

NEWSLETTER February 2023

Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Check out what's new with the European Lawyers' Association. In this issue you will find:

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Happy reading!

The ELA Newsletter Team



Word by the Chair

Dear ELA Friends, I hope you are all well and 2023 has been good to you so far. Since our last newsletter in June 2022 some fantastic ELA activities have taken place.

[Read more](#)

ELA Autumn meeting 2022 in Tallinn

From 11 to 13 November 2022 the ELA had an Autumn meeting organised by our ELA member, Hanna Pahk, in beautiful Tallinn, Estonia. Here is link to the full gallery (you have to be logged in): [Tallinn gallery](#).



Read more about the meeting in an article from Jurate Slite, our ELA National representative for Lithuania.

[Read more](#)



Register for the ELA Annual general meeting 2023 in Bratislava

The registration for the ELA Annual General Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia is open! The meeting will take place from 18 to 21 May 2023. It will be a perfect opportunity to get a feel for this beautiful historical city, enjoy a river cruise on the Danube river, try out tasty Slovak food, wine and beer and savor the gala dinner next to the Bratislava castle with live music. We have been able to secure fantastic speakers for the legal conference, including the President of the Slovak Supreme Court and representatives of the Ukrainian National Bar Association who will speak about advocates in war time. See the full invitation [here](#).

You will find the agenda, practical information and the registration form on our website (you

Prison with Songbirds, a film by Ewan Macbeth

Ewan Macbeth, the son of **Jonathan Mitchell KC**, our ELA National Representative for Scotland, has made the documentary and fiction hybrid film “Prison with Songbirds” which is based on Jonathan’s incredible experience of wrongful imprisonment in Syria in 1974 and his release after 110 days. Details about the film are available [here](#). The film was last shown at the International Film Festival 2023 in Rotterdam.



The film was published timely with Jonathan’s retirement at the end of 2022. We wish him a long an happy retirement!

Read more about part of Jonathan’s experience and the background to the film in the script.

[Read more](#)



Portrait of our Italian member, Alessandro Bossi

Alessandro Bossi is our Italian member, lawyer, chess player and also a writer. He attended the programme in 1984 in London. Read more about him in his profile.

[Read more](#)

Dietrich Weber-Steinhaus remembered

We are very saddened by the death of our German member, DR. JUR. Dietrich Weber-Steinhaus. Dietrich passed away on 3 January. He was a Eurodevil in Edinburgh in 1979-80 who kept strong links to the city throughout his life and his practice as a lawyer and notary in Bremen. Read his obituary written by Jonathan Mitchell KC. Rest in peace, Dietrich.



[Read more](#)



Updates from ELA members

In July 2022, **Donald Venkatapen** took the final steps of launching his own independent law firm in Luxembourg, known by the name of [‘VENKATAPEN Boutique Lawyers’](#).

After many years of working aside experienced lawyers, he continues to work in his specialised fields of corporate litigation and commercial advice.

His independent law firm provides tailored made advice to individuals and companies with the required expertise and dedication. Beside his activities as a qualified Luxembourgish and UK lawyer, Donald pursues his commitment to several non profit associations such as the European Lawyers’ Association or the British Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg.

Congratulations Donald!

Legal news from Scotland



Supreme Court 'in no doubt' that Scottish government's indyref2 bill is ultra vires

Read an article on the decision of the Supreme court, which said that the Scottish Parliament has no power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence.

[Read more](#)



Damaging delay to gender recognition reform in Scotland

Read an article on the delay of the gender recognition reform in Scotland as the UK government vetoed the Scottish bill.

[Read more](#)

Next ELA newsletter

Any suggestions or contributions by members to the next newsletter would be very welcome. In addition to updates from members, the newsletter also provides a platform for members to publish articles about a legal topic of general interest to ELA members. If you would like to contribute to the next edition or provide any feedback otherwise, please get in touch with the newsletter team by email on: info@european-lawyers.org. The next edition will be published in June 2023.



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