



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT PRIVE

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM HELD ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF
PRIVATE LAW (UNIDROIT) CELEBRATING THE 90th
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDATION**
Rome, 20 April 2016

UNIDROIT 2016
AG/Special session 2016/INF. 2
Original: English / French
April 2016

**SYMPOSIUM INTERNATIONAL TENU A L'OCCASION DE LA
SESSION SPECIALE DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DE
L'INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR L'UNIFICATION DU
DROIT PRIVE (UNIDROIT) POUR CELEBRER LE 90^{eme}
ANNIVERSAIRE DE SA FONDATION**
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avril 2016

International Symposium / *Symposium international*

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES / *BIOGRAPHIES DES ORATEURS*

SESSION I - Private Law and Public International Law

Chair / *Présidence*

Mr Alberto Mazzoni

Since 2011 Alberto Mazzoni is the President of the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

Alberto Mazzoni graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pisa Law School in 1965 after completing his law curriculum at the prestigious *Collegio Giuridico of the Scuola Normale Superiore*, the most reputed academic institution in Italy. He received a master degree (MCL) from the University of Chicago Law School in 1966 and until 1974 spent several years abroad (mainly in France and the United States) partly as research fellow in academic institutions and partly as practicing lawyer in multinational law firms.

In 1974, upon his return to Italy, he was appointed Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Pisa and became a partner of the law firm Studio Legale Ardito with offices in Rome and Milan.

Since 1974 he has always combined teaching with professional practice.

After teaching in Pisa, Genoa, Lecce and Sassari, he was finally appointed as Professor of Commercial Law (full tenure) at the Catholic University of Milan, wherefrom upon reaching the age of 70 he retired as requested by law in 2012. He is however, still active in teaching as free lecturer in several Italian Universities and abroad (e.g. in Sweden, USA and China).

Professionally, he is the founder and the senior partner of the law firm Mazzoni e Associati, with offices in Milan, Rome and Lucca.

On several occasions he has served as Chef of the Italian Delegation at a number of UNCITRAL Sessions and UNCITRAL Working Group and since 2008 he is the Chairman of *Collegio dei Probiviri of Borsa Italiana S.p.A.*, i.e. he acts as president of the internal pre-arbitral tribunal of the Milan Stock Exchange.

His areas of practice and teaching include corporations, commercial contracts, banking, arbitration, antitrust, insolvency, insurance, mergers and acquisitions, transactions in intellectual property rights and other transnational transactions. He is the author of several law books and articles and co-director of the law review "Rivista di Diritto del Commercio Internazionale" as well as of the law book series called "Diritto Commerciale Italiano e Internazionale", published by Giappichelli, Turin. He is fluent in English, French, Italian and Swedish and is able to read and understand written German and Spanish.

SPEAKERS / ORATEURS

Ms Anna Segall

Anna Segall is Legal Adviser and Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Before joining UNESCO in 2014, Anna was Director of Legal Affairs with UNRWA, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, where she managed a team of lawyers at Headquarters and Field Legal Offices in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. At UNRWA, in addition to her role as Director of Legal Affairs, Anna served as Acting Director of Operations in Jordan, in 2013, managing a programme aimed at providing education, health, relief, social services and microfinance to a refugee population of two million.

Anna has also worked with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Australian Public Service and a major commercial law firm. From 1994 - 2006, Anna was employed successively by the Australian Red Cross (ARC), the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Anna started working with ARC, as manager of the international humanitarian law programme, in 1994. In 1996, she took up a post of Policy Advisor in the ICRC's Department of Cooperation and Relations with the Movement. From 1999 she worked in the ICRC's Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law, working to promote ratification and implementation of international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) with some 60 States in the English-speaking common law world. Between 2002 and 2006, she worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as Federation Representative and Head of Office in Israel, working with colleagues to prepare the Israeli and Palestinian national societies for admission to the Movement and the Federation.

Mr Jan Kleijssen

Jan Kleijssen is Director of the Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, Council of Europe.

Jan Kleijssen was born in 1958 in Almelo (The Netherlands). He studied International Law at Utrecht State University (LLM in 1981) and International Affairs at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa (MA 1982).

He joined the Council of Europe in 1983 as a Lawyer with the European Commission of Human Rights. Having served as Director of the Secretary General's Private Office and as the Special Adviser to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, he is currently the Director of Information Society and Action against Crime, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, of the Council of Europe. This Directorate carries out standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation activities on a wide variety of issues, including freedom of expression; data protection; Internet governance; Cybercrime; Criminal law; Fighting corruption and money laundering; Action against drug trafficking/drug abuse

He was appointed Chair of the Council of Europe's Disciplinary Board in December 2015. A keen marathon runner he is also responsible for the Council of Europe's Staff Sports Association, running section.

SESSION II - Property Law and Sustainable Development**Chair/ *Présidence*****Mr José Angelo Estrella Faria**

José Angelo Estrella Faria is the Secretary-General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). He was appointed by the UNIDROIT Governing Council in 2008 and reappointed for a second term in 2013.

Until October 2008, he was a Senior Legal Officer with the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), in Vienna, where he had worked since February 1996.

Mr Faria was the Secretary of UNCITRAL Working Group I (Privately Financed Infrastructure projects) during the preparation of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide and the UNCITRAL Model Legislative Provisions on Privately Financed Infrastructure Projects, adopted in 2001 and 2003, respectively; he was also the Secretary of and UNCITRAL Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) during the negotiation of the UN Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, adopted in 2005. As a Senior Legal Officer, between October 2005 and October 2008, he supervised the secretariat support to UNCITRAL Working Group III (Transport Law) during the final years of negotiation of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea ("Rotterdam Rules").

Prior to UNCITRAL, Mr. Faria had worked at the General Legal Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, in New York, from 1992 to 1996.

Before joining the UN, Mr. Faria had worked as an attorney in private practice in Brazil specialised in commercial and trade law matters.

Mr. Faria graduated from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre, Brazil) and holds a Master on European Law from the Europa Institut der Universität des Saarlandes (Saarbrücken, Germany). He has published various articles and books on legal harmonisation, commercial law and international law. He is member of the American Law Institute, the European Law Institute and lecturer at the University of Vienna.

SPEAKERS / ORATEURS

Mr Gerard Sanders

Gerard Sanders, a national of New Zealand, joined the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as General Counsel in October 2014.

Previously, Gerard held various positions at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development working in its principal office in London, most recently as Deputy General Counsel. Earlier in his career, Gerard worked for the law firms of Simpson Grierson in Wellington and Arnold & Porter in Washington, D.C. and in the corporate headquarters of BP p.l.c. in London. Gerard graduated B.Com., LL.B. from the University of Otago, New Zealand, and has graduate law degrees from Victoria University of Wellington and Harvard Law School. He is qualified to practice law in New Zealand, in the State of Victoria, Australia, and England and Wales. He is a Chartered Accountant (NZ). Gerard is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He is Visiting Professorial Fellow at Queen Mary, University of London, and Founding Editor of 'Law in transition'.

Mr Jonathan Mills Lindsay

Jon Lindsay is Lead Counsel for Land and Natural Resources in the Environmental and International Law practice group of the World Bank Legal Department.

The focus of his work is on the legal dimensions of World Bank activities related to property rights, land tenure and management, as well as Bank social safeguard policies, especially resettlement and indigenous peoples. He has written extensively on land and forestry law issues and international trends in compulsory acquisition law and practice. He was a contributing author to the World Bank publication on "The Rising Global Interest in Farmland." He is closely involved in assisting a number of innovative World Bank projects on commercial agriculture in Africa that deal with land acquisition-related risks and opportunities, and has served as land law advisor for land administration projects in Ghana, Tajikistan, Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. He advises Bank project teams on complex safeguard issues, with a focus on Africa and Latin America. He has been closely involved in the ongoing redrafting of Bank safeguards, with a particular emphasis on the proposed new resettlement standard.

Before joining the World Bank in 2006, Jon was a legal officer in FAO's Development Law Service for 12 years, where he helped lead numerous technical assistance projects on land and forestry law around the world. He is a member of the Massachusetts Bar in the United States and practiced commercial real estate finance and land use law in Boston. He is a graduate of Yale College and UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall) School of Law.

Mr Antonio Tavares

Mr Antonio Tavares de Pinho is the Legal Affairs Director of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

Mr Antonio Tavares de Pinho, a national of Portugal, holds a Masters degree in International Law from the Institute for Development Law, University of Nice, a degree in European Affairs from the Institute for European Studies, Nice, and a Doctorate in Public and Private International Law from the University of Nice.

Mr Tavares de Pinho has served with FAO since 1981, and has held various positions, both at FAO Headquarters and in its decentralized offices. From 1992 to 1997, he was FAO Regional Fisheries Law Advisor for West Africa. In 2007, he was appointed Chief of the General Legal Affairs Service. In 2011, he was appointed Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium. He has been the Legal Counsel of FAO since 2012.

Throughout his career, he has undertaken assignments and field missions covering a wide range of legal and institutional issues pertaining to the activities of FAO. He has prepared and published a large number of papers on natural resources law, European law and the law of international organizations.

Mr François Davenne

Mr François Davenne is the Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

François Davenne, a graduate of the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications* d'Évry in 1988 and of the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration* in 1999, has always promoted interdisciplinarity as a key factor for success. After an experience in international satellite telecommunications, his first assignments were in the housing sector and required strong financial and legal skills. He was involved in policy and regulation of the sector, and managed key operational programs, in particular for the city of Paris.

After three years in the French Transport ministry working on Railway safety and regulation, he was elected Secretary general of OTIF in 2012, where he promotes since 1st of January 2013 interdisciplinarity and partnership building to expand uniform regulation for international carriage by rail.

Diplômé de l'École nationale supérieure des télécommunications d'Évry en 1988 et de l'École nationale d'administration en 1999, François DAVENNE a toujours prôné l'interdisciplinarité comme clé du succès. Après une expérience dans les télécommunications internationales par satellite, ses premières missions, dans le secteur du logement, ont exigé de solides compétences financières et juridiques. Impliqué dans la politique et la réglementation du secteur, il a géré des programmes d'activités clés.

Après avoir travaillé trois ans sur la sécurité et la réglementation ferroviaire au sein du ministère français des transports, il a été élu Secrétaire général de l'OTIF en 2012 et, depuis le 1^{er} janvier 2013, y promeut l'interdisciplinarité et la constitution de partenariats afin de développer la réglementation uniforme pour le transport international ferroviaire.

Mr John Augustin

Mr John Augustin is the Legal Affairs Director of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Mr Augustin joined ICAO in 1989 and has held increasingly responsible positions in the Organization. He has been the Director in the Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau since March 2014. Prior to joining ICAO, he worked in the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of St. Lucia.

Mr Augustin holds LLB and LLM degrees from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and an LLM degree from the Institute of Air and Space Law, McGill University. He has been called to the Bars of England and Wales, and St. Lucia.

Mr David Harris

Mr Harris is the Deputy General Counsel of the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, specifically focused on furthering economic development through investment in and advisory support to private enterprise in developing markets.

As Deputy General Counsel, Mr Harris is responsible for the operational management of IFC's legal department which provides a range of legal services provided to internal and external clients, with lawyers based in Washington, D.C. (IFC's headquarters), Latin America, Asia, Middle East & North Africa, and sub-Saharan African countries.

Prior to assuming his current role Mr Harris worked actively on projects in various sectors and regions, with a primary focus on extractive industries and has been actively involved in both debt and equity financing throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Harris qualified in England and holds a bachelor of law degree from Kings College, University of London.

SESSION III - Commercial Law and the Rule of Law

Chair / Présidence

Mr Renaud Sorieul

Mr. Sorieul is the Director of the International Trade Law Division (ITLD) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, which functions as the substantive secretariat for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). He is the eighth Secretary of UNCITRAL since the Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1966. He took up his duties on 1 October 2008.

He joined the UNCITRAL secretariat in 1989 and was particularly active in the development of UNCITRAL standards in the fields of international payments, electronic commerce, arbitration and conciliation.

A French national, Mr. Sorieul holds degrees in private law from the University of Paris (Paris II). He is also a graduate of the *Institut d'études politiques de Paris* and the *École Nationale de la Magistrature*. A member of the French judiciary since 1981, he served as a magistrate in first-degree law courts (1981-1985), and was subsequently appointed a member of the International Criminal Law Division at the Ministry of Justice (1985-1987). He was then seconded to serve as Head of the Legal Office of the Directorate-General of Energy and Mines, at the Ministry of Industry (1987-1989). In the latter capacity, he was a member of the French delegation negotiating the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities and advised the French Government in the process that led to the registration of France as a pioneer investor (Law of the Sea).

SPEAKERS / ORATEURS

Ms Ursula Wynhoven

Ursula Wynhoven is the Chief Legal Officer and Chief, Governance and Social Sustainability for the UN Global Compact, the UN's corporate sustainability initiative.

She is a member of the office's Executive Team, leading legal affairs and compliance and the UN Global Compact's governance and social sustainability platforms and workstreams, including on human rights and decent work, gender equality, poverty and inequality, peace, anti-corruption and the rule of law.

Ursula began working with the UN Global Compact in 2002 and as one of the earliest staff members has played an active role in helping to grow the initiative to more than 13,000 signatories in more than 160 countries with a full roster of workstreams advancing virtually all aspects of corporate sustainability. Ursula led the development with UN agency and other partners of many of the platforms and workstreams, including on human rights and labour, women's empowerment (Women's Empowerment Principles), business and children (Children's Rights and Business Principles), indigenous peoples' rights, and on business and the rule of law (Business for the Rule of Law).

Prior to joining the UN, Ursula worked in law firms and government human rights agencies in Australia and the US and worked for the OECD in Paris on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the OECD's corporate responsibility initiative.

Ursula has Masters of Law degrees from Columbia Law School, where she was a Human Rights Fellow, and Monash Law School in Australia. She also has Bachelors degrees in Law, Economics and Letters. She is admitted to practice law in jurisdictions in Australia, the US (California) and the UK. Since 2007, Ursula has been an Adjunct Professor in Corporate Sustainability, Business and Human Rights at Fordham Law School in New York and previously taught at the Reykjavik University School of Law. Ursula is a Trustee of the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law at Columbia Law School and a Girl Scout troop leader.

Professor Don Wallace

Professor Don Wallace is currently Chairman of the International Law Institute; Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center.

B.A. Yale, 1953 (high honors); LL.B. Harvard, 1957 (cum laude); Fulbright Fellow, Turkey, 1967; Fellow, St. Antony's College, Oxford, 1973-74; Eisenhower Exchange Fellow, 1976.

Member, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law; US delegate to UNCITRAL; member panel of arbitrators of Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration; member, Board of Directors, Institute of Investment and Arbitration, Cairo; member, American Law Institute; member, Board of Governors, Republican National Lawyers Association; member, Board of Directors, Bulgarian American Society; member, advisory board, Central and Eastern European /Middle East North Africa (CEE/MENA), Rule of Law Initiative(ROLI), American Bar Association; emeritus member, Board of Directors, International Development Law Institute (IDLI, now IDLO), Rome; member, IDR Group, London; member, advisory committee, ABA/UNDP International Legal Resource Center; member, Legal Advisory Council, AEI Legal Center for the Public Interest; correspondent, UNIDROIT, and vice president, Board of Governors, Uniform Law Foundation(UNIDROIT foundation), Rome; president, Academic Council, European Center for Peace and Development, UN University for Peace, Belgrade; member, International Board of Advisors, The University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law; member, Board of Directors, Freud Foundation US, New York, New York; The Constitution Project(Guidelines for Constitutional Amendments ;War Powers Initiative; other);member, Atlantic Council; Chairman, International Council for Middle East Studies(ICMES); member, Board of Directors and Advisory Council, Global Legal Information Network(GLIN) Foundation.

SESSION IV - Civil Procedure and International Cooperation

Chair / *Présidence*

Mr Christophe Bernasconi

Christophe Bernasconi is the fourth Secretary-General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. He took office on 1 July 2013. He joined the Permanent Bureau (Secretariat) of the Hague Conference in September 1997.

As Secretary-General, Dr Bernasconi is responsible for the administration of the Hague Conference (with currently 146 connected States, and a total of 80 Members from around the world) and the operation of its Permanent Bureau (approx. 30 FTEs). He has long-standing expertise in the field of international civil procedural law (jurisdiction of courts, recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, service of process and taking of evidence abroad, access to justice, etc.), international administrative cooperation (Apostille; he is the designer and principal administrator of the electronic Apostille Program, e-APP), international commercial and finance law (intermediated securities), as well as international child protection law (parental child abduction, protection of children generally). He has been responsible for various meetings of

Special Commissions, Experts' and Working Groups, both in relation to normative work of the Hague Conference and post-Convention services. His current focus is on developing and implementing various management improvement initiatives at the Permanent Bureau, and on furthering the global visibility of the Hague Conference.

He holds a law degree from Fribourg University in Switzerland (*magna cum laude*; bilingual German/French), an LL.M. degree in comparative law from McGill University in Montreal (Canada), and a doctoral degree in Private International Law from Fribourg University (*summa cum laude*).

Before joining the Permanent Bureau, Dr Bernasconi lectured at the University of Fribourg, worked as Legal Expert at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, and as Scientific Collaborator at the Federal Office of Justice in Switzerland. He also advised practitioners on various Private International Law matters.

Dr Bernasconi was a Member of the Model Notary Act Revision Committee (USA), which produced the Model Notary Act 2010, published by the National Notary Association (NNA). He was also a Member of the International Bar Association Capital Markets Forum Subcommittee on Legal Certainty for Intermediated Securities, and was Co-Rapporteur of the International Law Association's former Committee on Transnational Enforcement of Environmental law. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian New Zealand College of Notaries (ANZCN). He is a member of the advisory board of the Hague Project Peace and Justice Foundation.

He was born in 1964 in Basel, Switzerland. He is married and has 3 children.

Christophe Bernasconi est le quatrième Secrétaire général de la Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé. Il occupe cette fonction depuis le premier juillet 2013. Il a rejoint le Bureau Permanent (Secrétariat) de la Conférence de La Haye en septembre 1997.

En qualité de Secrétaire général, M. Bernasconi est responsable de l'administration de la Conférence de La Haye (qui compte actuellement 146 États liés à son travail et 80 Membres répartis dans le monde entier) et du fonctionnement de son Bureau Permanent (qui compte une trentaine d'employés à temps plein). Il dispose d'une longue expérience dans les domaines du droit procédural international en matière civile (compétence des tribunaux, reconnaissance et exécution des jugements étrangers, signification des actes de procédures et obtention de preuves à l'étranger, accès à la justice, etc.), de la coopération administrative internationale (Apostille; il est à l'origine du Programme Apostille électronique (e-APP), dont il a la responsabilité principale), des droits commercial et financier internationaux (titres intermédiés) et de la protection internationale de l'enfant (enlèvement d'enfant par l'un des deux parents, protection des enfants en général). Il a été amené à organiser différentes réunions de Commissions spéciales, Groupes d'experts et de travail, à la fois dans le cadre de l'action normative de la Conférence de La Haye et des services post-conventionnelle. Il se concentre actuellement sur l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre de diverses initiatives visant à améliorer la gestion du Bureau Permanent. Il réfléchit également à des mesures permettant de renforcer la visibilité de la Conférence de La Haye au niveau mondial.

Il est titulaire d'une licence bilingue (allemand et français) de droit délivrée par l'Université de Fribourg (Suisse) et obtenue avec la mention magna cum laude, d'un LL.M. en droit comparé de l'Université McGill de Montréal (Canada), dans le cadre duquel il a rédigé un mémoire sur les Oligopoles en matière de concurrence déloyale, et d'un doctorat en droit international privé de l'Université de Fribourg, obtenu avec la mention summa cum laude.

Avant de rejoindre le Bureau Permanent, M. Bernasconi a enseigné à l'Université de Fribourg, il a travaillé en tant qu'expert juridique à l'Institut suisse de droit comparé de Lausanne, et en tant que collaborateur scientifique à l'Office fédéral suisse de la Justice. Il a également prodigué des conseils à des praticiens sur divers points de droit international privé.

M. Bernasconi a fait partie du Model Notary Act Revision Committee (États-Unis), en charge de l'élaboration du Model Notary Act 2010, publié par la National Notary Association (NNA). Il a en outre été membre de l'International Bar Association Capital Markets Forum Subcommittee on Legal Certainty for Intermediated Securities et également Co-Rapporteur du Committee on Transnational Enforcement of Environmental law de l'International Law Association. Il est membre honoraire de l'Australian New Zealand College of Notaries (ANZCN). Il est membre du comité consultatif de la Hague Project Peace and Justice Foundation.

Il est né à Bâle (Suisse) en 1964. Il est marié et a trois enfants.

SPEAKERS / ORATEURS

Professor Dr. Jan von Hein

Jan von Hein is a professor at the University of Freiburg, Germany, where he holds the chair of Civil, Comparative and Private International Law and serves as a Director of the Institute for Comparative and Private International Law, Dep. III.

Since 2014, he is the Chairman of the 2nd Commission of the German Council for Private International Law, a select group of law professors acting as advisors to the Federal Ministry of Justice and for Consumer Protection. Before joining the faculty at Freiburg, he was a professor at the University of Trier (2007–2013), a senior research fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative and Private International Law (Hamburg; 1998–2007) and a Joseph Story Research Fellow at Harvard Law School (1997–98).

His publications on private international law, international civil litigation and comparative law have been honoured by the 1998 Otto-Hahn-Medal for outstanding scientific achievements of the Max-Planck-Society, the 2008 research prize of the Deutsches Aktieninstitut (German Stock Corporations Institute) and by being included among the legal books of the year 2008 by two leading German legal periodicals, the *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift* (NJW) and the *Juristenzeitung* (JZ). Von Hein is the editor of the volumes 10 and 11 of the *Münchener Kommentar zum BGB*, a leading commentary on German and European private international law, and the author of a standard commentary on the Brussels I-Regulation (Kropholler/von Hein, 9th ed. 2011).

He is a reporter for the International Law Association's committee on the protection of privacy in private international and procedural law as well as an associate member of the International Academy of Comparative Law.

Ms Diana Wallis

Diana Wallis is the President of the European Law Institute (ELI).

After a diverse legal education, in London, Liege, Zurich and Chester, she gained over fifteen years of professional experience as a litigation lawyer. From 1999 to 2012, Wallis was a member of the European Parliament and a leading member of the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee. Since leaving the EP, she has continued her activities in the European legal field as member of various institutions and speaker at many events across Europe.

Ms Karen Vandekerckhove

Karen Vandekerckhove is currently Acting Head of the Civil Justice Unit, DG Justice and Consumers, Civil Justice Policy, European Commission.

Karen Vandekerckhove studied law in Belgium at the universities of Leuven and Namur (Belgium), in Germany (University of Heidelberg) and in the United States at the Harvard Law School.

She was a practicing lawyer in New York and Brussels with the American law firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton for 6 years and prepared a Ph.D in private international law at the University of Leuven.

She joined the European Commission in 2004, working in the area of European private international and civil procedural law. She has equally been teaching this subject matter at the Universities of Antwerp and Louvain-la-Neuve and has an extensive list of publications on the matter. After having been in charge of the negotiations on behalf of the European Commission of several of the EU instruments in the area of civil justice (including on the European payment order, maintenance, succession and wills, the new Brussels I Regulation and the 2007 Lugano Convention), Karen is now the acting head of the civil justice unit, covering all the European instruments in civil justice. Karen is also in charge of the Judgments Project in the context of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.