



European
Network
of
Lay
Judges

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Welcome

European Day of Lay Judges

You have all now received the final timetable for the meeting Brussels. Congratulations to the EAB and German Association for organising and planning this event.



We note there is a session to be led by Hasso Lieber to discuss how we go forward after Brussels.

Network of Lay Judges

As you know we agreed in London on a European organisation and you elected Jouni and me as Secretary and Chairman to work with delegates nominated by country associations. Although only the German association nominated a delegate we were able to have a full discussion with the Charter panel when we met in Berlin in September. We discussed the structure of the organisation and when Jouni and I wrote the proposed Statutes we took full account of the discussion and ideas from the representatives who were in Berlin.

In early Feb this year we sent you the proposed statutes, explanatory document, newsletter, details form and comments. We received very few comments on the statutes and only five details forms (France, Bulgaria, Baden-Württemberg, England Wales and Finland). We were therefore pleased that so many of you appeared to support the Statutes and there was very little comment on them.

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Details Form

We received only five details forms (France, Bulgaria, Baden-Württemberg, England & Wales and Finland). We would still be grateful; if you could let us have details of your association and the lead contact.

Future

In relation to the ENLJ the German Association raised the issue of costs and that is one that is very relevant to everyone as most associations do not have enough money to finance such a large organisation.

It would therefore be necessary to seek funding from the European Commission to support the activities of the ENLJ. We have taken advice from:

- a member of the Magistrates' Association of England and Wales who has considerable experience working at the European Commission;
- the Secretary of the ENCJ. This organisation, on which I gave information in the last Newsletter, began as an organisation like ours and now has significant funding for its activities.

They both said that it is important to have the organisation in place and operating before seeking funding. We need to start working and show how we are supporting other organisations for lay and voluntary judges in Europe.

Jouni and I are committed to the ENLJ and getting working effectively as soon as possible. I have already spent over 100 euros on telephone calls and other activities which I cannot claim back. Jouni and I were asked by the EAB to provide a programme for the session on the future. We would propose the following steps are taken:

- We accept in principle the Statutes to be finalised within the next six months;
- Full elections to be held within the next six months for the President, Secretary and Executive Committees;
- Country organisations finalise their lead contacts;
- Country organisations identify and nominate their representatives to the Executive committee;
- We begin the process of writing an application for funding to be submitted to the European Commission:
 - o This activity to be supported by those who have experience including the EAB and other similar organisations as well as the MA's experienced delegate;
- The assembled delegates discuss activities which the ENLJ should undertake;
- The assembled delegates discuss what should be included on a website;
- We operate the ENLJ as a virtual organisation for now with the Chairman and Secretary and the elected representatives;

Jouni will be in Brussels to discuss these issues further with you and make a note of the nominated representatives and the ideas for the association's activities, website and contents of the written submission.



European Network
for
Councils of Judiciary
ENCJ

As I told you in the previous email I am a member of the ENCJ as one of the four judicial representatives for England and Wales and this year a member of the project group examining *Reform in the Judiciary*. During the discussion at that working group I proposed that wider use of lay judges could be a beneficial way of improving quality justice and brief reference has been included in the document.

The General Assembly of the ENCJ is being held in Dublin on Wed, Thurs Fri this week. The programme for the Friday morning includes presentations these four important representatives in person.

Paraskevi Michou, Director Directorate A, Civil Justice DG Justice, EC
Robert Bray, Head of Unit, Committee on Legal Affairs, European Parliament
Rosa Jansen, Chairperson Steering, European Judicial Training Network
Muriel Décot, Representative of the Consultative Council of European Judges and the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice

I am sure you would want me to be present to give these important persons copies of our Charter and tell them about the ENLJ to seek their support. I am sure therefore you will accept my apologies for not being with you in Brussels. I look forward to working with and for you in progressing the ENLJ.