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)**, founded in 1960, is an international non-profit association which has been, since its creation, at the forefront of advancing the views of European lawyers and defending the legal principles upon which democracy and the rule of law are based.

The **European Association of Judges (EAJ)** is one of the four regional groups of the International Association of Judges. The IAJ was founded in Salzburg (Austria) in 1953. It is a professional, non-political, international organisation, bringing together national associations of judges, not individual judges, approved by the Central Council for admission to the Association.

The **Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)** is an organisation founded in the year 2000. Its membership comprises national associations, representing administrative judges from Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe and individual members, being administrative judges from those countries in which such associations do not exist.

**ACA-Europe** is a European association composed of the Court of Justice of the European Union as well as the Councils of State and the supreme administrative jurisdictions of each of the members of the European Union.

The **Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the Member States** was formed in 2004. It provides a forum through which European institutions are given an opportunity to request the opinions of Supreme Courts and to bring them closer by encouraging discussion and the exchange of ideas.

The **European Union of Judicial Officers (UEHJ)** is an international association created in 2016 in close coordination with the International Union of Judicial Officers. UEHJ aims to represent, promote and ensure the interests of the judicial officers within the (candidate) member states of the European Union. The association includes 22 member and 2 observer member countries.

The **European Union of Rechtspfleger (EUR)** is an association of 14 professional organisations from 13 states of the European Union. The objective is to improve the effectiveness and proximity of justice and to harmonise legal systems. For this purpose, the EUR has developed a model of a European profession, which is based on the professions of Rechtspfleger that were originally created in Germany and Austria.

## Main focus of discussion

- Public confidence in the image of justice and the legal professions
- What are best practices to improve the relationship between legal professionals and journalists?
- What roles do legal professionals and journalists have in public education? How to shape the attitude of the future generation?
- Responsible reporting from the courtroom
- The common destiny of journalists and legal professionals in a rule of law crisis
- What effect will digitalisation have on journalism?
- How can legal professionals interact with the public at institutional and individual levels and what are the limitations?
- How can the media shape the public appearance of the legal professions? How to attract people on legal topics?
- Is there an effective alternative way of communication to protect journalists and the legal professions from political pressure?

## ABOUT THE FORUM

The EU Forum of the Legal Professions is an initiative that aims to launch a structured dialogue among the representations of legal professions in Europe, where common challenges and concerns can be addressed and analysed, and a joint position can be formulated. This is an inter-professional platform of exchange, a collaborative and evolving project between the legal professions, where the Academy of European Law plays the role of a facilitator. We aim to organise an event every year, where the latest trends and most relevant issues of common interest can be discussed by the members of the Forum.



With the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union

# Speaker biographies



**Dr. Judit Bayer** (Hungarian) is an associate professor of media law and international law at the Budapest Business School, Hungary, a senior research fellow at the University of Münster, and a CAIS-fellow at the CAIS Research Institute in

Bochum. Her research interests are in human rights, freedom of expression, media freedom, and pluralism. She has a PhD in constitutional law (internet regulation) and a habilitation in constitutional law (data protection). She has authored several books and articles in the field of freedom of expression and the media, in particular on the liability of internet service providers, social media platforms, freedom of expression on the internet, public service broadcasting, and human rights. She has authored numerous articles and presented papers at international conferences. She has participated in impactful research projects, among others on media pluralism within the European Union in 2016, disinformation and propaganda and their impact on human rights and democracies in 2018, hate speech and hate crime in the European Union and its online content regulation approaches, and others related to freedom of expression that are in progress.



**Dr. Reinhard Müller** (German) is the managing political and legal editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. He studied law in Münster and Nijmegen. He has been a research associate at the chair for public law, European law, and international

law at the Technical University of Dresden. He has a doctorate on the two-plus-four treaty and the right of people to self-determination. After the second state examination in law, he joined the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in January 1998. Since 2008, he has been responsible for the newly created page „Staat und Recht“, whose main contributions were published in a book in 2011. Since July 2012, he has also been the responsible editor for „Zeitgeschehen“ („current affairs“) and since November 2017 for F.A.Z. Einspruch („Objection“), the newly launched digital product for lawyers and anyone interested in the world of law. He received the Press Award of the German Lawyers' Association in 2017 for his overall performance as a reporter and commentator on legal policy issues. In October 2020, his book „Schwarz Rot Gut“ was published.



**Sabine Matejka** (Austrian) is a judge and vice president of the European and International Association of Judges. She completed a degree in law, then worked at the Centre of Legal Competence (CLC) from 2000–2004, which supported the

further development of rule-of-law structures in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2004, she obtained a position at the court as a judicial trainee, and she became a judge in 2008. She has been involved in civil, housing, and tenancy cases at District Courts in Vienna, as well as being a family judge. Since June 2019, she has been the president of the Floridsdorf District Court. Since 2012, she has been active in the Austrian Association of Judges, of which she became Vice President in November 2013 and President in 2017 (until 2023). Since 2013, she has also been an Austrian delegate to the European and International Association of Judges and was elected Vice President in 2021.



**Nicola Canestrini** (Italian) is a criminal defence lawyer. His main fields of practice are Italian and European criminal law and Italian criminal defence. He has extensive in-court experience dealing with human rights defence and international criminal

cooperation cases (extradition, EAW, and EIO). He also has rights of audience in the higher Italian courts and is qualified to practice before the International Criminal Court. He is a contributing author to several law journals, including the leading Italian criminal law review, *Cassazione Penale*, with a focus on European and international criminal law. He is a member of the editorial board of *Giurisprudenza penale*, an online law journal dealing with Italian criminal law and procedure.



**Maria Gkana** (Greek) has been a supreme court judge in Greece since 2006. Before her judicial appointment, she worked as an attorney and was a member of the Bar Association of Athens (2002–2005). Now she is a judge at the Greek Council of

State. She holds an LL.M. degree in European Law from the Université de Paris II Panthéon-Assas and an LL.M. degree in Public Law from the University of Athens. She represents the Greek Supreme Judicial Council for Administrative Justice in the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary in the working group on Independence, Accountability, and Quality of the Judiciary.



**Wolfgang Lämmer** (Germany) is honorary president of the E.U.R. (European Union of Rechtspfleger).

He studied the special law of Rechtspflege at the Fachhochschule für Rechtspflege in Bad Münstereifel, Germany. After that, he worked as a Rechtspfleger on different special tasks in courts in North Rhine Westphalia. Since 2002, he has been President of the NRW section of the Bund Deutscher Rechtspfleger (BDR) and, from 2010 to 2016, President of the Federal Organisation of BDR. He spent the last 18 years of his professional career as Chairman of the Main Staff Council at the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia.



**Pierre-Dominique Schupp** (Swiss) is an attorney at law. Since 2021 he is the vice-president of CCBE, and from 2024 he will preside CCBE. He studied law at the Faculty of Law of Lausanne and earned a

PhD in 1987. He has been practicing law in Geneva and Lausanne for more than thirty years, mainly in the fields of civil liability, commercial law, and white-collar crime. He has presided over the Bar of the Canton of Vaud and served, from 2013 until 2015, as President of the Swiss Bar Association. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Swiss delegation to the CCBE.



**Vasko Magleshev** (Macedonian) has been an award-winning journalist, anchor, and TV host for more than 15 years. He began his career at a national TV broadcaster, Sitel, worked for a satellite channel, TV 24 News, and continued his career as

a news editor at TV21 and Makfax News Agency, covering judiciary topics. From 2020 on, he will work as an investigative journalist for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN). Magleshev is president of the Judicial Media Council, which is a unique advisory body between judges and journalists in North Macedonia. He is one of the authors of the Guidelines for Judges and Journalists for a Transparent Judiciary and a trainer for soft skills for judges and public prosecutors through the different programmes, including the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, OSCE, and the Helsinki Committee of the Netherlands.





**Dr. Dirk Voorhoof** (Belgian) holds a Master's Degree in Law (1979) and Communication Sciences (1980) and a PhD in Law (1990). He was a lawyer at the Brussels Bar (1990–1992), a member of the Federal Commission for Access to Administrative

Documents (1994–2005), a member of the Flemish Media Council (2005–2012), and a member of the Flemish Regulator for the Media (2006–2016). He regularly reports on developments regarding freedom of expression, media, and journalism in *Iris*, the legal newsletter of the European Audiovisual Observatory (Strasbourg), and he co-authors, together with T. Mc Gonagle (Sup. ed.), the e-book *Freedom of Expression, the Media, and Journalists*. He was lecturing media law as a professor at Ghent University and Copenhagen University and at Luxembourg University (since 2017) as a guest professor. He is a member of the Human Rights Centre at Ghent University.



**Dr. Andrea Moravčíková, PhD.** (Slovak) is the Vice President of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, has graduated from the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava, where she also obtained a Ph.D. in 2002. She completed several

fellowships at St. Anne's College, Oxford University in the United Kingdom, St. Louis University in the United States, and Göteborg University in Sweden. She was appointed a judge in 2008 and became the presiding judge of a panel at the Civil Law Division of the Regional Court in Trnava. In 2015, she joined the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic as a judge of the Commercial Law Division. She has published specialised journal papers and conference proceedings on commercial law, competition law, and commercial obligations. She is a co-author of commentaries on the Commercial Code and the Civil Code. She serves as a member of the editorial boards of professional legal journals such as *Judicial Practice and Private Law*.



**Andrada Persu** (Romanian) is a graduate of Babes-Bolyai University Law School and has a master's degree in International Business Law at the same university. She has been a lawyer and member of the Cluj Bar Association since 2014, founding the

Alt+Law law firm in 2019. Andrada has expertise in business law, with a focus on contract law, intellectual property rights, and data protection. Andrada is currently Secretary of the European Young Bar Association, as part of the Executive Committee. She is also involved as a mentor and speaker with startup accelerators and meetups, working together with the Cluj Startups community.



**Patrick Gielen** (Belgian) holds a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Liège. He has been a judicial officer in the Brussels judicial district since 2013 and has been working in partnership with the Modero office since 2017. He has been an

international adviser to the NKGB, an advisor to the President of the UIHJ, and an expert on international cases. Since 2021, he has been the secretary of the International Union of Court Officers. Patrick has written a number of articles about European regulations and regularly intervenes both in Belgium and abroad. He is also the chairman of the French-speaking nomination committee for the bailiff since 2018 and a member of the editorial board of the magazine „L'Huissier de Justice“.



**Dr. Kees Sterk** (Dutch) is a senior judge. He obtained his doctorate at Tilburg University in 1994 and regularly publishes on case-law-related topics. He is professor of administration of European justice at Maastricht University and former president of the

European Network of Councils for the Judiciary. His expertise includes the application of European law in the broad sense (including the ECHR) in Dutch case law as well as the institutional embedding of the core values of the judiciary in the Member States of the European Union. Until January 1, 2020, Sterk was vice chairman of the Council for the Judiciary. He has extensive experience as a judge in the Supreme Court, in the Court of Appeal of ,s-Hertogenbosch, and as a judge in the Court of Breda.



**Dorota Zabłudowska** (Polish) is a judge in District Court Gdańsk-Południe. She has been in the judicial service since 2002. Very active in the field of protecting judicial independence and citizens' rights. She received the Gdańsk Equality Award in 2019 for

her activities to preserve the citizens' right to an independent court. She is also involved in the legal education of students and adults. She participated in many „moot court“ and debate competitions, playing the role of a judge or a juror. She has been a member of the Board of the Polish Judges Association *Iustitia* since 2019, where she is responsible for international relations and participates in many international meetings and events. She is the vice president of the Gdańsk branch of *Iustitia* and the spokesperson for the branch.

# European Forum of the Legal Professions

Brussels & Online,  
1 December 2023



## Who should attend

Judges, prosecutors, court staff, private lawyers, EU officials, journalists

## Fee

Participation onsite: 125 EUR (incl. Catering)  
Participation online: 0 EUR

## Language

English

## Event Number

023D155

## Hybrid format

Online participants can take the floor or address written questions to the panel through a live chat in Zoom. The link will be provided after registration.

## Website

[www.era.int/?132359&en](http://www.era.int/?132359&en)

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### Participation onsite



### Participation online

