



Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ)

Information provided by the AECLJ

July, 2014

A. General information

Name of network	Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ)
Date of constitution	2002
Legal Statute	Company limited by guarantee incorporated under the law of England & Wales
Legal Seat	Bloomsbury Place, London, WC1A 2EB, United Kingdom
Website	http://www.aeclj.com/

B. Goals of the network

The Association's objects are:

- to act as an Association of judges and other persons exercising jurisdiction who are concerned with or interested in the competition law of the European Union or its Member States;
- to provide a forum for the exchange of information and views in relation to competition law in the judicial context;
- to act as a resource of information relating to judicial decisions and applicable rules, whether national or international, in the field of competition law, and to operate databases and other sources of information for judges dealing with competition law;
- to promote, provide, or assist in providing courses, seminars, education and training on competition law and the practical management of competition law cases from the judicial perspective;
- to promote, undertake, co-ordinate and sponsor research into competition law issues from a judicial perspective and generally to disseminate the results thereof;

- to discuss problems relating to competition law and its enforcement from the judicial point of view with national or international authorities or organisations;
- to co-operate with or assist any national or international organisation with similar objects to some or all of the objects of the Association or objects considered by the Association to be beneficial to the Association;
- to undertake similar activities to those set out in the previous sub-clauses in connection with the competition laws of states and/or organisations which are outside the European Union;
- to undertake all and any action or activity which the Association shall consider to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Objects.

C. Membership structure of the network – Overall number of current members (with a breakdown by nationalities)

Membership:

Conferences are open to judges from the EU courts and to judges from EU member states; the Association is also ready to welcome, judges from the EFTA courts and from courts in the EEA. By virtue of coming to the conference, and, by paying a subscription of 50 euro (or by virtue of their court being a corporate member), each judge becomes a member of the Association.

The Association has a mailing list of around 300 judges – this includes judges from each Member State - and between 30 and 60 judges from outside the host Member State attend the conference along with between 20 and 30 judges from the host Member State.

D. Governance and bodies of the network

The Association is managed by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and other Executive Committee Members who are supported by the Secretary General who is the Registrar of the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal and by his colleagues at the Tribunal.

E. Brief resume of the judicial training activities developed (if applicable) by the network

The AECLJ facilitates communications between judges and the European Commission. There are regular meetings of judges with the Commission to inform each other about and to discuss developments in competition law, policy, application and procedure. Recent topics have included the quantification of damages, access to leniency material held by competition authorities, warrants for searches and issues of legal personality in follow on claims after Commission infringement decisions. The next meeting in Bucharest (2014) will focus upon collective actions in the light of the Commission's proposed Directive on private actions and Recommendation on collective actions.

There are opportunities for national updates on case law and excellent networking opportunities through the social programme.

Apart from its annual conference the role of the Association is usually to support, advertise, enable and to encourage activities that DG Comp or DG Connect fund rather than such activities being functions of the Association. These activities include training in competition law and in competition economics.

The Association has to date held twelve conferences: in Luxembourg (2002, 2003, 2013), Paris (2004), London (2005), Berlin (2006), Rotterdam and the Hague (2007), Malta (2008), Rome (2009), Athens (2010), Dublin (2011) and Helsinki (2012).

Recent topics have included:

- 2013 - Competition Law within a Framework of Rights: Applying the Charter and the Convention
- 2012 – Adapting 20th Century Law to 21st Century Technology
- 2011 – Vertical Restraints
- 2010 – Cartels: Economics and Justice.

F. Highlight of the network's statutory provisions that make reference to judicial training / Concerns of the network referring to judicial training

Judicial training and comparative work have a high priority in the work of the Association. It encourages work, co-operation and best practice on both competition law and economics at national and international levels.

Note on the role of the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal in the Association:

By virtue of the Enterprise Act 2002, Schedule 2 paragraph 8, the President of the Tribunal must arrange such training for its members as he considers appropriate. A programme has been developed for training members and for keeping them abreast of developments nationally, in the EU and overseas. The Tribunal supports Association activities and provides a secretariat for the Association. It uses Association activities in training its own members and it also hosts inbound visitors from within and beyond the EU, sometimes providing internships.

G. Brief resume of the trends of cooperation and/or regular contacts established by the network with major judicial networks involved in the current project

It is only as part of the Pilot Project on European judicial training that the Association, as such, has become involved in networking with sibling organisations. That said some of our members are engaged in other judicial networks though not as representatives of the Association.

The Association has been working hard, with support from the Commission, to involve judges from each and every Member State. However experience suggests that getting away to engage in Association activities is often hard for national judges who may not get support or encouragement from their court administration.

We have established regular meetings with the Commission but these meetings with the EJTN would be a first for us.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "Lot 4 – Promotion of cooperation between judicial stakeholders concerned by European judicial training ", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)