



Tallinn – Capital of European Law 2012

In Europe, it has become a custom to designate European Capitals of Culture, an honour that has been bestowed on Estonia's capital Tallinn for 2011. Inspired by this tradition, Tallinn will be known as the Capital of European Law in the following year 2012, when it will host one of the most distinguished EU law conferences, the XXV FIDE Congress.

Estonia has the great honour of being the first Central and Eastern European country to organise the international FIDE Congress. Tallinn is an ideal location for the congress, as delegates will have the opportunity to explore its medieval Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that was once a major centre of the Hanseatic League. Tallinn's rich architectural heritage reflects Estonia's history from medieval to modern times, and the rapid economic progress during the years of independence.

While the Congress will surely contribute to the development and enrichment of European law, it will also introduce Estonia, Tallinn and the country's jurisprudence to European and global audiences, and help Estonia prepare for the Estonian Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2018.

Yet the EU and EU law are not just for lawyers and policy-makers. The European Union ought to be viewed as an important part of our daily lives. As hosts of the 2012 FIDE Congress, the people of Estonia will have a unique opportunity to learn more about their rights under EU law and how they can influence policy making at different levels. We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

We hope you will join us in Tallinn in 2012.

Tere tulemast! Welcome! Bienvenue! Willkommen!

Julia Laffranque

President of the Estonian Association for European Law, President of FIDE 2011-2012, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Assistant Professor of EU Law at the University of Tartu



Photo: Aldo Luud



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FIDE

FIDE (Fédération Internationale pour le Droit Européen) — the International Federation for European Law — focuses on research and analysis of European Union law and EU institutions, and their interaction with the legal systems of the member states.

FIDE unites the national associations for European law of EU member states and candidate countries, as well as Norway and Switzerland. It provides legal scholars and practitioners with a common forum to address current issues of interest in European law and in the interaction between EU and national law.

The Estonian Association for European Law

FIDE's national association in Estonia is the Estonian Association for European Law, which was founded in November 2004 within the auspices of the Estonian Lawyers Association. Our members include professors, judges, state officials, advocates, notaries and representatives of many other legal professions, including Estonian lawyers working in the EU institutions and the Estonian judges in the European court system.

The mission of the Estonian Association for European law is to enhance awareness of the European Union and European law in Estonia through the organisation of seminars, lectures and other events, and to establish and develop relations with other professional associations in Estonia as well as on the international level.

The President of the Estonian Association for European Law is Dr. Julia Laffranque, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Dr. Anneli Albi, Senior Lecturer at the University of Kent, UK, serves as Vice-Chair.

FIDE Congress

FIDE's preeminent event is the biennial FIDE Congress that has become one of the most significant and reputable conferences of EU law academics and practitioners. In 2012, the XXV Fide Congress will be held in Tallinn, Estonia.

Traditionally, FIDE congresses are held over three days and address three parallel topics, of which one is in the field of competition law. For each topic, a questionnaire is prepared by the General Rapporteur and is distributed well in advance of the congress. Based on the questionnaires, national reports are prepared by FIDE member countries. These reports are subsequently published as a collection, along with the general reports prepared by the General Rapporteurs, and the institutional reports prepared by representatives of the EU institutions.

Following a short introduction by the General Rapporteur, issues raised in these reports are discussed in three parallel working groups that take place during the first two days of the congress. Thus, instead of traditional speeches, the floor is open to all participants to offer brief comments. The submission of a national report and subsequent analysis at the congress is one of the best ways for a FIDE member to contribute to the shaping of European law.

On the last day of the congress, speeches of a more traditional nature are given by distinguished scholars and practitioners on topical issues in EU law.

The working languages are English, French and German.

Participants

This high-level congress attracts some 500 participants from Europe and beyond.

Politicians, judges, academics and lawyers of the highest level are involved in the host country, and distinguished delegates include judges of the Court of Justice of the European Union and officials of EU institutions. It has also become a tradition for the President of the European Court of Justice to deliver a keynote speech on current issues in European law and the case-law of the Court.

Previous Congresses

The first FIDE Congress was held in Brussels in 1961. Previous host cities include the Hague, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Luxembourg, Copenhagen, London, Dublin, Thessaloniki, Madrid, Lisbon, Stockholm, Helsinki, Limassol and Linz.

XXV FIDE Congress 2012

May 30 - June 2, 2012, Tallinn, Estonia

Topics:

In Tallinn the three parallel topics will be:

- Protection of Fundamental Rights post-Lisbon: The Interaction between the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and National Constitutions

General Rapporteur: Leonard Besselink, Professor of European Constitutional Law at the University of Utrecht

- The Interface between EU Energy, Environmental and Competition Law

General Rapporteur: Prof. Peter Cameron, Director of the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee

- The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, including Information Society Issues

General Rapporteur: Valsamis Mitsilegas, Professor of European Criminal Law at Queen Mary, University of London

The general topic for Saturday's plenary session will be:

- The Lisbon Treaty and the EU's Constitutional Framework

Conference venue: Swissôtel Tallinn

For more information and regular updates please visit our website at: www.fide2012.eu or contact us at the XXV Fide Congress Secretariat: info@fide2012.eu

Photo: Kirsti Eerik



Supporters of the Congress and further co-operation opportunities

The 2012 FIDE Congress will be organised in co-operation with key Estonian state institutions, partners and universities, including the Estonian Ministry of Justice, the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Supreme Court of Estonia, the National Audit Office of Estonia, the University of Tartu, the Tallinn University of Technology, the European Parliament Information Office in Estonia, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Representation of the European Commission in Estonia, the Estonian Bar Association, Tallinn City Government and Enterprise Estonia. The congress reports will be published by the University of Tartu, which is one of the oldest universities in Northern Europe, having been founded in 1632 by the Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus.

We would welcome expressions of interest from law firms and institutions interested in sponsorship and partnership opportunities for the FIDE Tallinn Congress. The Congress provides a unique opportunity for congress partners to enhance their international exposure among hundreds of lawyers specialising in the field of EU law, both during the congress and subsequently through the congress publications.