



Annual Conference of the  
European Forum of the Legal Professions

# Improving Justice through Innovation

## From Challenges and Needs to Best Practices

Brussels & Online, 8 November 2024  
(9:45-17:00 CET)



## Friday, 8 November 2024

09:45 Opening

10:00 **Keynote speech: What will justice look like in 10 years and how could the legal professions innovate together?**

**Francesco Depasquale**, President of CEPEJ

10:30 Discussion

### I. STATE OF PLAY, CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES

Moderated by

**Jean-Philippe Rageade**, Director of the Academy of European Law

10:45 **Organisational, legal and technical innovations from the perspective of Bars and Law Societies**

**Christian Lemke**, Chair of the CCBE Committee on the “Future of the Legal Profession and Legal Services”

11:15 Discussion

11:30 Coffee Break

12:00 **Organisational, legal and technical innovations in the judiciary**

**Justice Brian O’Moore**, Irish Council for the Judiciary

12:30 Discussion

12:45 **Organisational, legal and technical innovations in judicial enforcement**

**Marc Schmitz**, UEHJ President

13:15 Discussion

13:30 Lunch Break

### II. EXPECTATIONS

14:30 **Roundtable discussion: what kind of innovations do people expect from the legal professions**

Moderated by

**Simone Cuomo**, CCBE secretary-general

**Pauline McBride**, Member of the CCBE Committee on the Future of the Legal Profession and Legal Services

**Justice Brian O’Moore**, Irish Council for the Judiciary

**Sylvain Merenne**, AEAJ President

**Sabine Matejka**, EAJ Vice-president

15:15 Q&A

15:30 Short break

15:45 **Roundtable discussion: what are the pressing needs of the legal professions, and what are the dangers and limits of the innovations?**

Moderated by

**Patrick Gielen**, UIHJ secretary-general

**Alex Tallon**, CCBE Vice-President

**Edouard Rottier**, Judge-referee and Head of the Open Data Unit of the French Cour de cassation

**Wolfgang Lämmer**, E.U.R. President

**Chaido Evangeliou**, Maître des requêtes at the Greek Council of State

16:30 Q&A

### III. CLOSING REMARKS

16:45 Closing remarks

17:00 End of the Conference



Times indicated are CET  
(Central European Time)

## 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.

## CONTENT

There is a constant need for innovation and modernisation in the justice sector as a whole; however, legal professions and national judiciaries seem to find their own ways to achieve better, faster, and more cost-efficient results individually.

This conference aims to gather the best practices of innovation introduced by the various legal professions in order to provide better access to justice for everyone, the delivery of justice of high quality in a reasonable time and efficient manner, and the better use of limited resources across the European Union. Aside from the technical innovation, such as digitalising procedures, videoconferencing, and AI, there are many organisational and legal innovations suited to achieving this goal.

The conference aims to chart the current experience with innovation and deliberate on the future needs and limitations that require attention.



## 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.

[www.euflp.eu](http://www.euflp.eu)



## PARTNERS



AEAJ



European Network of Councils  
for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils  
de la Justice (RECJ)



NETWORK OF THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURTS  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
RÉSEAU DES PRÉSIDENTS  
DES COURS SUPRÊMES JUDICIAIRES  
DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE



UEHJ

### 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

024D66

### 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/?133184&en](http://www.era.int/?133184&en)

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# Speaker biographies



**Francesco DePasquale** is a judge at the Superior Court of Malta, and the President of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). He obtained his Diploma of Notary Public from the University of Malta in 1993 and in 1995 graduated as Doctor of Laws from the same University. In 1996 he was awarded a Masters in Maritime Law (with Distinction) by the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He was called to the Bar in 1996. When called to the Bar, he was Vice President of the Malta Maritime Law Association and between 1996 and 2002 he was actively involved in the Maltese Chamber of Advocates, holding the posts of Treasurer between 1997 and 1999, General Secretary between 1999 and 2007, and International Secretary between 2007 and 2009, also serving on the Committee for Advocates and Legal Procurators of the Commission for The Administration of Justice between 1999 and 2008. Prior to his appointment to the Bench of Magistrates, he acted as a litigation lawyer specialising in civil, commercial and family law, also acting as Chief Legal Advisor to the Registrar of Courts between 2006 and 2011. In August 2006 he was appointed Commissioner for Justice (Central Region), and on 28 April 2011 he was appointed Magistrate for the Islands of Malta and Gozo and assigned duties in the Court of Magistrates (Malta) as a Court of Criminal Judicature, in the Civil Courts (Inferior Jurisdiction), in the Rural Leases Control Board, in the Rent Regulation Board and in the Land Arbitration Board. In 2019 he was appointed Judge for the Superior Courts of Malta and Gozo and assigned duties in the Civil Court (Constitutional Jurisdiction) and Civil Court. In 2012 he was elected to the Committee of the Association of the Judiciary of Malta and was its General Secretary till 2020, and in 2022 he was elected President. In 2007 the government appointed him Malta's representative on CEPEJ and in 2010 he became a member of the Steering Group of SATURN (Centre for Judicial Time Management), a post he retains to date. In 2018 he was elected as Bureau Member of the CEPEJ. In December 2022 he was elected as President of the CEPEJ for the following two years.



**Jean-Philippe Rageade** has been the Director of ERA since January 2021. He studied French and German Law at the University Paris-X Nanterre, completing his LL.M. at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster, and a D.E.A. in Business Law at the University Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne. Following various traineeships in law firms and large companies, he was a lecturer in Economic Criminal Law at the University of Paris-IX Dauphine and in French Law at the University of Bielefeld. He was an academic assistant at the Institute for International and Comparative Law of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, following which he was a lawyer at the law firm Arendt & Medernach in Luxembourg. He was Deputy Director and Director of Programmes of ERA from October 2005 to December 2020.



**Dr Christian Lemke** has been an attorney since 1993 and a partner at the law firm Heissner & Struck in Hamburg/Germany since 1996. He is both a Bar Certified Specialist Lawyer in Industrial Property Law and a Bar Certified Specialist Lawyer in Information Technology Law. He practices in industrial property law, data protection law, IT law, copyright law and competition law. In 1993, he completed his doctorate under supervision of Prof Dr h.c. Ernst-Joachim Mestmäcker, Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg. He is the President of the Hamburg Bar ("Hanseatische Rechtsanwaltskammer Hamburg") and 1st Vice President of the German Federal Bar ("Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer"). He is also Chair of the "Future of the Legal Profession and Legal Services" Committee of the Council of Bars and Law Societies (CCBE, Brussels).



**Brian O'Moore** is a judge of the Court of Appeal of Ireland. He was initially appointed to the High Court in 2019. He served as a member of the Commercial Court until 2022, when he was appointed head of the Chancery Division of the High Court. Justice O'Moore was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 2023. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a barrister specialising in commercial law. He is a member of the Executive Board of the ENCJ, a former member of the Executive of the Association of Judges of Ireland, and a Bencher of King's Inns..



**Marc Schmitz** was born in Belgium. He graduated from "Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)" in 1991 and passed his professional exam as a Judicial Officer in 1995, with distinction. On 04/08/1996 he was appointed Judicial Officer by Royal Decree in his hometown, Sankt Vith, located in the German-speaking part of Belgium. He has since then become the owner and manager of the bailiff firm "RECOLEX". Since 1997 he has been repeatedly elected as the official representative of the Belgian National Chamber of Judicial Officers at the "Union Internationale des Huissiers de Justice (UIHJ)", with headquarters in Paris. He has been a lecturer at numerous conferences on civil enforcement for more than 25 years and has participated as an expert in different international projects funded by the EU and the Council of Europe. In 2012 he became a member of the UIHJ board. In 2015 he was elected First-Vice President of the UIHJ and in 2018 he acceded to the position of President and he was re-elected in 2021 and 2024. He is co-founder and President of the "Union Européenne des Huissiers de Justice (UEHJ)", with its headquarters in Brussels. Marc Schmitz speaks fluent German, French, English, Dutch and Luxembourgish.



**Simone Cuomo**. Since August 2020, Simone Cuomo has been the Secretary General of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) which is the voice of the European legal profession representing, through its members, more than 1 million European lawyers. He joined the CCBE in 2010 as a Senior Legal Advisor managing a range of CCBE committees in the areas of data protection as well as cross-border judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters. Besides policy advocacy towards the EU institutions, he also managed the CCBE's activities with the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice of the (CEPEJ) where he contributed to various papers and working groups. For many years he has been closely involved in EU policy developments as regards the digitalisation of justice, with a main focus on translating lawyers' needs in electronic judicial proceedings, as well as procedural safeguards and the impact of novel technologies on the legal profession. Before joining the CCBE in 2010, Simone Cuomo worked for more than six years in the field of EU legal affairs for both private and public entities.



**Dr Pauline McBride** is a Scottish solicitor, formerly a partner at BTO solicitors, and a researcher affiliated with the Law, Science, Technology and Society Research Group of Vrije Universiteit, Brussels. She was a lecturer and joint Programme Coordinator for the innovative Law and Technology Masters course at Queen's University Belfast. Her research explores the impact of the use of AI-enabled technologies in the domains of law and law enforcement. Pauline is one of the lead authors of the Typology of Legal Technologies, an online resource which explores the implications of legal technologies. She has co-authored several papers on the implications of data-driven legal technologies including "Legal judgment prediction: If you are going to do it, do it right." Pauline is a member of the Technology Committee of the Law Society of Scotland and an expert on the Future Committee of the Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe.



**Sylvain Mérenne.** After two years as a judicial assistant at the French Conseil d'Etat, Sylvain Mérenne became an administrative judge in 2009 and has worked at the Administrative Court of Appeals of Marseille since 2018. He seconded at the French Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forest in 2016. Sylvain has occupied various positions at the AEAJ and has been its president since 2023. He teaches Civil Liberties at Sciences Po Paris.



**Sabine Matejka** is a judge and the 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.



**Patrick Gielen** 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 speaks both in Belgium and abroad. He has also been the chairman of the French-speaking nomination committee for bailiffs since 2018 and a member of the editorial board of the magazine „L'Huissier de Justice“.



**Alex Tallon**, CCBE Third Vice-President, has been a distinguished member of Brussels Bar since 1981, and is a founding partner of the law firms Praetica and Miles Legal. His practice focuses primarily on commercial law, particularly in regard to the protection of intellectual property rights and market practices, to which he has contributed significantly through a series of publications. Moreover, in his commitment to ethical business practices, Alex Tallon has had a pioneering role in civil and commercial mediation, having been among the first lawyers in Belgium to undertake the training in 1998. His dedication to improving the standards of the legal profession is further showcased by his three-year directorship in charge of deontology at OVB (Association of the Dutch-speaking Belgian Bars), during which he strived to adapt the regulations in order to bring the legal profession in line with the needs of modern society and the possibilities offered by new technologies. Moreover, Alex Tallon has assumed several key leadership roles, serving as the President of the Brussels Bar (NOAB) and subsequently as the Head of the Belgian delegation to the CCBE for two years. Within the CCBE, he has also previously been an invaluable, active member for six years, especially in the Future Committee and in various additional CCBE working groups.



**Edouard Rottier** is a judge referee at the French Court of Cassation. He is currently Deputy-Head of the Documentation, Studies and Report Department of the Court of Cassation, and Director of the Open Data of Court Decisions project. Notably, he works on innovation and artificial intelligence in the field of justice. He has formerly worked as a Seconded National Expert at the Data Protection Unit of the European Commission.



**Wolfgang Lämmer** is the honorary president of the E.U.R. (European Union of Rechtspfleger (court staff)). 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 he was the President of the Federal Organisation of the BDR. He the the last 18 years of his professional career as Chairman of the Main Staff Council at the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia.



**Chaido Evangeliou** holds degrees in Philosophy (1993) and Law (1996) from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Her postgraduate degree is from the Public Law Department of the University of Athens (1998). She was appointed to the Greek Council of State in 2003, as a graduate of the National School of Judges, and was promoted to the rank of Associate Counsel in 2013. As an Associate Counsel she serves in the 4th Division of the Court, which is competent for cases of sanctions of independent authorities, recognition of professional rights, European Union financial aid, control of the pre-contractual stage of public tenders, financial and banking law, foreign and international protection law, energy law, etc. From 2019 she has been teaching at the National School of Judges in the field of immigration and international protection law. From December 2021 to December 2023 she served as the National Contact Point for the Rule of Law Mechanism of the European Commission.