

The Chairman's Word

Dear members of the ELA,

The annual meeting (in Prague, May 1-4 2008) is soon coming up and I hope that many of you will attend and take part of the wonderful programme organised by our good friend David Rehak. If you have not yet registered but wish to do so, I recommend that you immediately contact David (david.reha@rehkalegal.cz) to get the details on how to move ahead.

Since the annual meeting in Paris in 2007, the Board has been quite active to find a solution for both London and Edinburgh with respect to running a course similar to EYLS as we knew it.

It seems that these efforts have now been fruitful, at least for Edinburgh. It is very likely that we will get funding from the Scottish Office and that the funding will be sufficient to run a scheme with 10 lawyers in the near future (hopefully in 2009). We still need to get the formal approval of the Civil Justice budget, of which funding for Eurodevils forms a very small part, but we have been told that this approval is likely to be a formality. This is certainly good news, and I would like to thank Charles Mulling for his splendid work so far.

It is likely that the ELA will be in touch with the British Council in Edinburgh in the not too distant future to seek such

informal assistance as they can provide. Furthermore, we will need to get parties round a table. These must include Edinburgh University (as they will provide the tuition), the Law Society and the British Council (an official in one of these organisations will be needed for the administration of the proposed scheme). The Faculty of Advocates will also be needed, as they as well as the Law Society will have to do their part in arranging individual placements with practitioners.

In other words, there is still a lot to be taken care of, but we are on the right track!

As for London, we still haven't been able to get the necessary funding, but we are still optimistic, and it might be that Edinburgh can be the example to follow in London. We will have to see.

The board has also made a proposal for new statutes – please see the separate article on this in the newsletter. This should get ELA up to date with the new developments, now that EYLS has been closed down by the British Council. I hope that you support the proposal; if you have any ideas/suggestions, you are more than welcome to contact me or any other board member.

Hope to see many of you at both the board meeting and the annual meeting in Prague!!

Best regards,

Peter Bisgaard
Chairman



Inside

Chairman's Word	1
The new EYLS	2
New articles of the ELA	3

The new 'EYLS' for 2008 – the International Lawyers Programme in London!

Following the success of the International Lawyers Programme for 2007 for which the ELA recruited a number of European lawyers, The College of Law in conjunction with the Law Society of England and Wales is running a newly designed programme in July 2008 at its premises in the City of London.

One of the key benefits of the old EYLS programme was the exemptions awarded to those scholars who had successfully completed the scheme from certain subjects of the QLTT. It meant you were only 2 examinations away from completing your full QLTT. For 2008, we are not only giving participants access to the complete QLTT, but in addition, the programme now gives all those participating part credit towards an LL.M in Professional Legal Practice.

Our decision to incorporate part of an LL.M was based on the provision of a more rounded, professional, practice-based programme that would be open to all lawyers from all jurisdictions. Uniquely client-focused, the programme reflects cutting-edge approaches to professional legal practice, and incorporates three corporate subject areas with a further choice of modules in specialist areas of the law that can be studied to complete the full LL.M. In addition, we still offer within the 6-month programme, a practical attachment within a London law firm or in-house. A great way to put what you've learned into practice!

Philippe Jadoul wrote in a previous article in the ELA Newsletter that funding was proving to be an issue in the continuation of the programme, especially for the London programme. It continues to be so, but I know efforts are being made to secure funds for the 2009 scheme so as to allow a large cohort recruited by the ELA to attend.

We are delighted though that for the 2008 scheme we already have a number of lawyers enrolled from jurisdictions as wide ranging as Bulgaria, Switzerland and the USA. The Law Society is also recruiting from the Korean Bar as I write so we're looking at a healthy representation for 2008.

What is imperative to the success of the future of the 'EYLS' is maintaining the continuity of the programme; so we therefore need to recruit a few participants for 2008 through the recommendations of its alumni members at the ELA! Please encourage any colleagues in your firms or friends who have expressed an interest in widening their career paths to consider the programme. Promoting to your local bar associations and law societies could also form part of the continued search for funding. Do feel free to contact me on Robert.Dudley@lawcol.co.uk as I would be delighted to discuss it with anyone in more detail if they want further information.

In the meantime, please do look at our website www.college-of-law.co.uk where you can download a flyer for the International Lawyers Programme 2008. This will outline the fees and provide fuller information on the application process.

Robert Dudley
The College of Law, London

Draft new articles of association of the ELA

Dear ELA Member,

One of the points on the agenda of this year's annual meeting will be the deliberation and the adoption of the new draft articles of association. The reasons for the proposed amendments to the articles of association can be summarised as follows:

(i) Firstly, as you may know, the ELA is an international non-profit association incorporated under Belgian law. The relevant Belgian law on international non-profit associations was amended on 1 July 2003 and our current articles are no longer in compliance with the amended law. We therefore need to amend the articles to bring these in line with the new law (these changes are of a formalistic nature). We are also furthermore making use of this opportunity to 'clean up' the articles by, inter alia, deleting/amending/clarifying certain obsolete or unclear references in the current articles.

(ii) Secondly, we are also proposing to make certain more substantial changes to the articles to bring them in line with the current situation, these include:

-amending the 'objectives and activities' clause to adapt it to the new situation, i.e. that the British Council is no longer organising and funding the course;

-amending the membership clause allowing also non-European students to become a member - again this follows from the fact that any new course organised/supported by the ELA (replacing the old British Council run/paid EYLS course) may have non-European participants as this will be necessary from a cost point of view (the new course may otherwise prove too expensive to run if it is limited to European participants only);

-the board may accept and approve 'facultative members' (we refer to clause 5.1 of the draft articles for details); and

-inserted a new clause on the role and responsibilities of meeting secretaries who take on the responsibility for organising the annual meeting in their respective country;

etc.

The proposed amendments and adoption of the new articles will be deliberated and resolved upon at the annual meeting on Saturday 3 May.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members should you have any queries on this.

Kind regards,

On behalf of the Board,

Hanif Mohamed
Board Member