



**International Society for Labour and Social Security
Law**
**Société internationale de droit du travail et de la
sécurité sociale**
**Sociedad Internacional de Derecho del Trabajo y de la
Seguridad Social**

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Season's Greetings

and

Best Wishes for 2008

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Dear colleagues

1. News from ISL&SSL

VII American Congress; Santo Domingo, 31 st October – 2 November 2007

I am happy to convey my warm thanks and congratulations to our colleagues Professors Carlos Hernández Contreras, Carlos Salcedo Camacho and all the organizing team, who have organized a highly successful congress in Santo Domingo. I wish to also put on record my great appreciation for the substantial support that the Government of the Dominican Republic, and more especially Vice-President Rafael Alburquerque gave to the Congress.

Our Dominican colleagues deserve high praise because they have maintained the congress despite the drama that had hit the Dominican Republic under the form of tropical storm Noel only three days before the Congress had to be inaugurated. It would have been understandable that given the circumstances our Dominican friends cancel the Congress. Yet, they decided to go ahead with it, and did their best to host their guests with kindness and generosity.

The Congress was attended by some 370 colleagues, of whom some 110 came from abroad in spite of very serious air traffic disruption. Because of damages caused by Noel storm the venue of the congress was moved from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where it should have been held to the premises of the hotel Melia, Santo Domingo. This was done under great time pressure; yet the new arrangements worked OK so that we could have fruitful debates.

The Congress examined the following items:

- Theme I: The impact of the economic difficulties of the enterprise on the contract of employment. General Reporter: Carlos De Buen Unna (Mexico)
- Theme II: Protection against anti-union discrimination. General Reporter: Rolando Murgas Torraza (Panama)
- Theme III: Workers' protection in case of illness. General co-Reporters: Francisco Walker Errázuriz and Rafael Pereira (Chile)

It also held a Round Table on Recent Trends and Perspectives on Labour Law, moderated by Professor Oscar Hernández Alvarez (Venezuela).

The reports and communications submitted to the congress have been gathered on a CD. They are also available online: www.congresolaboral.org.do

During the Congress a tribute was paid to Professor Rafael Alburquerque, for his long career both as Labour Law Professor and in politics, first as Secretary of Labour and now as Vice-President of the Dominican Republic. Professor Alburquerque is one of the drafters of the Dominican Labour Code and is undoubtedly the maître à penser of a young and bright generation of Dominican labour lawyers and scholars. On behalf of our Society it was great pleasure for me to join my voice to all those who have highlighted the substantial contribution that Professor Alburquerque has made to the Labour Law, both in his country and in Latin America.

IX European Regional Congress; Freiburg, Germany, 16-19 September 2008

Website: www.labourlawfreiburg2008.com

I remind you the agenda and name of the reporters of this Congress

- Theme 1: Implementation of the equal treatment principle in employment and occupation in the EU and EEA Member States. General Reporter: Ninon Colneric, Germany.
- Theme 2: Status and protection of migrant workers. General Reporter: Ruth Nielsen, Denmark
- Theme 3: The impact of ageing on pension schemes in Europe. General Reporter: Tomas Davulis, Lithuania
- Round Table 1: The impact of information and communication technologies in the field of labour law. Moderator: Rolf Birk, (Germany); panelists: Matthew Finkin (USA), Satoshi Nishitani (Japan) and others.
- Round Table 2: Employer's responsibilities in corporate organizations. Moderator: Carlos M. Palomeque López (Spain); panelists: Rüdiger Krause (Germany), Umberto Carabelli (Italy), Jesús Cruz Villalón (Spain).
- Workshop 1 Systems of law enforcement in labour law. Participants: Monika Schlachter (Germany), Andrzej Swiatkowski, (Poland), Philippe Waquet (France) and others
- Workshop 2: Qualification and training of lawyers and legal advisors in the field of labour law. Participants: Corinne Sachs-Durand, France, Susanne Wittkämper, Germany, Michael Sunnus, Germany, and others

XIX World Congress, Sydney, 1-4 September 2009

Website: <http://www.labourlawsydney.com/>

Below are the agenda and name of the reporters.

- Theme 1: Regulatory frameworks and law enforcement in new forms of employment. General Reporter: Rosemary Owens, Australia
- Theme 2: Workers' representation and social dialogue at the workplace level. General Reporter: Antoine Jeammaud, France.
- Theme 3: Emerging patterns of social protection in light of structural changes (ageing population, changing family structures, immigration, budgetary constraints, political and ideological realignments). General reporter: Carlos Hernández Contreras (Dominican Republic)
- Round table: Work and family life. Moderator: Gillian Lester (US)
- Workshop: What's new in Labour Law?

Professor Hernández has already sent me a draft questionnaire on item III, which I will be circulating in the first quarter of 2008. I am urging the two other reporters to also send me their questionnaires on their respective themes, so that our national members can start preparing their national reports.

2. Informal Executive Committee Meeting, Santo Domingo, 31 st October 2007

We have held an informal meeting of the Executive Committee immediately before the opening of the VII American Congress. It was chaired by our President Kazuo Sugeno, and was attended by some 17 Members.

Amongst other questions the meeting considered proposals for the holding of forthcoming congresses of our Society. It unanimously recommended that the following American Congress be held in 2010 in Cartagena de Indias upon an invitation by our Colombian Member, the Colegio de Abogados del Trabajo.

A great majority of members also supported the invitation made by the Chilean Society for Labour and Social Security Law, to hold our XX World Congress in Santiago de Chile, in 2012.

The composition of the two sub-regions in the American region was also discussed. A majority of the Executive Committee members agreed that our national members from Central America be included in the North American sub-region (at present they are included in the South American sub-region) so that we have an even distribution of our members between both sub-regions. At present we have 4 members in the North American sub-region (namely Canada, Mexico, the US and the Dominican Republic) and 14 members in the South and Central American sub-region. If the change is approved we would have 8 members in North and Central America (including the Dominican Republic) and 10 members in South America.

The Executive Committee would be asked to take a statutory decision on these questions at its next official meeting in Freiburg, September 2008.

3. Reform of our by-laws

The proposals made by the Task Group coordinated by Professor Alvin Goldman have been circulated to all of our national associations, vice-presidents and honorary presidents. I have already received a number of replies. The deadline for the receipt of replies is January, 31 st, 2008. In light of the replies received the officers will prepare a new draft, for discussion at our Executive Committee meeting of Freiburg, September 2008.

4. News from our Members

Bolivia

I deeply regret to announce the death of our colleague and friend Eduardo López Huaila, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 9 October 2007. Professor López Huaila had for many years represented the Bolivian chapter at our Executive Committee. I have conveyed our condolences to his relatives.

Colombia

The Colegio de Abogados del Trabajo will be organizing the XXVI National Congress on Labour and Social Security Law at Cartagena de Indias, from 23 to 25 April 2008. More information is available online at <http://www.colegio-abogados.org.co/>

Mexico

The reports submitted to the VI American Regional Congress of ISL&SSL, Querétaro, 2004, have been published by the Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas of the UNAM,

Mexico. Those who are interested in this publication can contact Professor Patricia Kurczyn, editor of the publication: kurczyn@servidor.unam.mx.

Peru

I have great pleasure to announce that Professor Mario Pasco Cosmópolis, former Chair of the Peruvian Association for Labour and Social Security Law, is the new Minister of Labour of Peru. I wish him great success in the challenging task he has before him.

Spain

Professor Juan Rivero Lamas has passed away in his city of Zaragoza on 18 October 2007. He was 69 years old. He was full professor (Catedrático) at the University of Zaragoza and Chair of the Spanish Association for Labour and Social Security Law. He was the author of many publications and member of the Ibero-American Academy of Labour and Social Security Law. Above all he was a great friend of many of us. I have written to his widow, Ms. Maria Antonia Zoraquino, to convey our great regret and deep condolences.

Venezuela

After the great success of the Congress it convened in 2007, the Fundación Universitas will be holding its II International Congress of Labour and Social Security Law from 30 April to May, 2, 2008 in Margarita Island. More information on this event is available on the webpage <http://www.congresolaboralmargarita.com.ve/>

Kind regards

Arturo Bronstein
Secretary General