

# NEWSLETTER



Association Européenne des Avocats  
European Association of Lawyers

Winter 2021



## Foreword of President

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

In a few days many of us will celebrate Christmas and New Year. Twelve months ago, I addressed my foreword to all of you hoping for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and coming back to the life we knew from previous years. But despite mass vaccination we are facing a new wave of Covid-19 infections, many countries introducing lockdowns again. It seems this is our 'new reality' we must get used to.

This year our Association suffered with a loss of its prominent members – past presidents and founding fathers Jean Pierre van Cutsem and Kurt Well, active in the life of our organization till the last moment. It is very difficult to accept it, but life must go on.

The AEA-EAL was performing several activities in the passing year. We organised or co-organized online seminars and conferences with our flagship initiative – Third Twinning of Lawyers. The report from this excellent event you will find further in this Newsletter. We marked the 35th Anniversary of our Association. The AEA-EAL network is constantly growing with new members joining us. New events and initiatives are programmed for the coming year – stay tuned for updates. Please read this Newsletter to learn more about our activities and let us know any of your ideas which could be realized together.

I wish you Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank all of our members and friends for your engagement, devotion and passion shown with the AEA-EAL activities undertaken together within the whole year. I wish you health, peace, and prosperity for the coming 2022 year.

## Successful Third Twinning of Lawyers



We wish to express our gratitude for your engagement and wide participation in the third Twinning of Lawyers held on October 16, 2021. Together we organised and conducted an exceptional event with top speakers and participants from so many countries – an achievement to remember. But above all we are delighted to gather lawyers from Western and Central Europe, Caucasus and other Eastern Partnership Countries as well as from regions such as Central Asia and Pacific. Twinning of Lawyers is an excellent tool not only to share knowledge and experience related directly to the legal profession, but also to share common values and goals. This year event was devoted to such an important topic as further development of the Alternative Disputes Resolution as a tool increasing access to justice. We do hope to organise the 4th Twinning of Lawyers in a traditional form of a meeting in person in 2022 and welcome all of you to join us!

We invite you to download the conference report [here](#).



## Presidents Roundtable

on the occasion of the AEA-EAL 35th Anniversary  
16 October 2021

The roundtable of Past Presidents of the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL) chaired by **Juan Núñez Ferrer** from Spain was organized as a part of the Twinning of Lawyers and marked the 35th Anniversary of the Association. The discussion focused on the Eastern Dimension of the AEA-EAL. Past Presidents: **Gian-Andrea Chiavegatti** (Italy), **Konrad Meingast** (Austria), **Clemens van Nispen** (The Netherlands), **Anthony Slingsby** (UK) and **Monique Stengel** (France) were talking on first contacts with Eastern lawyers and Bars after the fall of the iron curtain, described developments of actions conducted together with the Bar Associations from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, and were speaking on further steps towards colleagues from the Eastern Partnership countries and Central Asia initiated by the current President **Maria Słazak**, which resulted with initiative of the Twinning of Lawyers. The gathered Presidents also commemorated **Jean-Pierre van Cutsem** – the founding father of the AEA-EAL, its Past President and long-lasting member of the Board of Directors, who actively participated in the Association's works till his last days in May of this year.

## Members



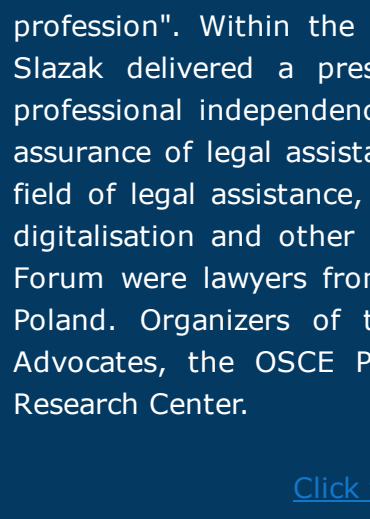
New

## Members Directory

New, user-friendly Members Directory will be available in our extranet from January 2, 2022. AEA-EAL members have received a letter explaining the aim and structure of the directory as well as request to check correctness of the provided data. Moreover, each member may provide extended information on his/her professional activity to boost mutual networking. Please send us back your feedback till 28 December to secure your published data are up to date.

## New members

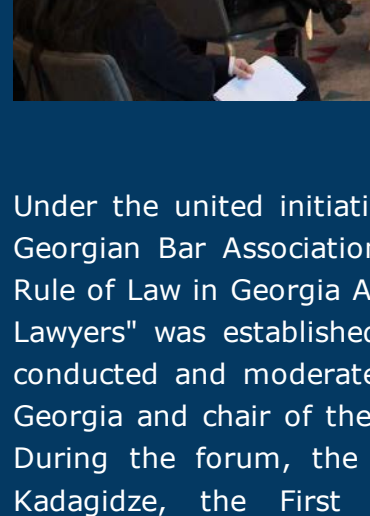
Below information were provided by our newly joining Colleagues



**Fredrik Winroth**  
Advokat  
Managing Partner

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**Fylgia Law** is a top-ranked Swedish business law firm and a multiple recipient of the award Swedish Law Firm of the Year. The firm was founded in 1986 with an initial focus on insolvency and real estate law. Today we are approx. 70 employees and offer legal advice within most areas of business law. Our goal is provide best in class services to every client in every case. We regularly act on the most complex cases in the Swedish market and several of our lawyers have successfully represented clients in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court over the last two years. Our lawyers have also published books and publications within their different disciplines. Our promise is to provide senior legal advice to every client and every case. The promise expresses our level of commitment and ambition to our client's business. The fact that we regularly receive the award Swedish Law Firm of the Year and are ranked by Chambers and Legal500 shows that we keep our promises.



**Dr. Bátki Pál**  
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I offer criminal law services for clients speaking English or French. My office is situated in the center of Budapest, the capital of Hungary. I am proud that I often help and solve problems for citizens and companies in Europe or overseas. My legal practice covers the main areas of criminal law and international criminal law. I have expertise in drug abuse violations, money laundering, white collar crimes, forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, financial crimes and tax fraud offenses, driving and traffic crimes. My earlier practice in the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement allows me to handle international and especially international criminal law issues at a high professional level. I often cooperate with foreign colleagues in extradition or european arrest warrant cases from or to Hungary. I am referred by the two main English speaking embassies in Hungary (US Embassy Budapest British Embassy Budapest) as a defense counsel, lawyer providing services for US citizens. You can read many of my articles, posts in English in my English introduction on my webpage.

## New AEA-EAL Deontology Committee

invites you to join!



**Dr. Nielson Sánchez - Stewart**  
Chair

AEA-EAL Deontology Committee

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors established Deontology Committee chaired by Dr. Nielson Sánchez Stewart, member of the Board of Directors from Spain. Due to the diversity of the AEA-EAL, which has members in so many various countries, legal traditions and systems, the Committee will focus on gathering information from our members and discuss the problematic issues. We will learn from each other to understand ethical differences and how to deal with them in cross-border practice.

**We invite our members to join the committee.** Please send your candidatures to [office@aea-eal.eu](mailto:office@aea-eal.eu) till **15 January 2022**.

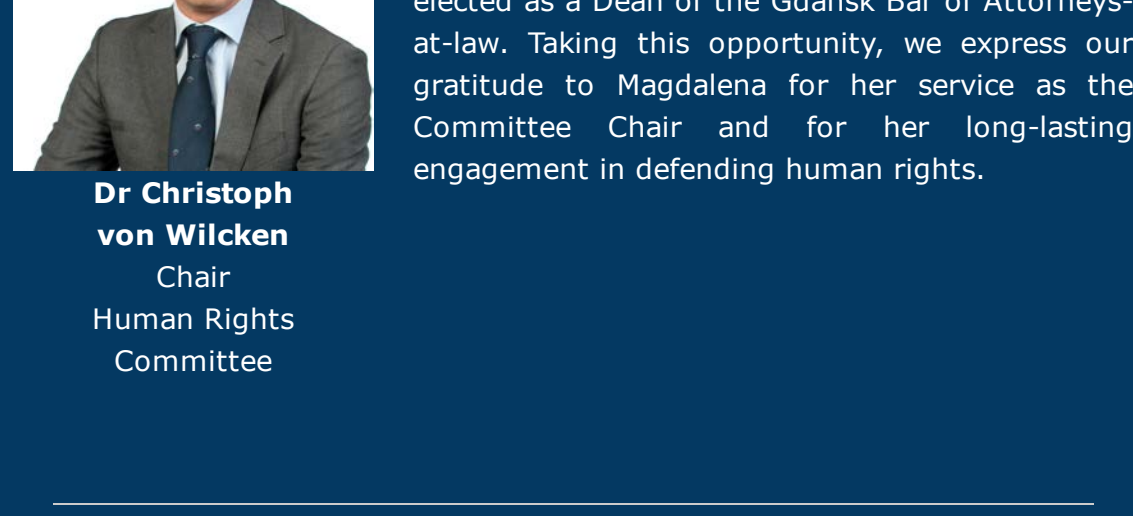
## Commemoration of Jean-Pierre van Cutsem



It was touchy and memorable day of 3 September 2021, when the Family, Friends, Colleagues, representatives of the Bar Associations, organizations of lawyers and academics gathered together in the Abbaye de la Cambre in Brussels to commemorate **Jean-Pierre van Cutsem**. Jean-Pierre was a Founding Father of the AEA-EAL, its former President, active Member of the Board of Directors and for more than three decades the main pillar and spiritus movens of our Association. He was a wonderful Colleague and Friend, for so many a Mentor and Guide. On behalf of the AEA-EAL a farewell was delivered by Monique Stengel, Immediate Past President. The Association was represented also by Past President Professor Philipp Zurkinder, Treasurer Sabine Perquy-Förke and Board Member Olivier d'Ursele.

## Events

### Invitation from the Council of Europe webinar on Electronic Evidence 22 December 2021



**Online Meeting and Lecture**  
"e-" Changes Everything: A Concise Introduction into Electronic Evidence  
Онлайн-встреча и лекция  
"е-" меняет всё. Краткое введение в электронные доказательства"

On 22 December at 13.00 (CET), we would like to invite you for a pre-festive online meeting within the framework of the project "Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards". At the meeting, **Mr. Stephen Mason**, barrister (UK) will deliver the keynote lecture: **"e-" Changes Everything: A Concise Introduction into Electronic Evidence"**. The event is open to all interested professionals. The meeting will be held in English with simultaneous translation into Russian. Click [here](#) to download the program

Click [here](#) to register

*This event is organised in the framework of the project "Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards", funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe in their Partnership for Good Governance II.*

## Past events



On the occasion of the European Lawyers Day celebrated on 25 October 2021, AEA-EAL President **Maria Słazak** participated in an online roundtable entitled "A binding legal instrument on the legal profession: A necessity for the proper administration of justice and the respect of the rule of law", the aim of the roundtable was to bring together representatives of the Council of Europe, lawyers and representatives of lawyers' organisations to discuss the need for a European Convention on the legal profession. This event gathered 120 participants. Among participants were CCBE President, Margarete von Galen, Director of the Council of Europe Human Rights Directorate, Christophe Poirel, Christopher Henrichs, Vice-Chair of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CECJ), Frédéric Krenig, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Diego García-Sayán, the UN Special Representative on the independence of judges and lawyers and Senator and Russian Federation representative at the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Aleksandr Bashkin.

## 6th International Forum of Lawyers Nur Sultan, 19 November 2021.



The VI KAZAKHSTAN FORUM OF LAWYERS was held on November 19, 2021. The event was devoted to the topic "Strategy for the development of the legal profession". Within the framework of the Forum, AEA-EAL President **Maria Słazak** delivered a presentation on modern threats to institutional and professional independence. Other speakers raised such topics as the quality assurance of legal assistance in new conditions and effective solutions in the field of digitalisation and other challenges of the next decade. The speakers of the Forum were lawyers from Kazakhstan, Russia, Georgia, Spain, Belgium and Poland. Organizers of the conference were the Republican Collegium of Advocates, the OSCE Program Office in Nur-Sultan and the Legal Policy Research Center.

[Click to view the recording of the event](#)

## 1st Annual International Mediation Forum for Lawyers Tbilisi, 22 November 2021



Under the united initiative of the Mediators Association of Georgia and the Georgian Bar Association, with the support of USAID-PROLoG - Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia Activity, the annual international forum "Mediation for Lawyers" was established. International Forum "Mediation for Lawyers" was conducted and moderated by the chairman of the Mediators Association of Georgia and chair of the AEA-EAL Mediation Committee – Irakli Kandashvili. During the forum, the President of the Supreme Court of Georgia Nino Kadagidze, the First Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia Tamar Tkeshelashvili, the Director of the USAID Mission Peter A. Wieber, the President of the European Bar Association **Maria Słazak** and the chairman of the Georgian Bar Association **David Asatiani**, have addressed the audience.

## Human rights



### Interview with Anuar Tugel



**Anuar Tugel**  
Director of the Human Rights Institute  
Al-Farabi State University, Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, we have an honour to present you the interview with lawyer **Anuar Tugel**, Director of the Human Rights Institute of the Al-Farabi University in Nur-Sultan City, Kazakhstan. Anuar is a prominent lawyer, previously served as the Chairman of the Republican Collegium of Advocates of Kazakhstan (RKA). In 2018, together with AEA-EAL President **Maria Słazak**, he was the co-chair of the international conference "Advocates 2018. Improving the Quality of Legal Services" organised by the AEA-EAL and RKA in Almaty.

Every year on 10 December, the world celebrates Human Rights Day, the very day when, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration consists of a preamble and 30 articles that set out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all of us, everywhere around the world, are entitled. It guarantees our rights without distinction of nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other status.

**You are the Director of the Human Rights Institute of the Al-Farabi State University in Kazakhstan. Please tell us when and why the Institute was established? What are main goals of its activity?**

The Institute was established on the basis of the decision of the Academic Council of the University in 2020 to raise a new generation of human rights defenders and improve the qualifications among legal professionals. Until that time there was no education in the sphere of human rights in Kazakhstan. Our end goal is to contribute to the creation of a society with a human rights culture, where everyone interacts in a paradigm, clearly understanding their rights and responsibilities, as it is supposed to be in the civilized world, where human rights are as much a part of people's lives as are language, traditions, art and the love to homeland.

[Read the full interview here](#)

## Statement in defence of Egyptian Lawyer Mohamed el-Baqer



We, the undersigned members of the global legal community, stand in solidarity with Egyptian lawyer **Mohamed el-Baqer** as he awaits his verdict on baseless criminal charges on December 20, 2021, following years of reprisal by the Egyptian state. We call on the Egyptian authorities to drop all charges against el-Baqer, to promptly release him unconditionally, and to lift the restrictive measures imposed on him for his work as an attorney. We further call on the Egyptian authorities to halt the targeting of Egyptian lawyers for their legal defense work and exercise of fundamental freedoms.

[Read more here](#)

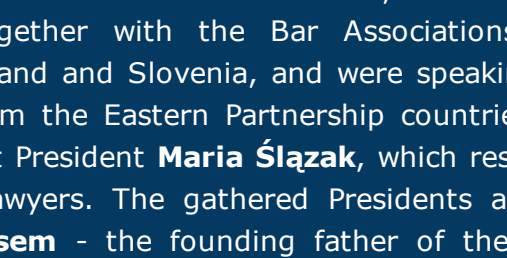
## New Chair of the Human Rights Committee



**Dr. Christoph von Wilcken**  
Chair

Human Rights Committee

**Dr. Christoph von Wilcken**, AEA-EAL Vice-President was appointed as a new Chair of the AEA-EAL Human Rights Committee. Christoph replaced **Magdalena Włowska**, who has been elected as a Dean of the Gońsk Bar of Attorneys-at-law. Taking a this opportunity, we express our gratitude to Magdalena for her service as the Committee Chair and for her long-lasting engagement in defending human rights.



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Chief Editor: Rafal Ciesielski

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