



UNIDROIT
International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
Institut International pour l'Unification du Droit Privé



ELI
EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

UNIDROIT-ELI ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW (UNIDROIT) CENTENARY
REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE AND CELEBRATION OF ELI'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY**

Venue: Institut de droit comparé (Grand Amphitheatre), Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas, 28 rue St Guillaume 75007 Paris

Paris, 1 September 2026

AGENDA

8:30 Registration

9:00 - 9:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Stéphane Braconnier (President, University Paris-Panthéon-Assas)
François Molinié (President, French Society of Comparative Law, Société de législation comparée)
Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell (ELI President)
Ignacio Tirado (UNIDROIT Secretary-General)

9:30 - 9:50 Keynote Speech

Chair: Sylvaine Poillot Peruzzetto (Member of the ELI Executive Committee; Counsellor, French Cour de Cassation)
Keynote speaker: Fernando Restoy (Chair of the Financial Stability Institute)

9:50 - 11:30 Panel 1 - The Interplay between Global and Regional Harmonisation in Private Law

Chair: Marko Bošnjak (Former President of the European Court of Human Rights; Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union)

SPEAKERS

Ignacio Tirado (UNIDROIT Secretary-General)
Hon. Diane P. Wood (Director of The American Law Institute (ALI))
Jean-François Riffard (Professor and former Dean, Université Clermont-Ferrand, France)
Lord John Thomas (Arbitrator; President of the Qatar International Court; Member of House of Lords)

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30 Panel 2 - The Role of Soft Law Harmonisation of Contract Law: Lessons from the Past, Perspectives for the Future

Chair: Pietro Sirena (ELI Vice-President; Dean, Bocconi Law School (Milan, Italy))

SPEAKERS

Anna Veneziano (UNIDROIT Deputy Secretary-General)
Myrte Thijssen (UNIDROIT Senior Legal Officer)
Pascal Pichonnaz (Professor, Fribourg University Law Faculty, Switzerland; former ELI President)
Hugh Beale (Emeritus Professor, University of Warwick)

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 Panel 3 - Emerging Challenges for Legal Harmonisation in the Fields of New Technologies and Sustainability

Chair: Sir Geoffrey Vos (ELI Vice-President; Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice in England and Wales)

SPEAKERS

Matthias Lehmann (Professor, University of Vienna)

Louise Gullifer (Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, Chair of the Law Faculty Board, University of Cambridge)

Philipp Paech (Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science)

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell (Professor, Universidad Carlos III)

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:45 Round Table: A Discussion Around the UNIDROIT Centenary White Paper on Civil Procedure and Dispute Resolution and ELI's Work

Chair: Hon. Diane P. Wood (ALI Director; Senior Lecturer, University of Chicago)

SPEAKERS

Rolf Stürner (Emeritus Professor, University of Freiburg)

John Sorabji (Professor, University College London)

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell (Professor, Universidad Carlos III)

Etsuko Sugiyama (Professor, Hitotsubashi University)

María Cecilia Fresnedo de Aguirre (Professor, Universidad de la República, Uruguay)

(NB: The draft White Paper will be circulated in advance to those who register to participate in the event)

18:45 – 19:00 Concluding Remarks

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell (ELI President)

Ignacio Tirado (UNIDROIT Secretary-General)