

Report of President

01.01 - 31.12. 2022



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES AVOCATS
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS**

**European Presidents Conference
Vienna, February 2023**

Activities (I)



AEA-EAL 35th Anniversary

AEA-EAL Founders, members and guests met in Brussels on 16 May 2022 to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of our Association. It was a wonderful time to see old friends and colleagues in person after two years of lockdown and pandemic restrictions. We met for a lovely dinner in Brussels to share memories and be together. It was an occasion to commemorate our beloved Jean-Pierre van Cutsem and Kurt Weil, our past Presidents, and founders, who passed away recently.



Jean-Pierre van Cutsem



Kurt Weil

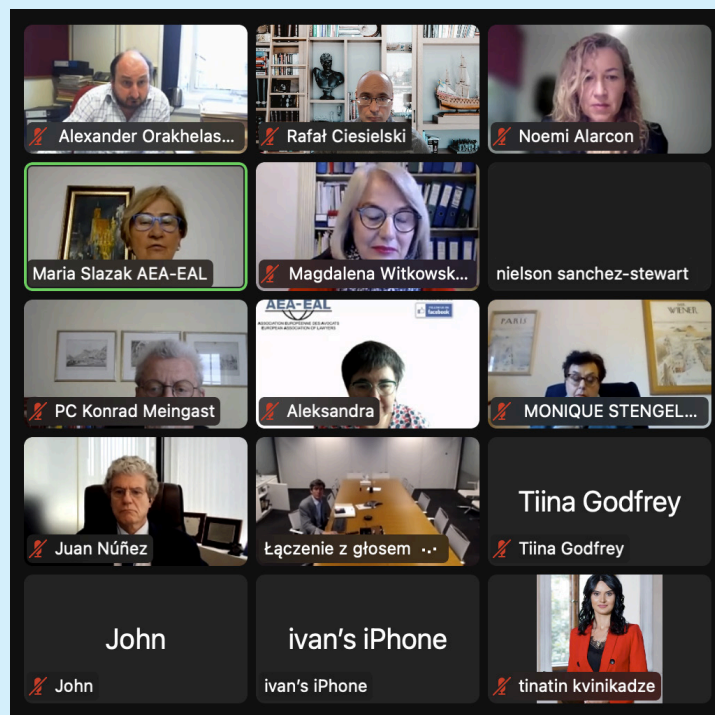
Activities (II)

Our engagement towards Ukraine

AEA-EAL Board of Directors issued a statement condemning the aggression of the Russian Federation towards the Republic of Ukraine. The document indicates this act of war is a clear violation of international law and expresses AEA-EAL solidarity with the nation of Ukraine as well as appeals to the authorities of all states to undertake steps ensuring full support for victims of war.

Our Association has created a Facebook group dedicated to those colleagues and friends who wish to help the Ukrainian people and victims of the war against Ukraine. Many of the members engaged in individual aid, including hosting refugees in their homes, providing free legal assistance, delivering food and supplies for people in shelters as well as free transport from the Ukrainian border to temporary homes or shelters. It is worth mentioning that more than 3 million Ukrainian people found a safe place in the homes of people in Poland with no need to build camps or similar places for refugees.

We organized a special webinar on the legal aspects of humanitarian crises and war crimes



Webinar on Ukraine

with the participation of international experts - Professor Nielson Sanchez Stewart, Noemi Alarcón Velasco, Professor Marcin Górski, and Dr Alexander Orakhelashvili. We were expecting a special guest speaker, Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine. However, on the day of the webinar, Andriy was a member of the Ukrainian State Delegation conducting talks with the Russian counterparts in Turkey and could not connect with us this time.



Activities (III)

Cooperation with the Council of Europe

- Drafting a legal instrument protecting the rights of lawyers
- HELP Course

AEA-EAL President Maria Ślęzak attended several meetings of the Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers (CJ-AV), a consultative working party of the Council of Europe comprised of 15 representatives of Member States and representatives of several international bodies including the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Court of Human Rights, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations. Observer members of the Committee are, among others, representatives of international lawyer's organizations, including the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL). Our association has actively participated in discussions and worked on future legal instruments protecting lawyers' rights since 2017. Participants concentrated on reviewing the initial proposal of the text of the legal instrument aimed at strengthening the protection of the legal profession and the right to practice without prejudice or restriction, including monitoring and implementation of procedures. All of that is to ensure citizens real access to justice and fair trial.

The Project was developed as a collaborative effort between the Council of Europe HELP Program, the European Association of Lawyers, and the European Young Bar Association. During the implementation of the course, the AEA-EAL Deontology Committee actively contributed by delivering presentations and sharing experiences with participants. The contribution was provided mainly by Nielson Sanchez Stewart, chair of the committee, advocate, doctor iuris, counsellor of the Consejo General de la Abogacía Española, and professor of ethics; Jędrzej Klatka, member of AEA-EAL and former chair of the Deontology Committee in CCBE; and Vladimir Palamarciuc, co-author of the HELP course on ethics for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers and HELP certified tutor. Participants of the course were our members from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Spain and Uzbekistan. More information about this HELP course can be found at the following link: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/-/the-council-of-Europe-help-course-launched-jointly-with-the-European-association-of-lawyers-and-the-European-young-bar-association>



Activities (IV)

Overview of events

- **Opening of the Legal Year in Hong Kong**

Maria Ślęzak, President of the AEA-EAL, participated in a virtual roundtable at the Opening of the Legal Year in Hong Kong. This discussion focused on how law and legal practitioners can work together to conquer jurisdictional and global obstacles and generate possibilities for everyone. Over 80 delegates from 70 associations and international legal organizations from 34 jurisdictions joined the gathering, such as President of the International Bar Association (IBA), President of LawAsia, and President of the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA). C. M. Chan, President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, served as chairman of the event.

- **Conference for Women on Women**

On March 8, 2022, the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL) organized a joint event with the Opole Bar of Attorneys-at-Law and the Gdansk Bar of Attorneys-at-Law in recognition of International Women's Day. Several prestigious speakers from the CSR Committee of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and Universitas Polit cnica de Catalunya were present. During the event, a number of topics were discussed, such as personal development, equality, the social role of women, and their legal and psychological aspects. A part of the meeting was very practical coaching provided by a specialist on how to deal with problem-solving, conflicts and discrimination in professional and personal life.

- **Third mediation webinar**

The webinar on the practical use of electronic tools for ADR and procedures was organised in collaboration with the Ł d  Bar of Attorneys-at-Law. It gave an overview of ODR tools in several European countries, including Azerbaijan, Spain, Poland, Uzbekistan, and the UK. We were particularly delighted with the participation of our Ukrainian friends and colleagues from Odessa, who was speaking on the Ukrainian perspective of ODR despite technical difficulties and threats imposed by Russia's attacks on the city. The whole seminar was led by the Chair of the AEA-EAL Mediation Committee, Professor Irakli Kandashvili.

- **Business. Algorithm. Law Conference**

We met with Polish and other colleagues on 13-15 October in the beautiful city of Gda sk. The important topic, engaged audience, top speakers, and vibes of the Gdansk Old Town created an event to be remembered. The International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity was organized together with the Gdansk Bar of Attorneys-at-Law, which is our collective member. This was a great opportunity to discuss ongoing changes in technology and the legal and ethical concerns those changes trigger. Representatives of businesses shared their feedback regarding the impact of new technologies on the way we think about the law and market expectations regarding IP and AI legislation. On the margins of the conference, the first meeting of the AEA-EAL's IT Committee took place, chaired by Iain Mitchell KC.

Activities (V)

- **Market Access Seminar**

On October 13, 2022, the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL), together with the World Trade Institute (WTI) at the University of Bern, organized the annual Workshop on European and International Economic Law for the fifth time in Bern. The topic of this conference was the relationship between Switzerland (CH) and the European Union (EU), in particular the 50th anniversary of the Swiss-EU Free Trade Agreement, the European Economic Area, and possible forms of the future relationship between CH and the EU. Again, this year, the conference included high-level speakers like the new Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, the Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the Secretary General of the Swiss cantons, and eminent representatives of the EU and the Swiss economy.

- **Women in times of war: The role of women lawyers**

On December 13, a fantastic online conference took place with the participation of women lawyers from three continents. The organizers (Opole Bar of Attorneys at Law, European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL), Federation of European Bars (FBE), Women for Law Initiative, Institute for African Women in Law, and Women in Law Australia), under the honorary patronage of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), gathered top speakers to discuss the role of women lawyers during the war. A large part of the conference was devoted to the situation of women in Ukraine but also women fighting in many other places of the world focusing on direct and indirect suffering from war crimes such as murders, rapes, imprisonment, death of the closest persons, destroying of homes or forced deployments.



Kobiety w czasach wojny - rola prawniczek
Women in the times of war - the role of woman lawyers



13 grudnia 2022 December 13th 2022
15.00 - 19.00 3:00 - 7:00 pm CET

join us:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86375190130?pwd=RTN2a0xPMjRmNjMmQ1N1hXZG5qdz09>

Logos at the bottom include: European Lawyers Association (ELA), CCBE, AEA-EAL, 30 Years, and Women in Law Frauen im Recht.