



**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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Announcements by the Secretary General

I am pleased to announce that at its meeting in Freiburg, 16 September 2008, our Executive Committee elected Professor Michal Sewerynski as President Elect of our Society. In keeping with our by-laws he has immediately joined the ISL&SSL Officer's Board. He will be inaugurated as President at the closing ceremony of our next XIX World Congress of Labour and Social Security Law, to be held in Sydney in early September 2009. His mandate will run until the closure of the XX World Congress of our Society, to be held in Santiago de Chile, in 2012.

I have the great regret to announce that our Honorary President and former President, Professor Américo Pla Rodríguez passed away on 22 July 2008 in his home city of Montevideo, aged 89. He was one of the greatest ever Latin American labour law scholars and a close friend of many of us. We will remember him as a person of great moral standing, a firm opponent to the dictatorship that in 1973 seized power in his country and a reference for the younger generations of Uruguayan and Latin American labour law academics.

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Dear colleagues

You will find below a report on recent news and forthcoming events of our Society and its national members.

1. Executive Committee Meeting, Freiburg, 16 September 2008

The Executive Committee met in Freiburg, in the morning of 16 September 2008. It was attended by representatives and deputy representatives of ISL&SSL local chapters of 39 countries, two of our Honorary Presidents and the Officers. I would like to put on record my deep thanks to Professor Löwisch for the very important logistic support, including interpretation services, which he put at our disposal. The meeting was chaired by Professor Kazuo Sugeno, President of ISL&SSL and took decisions on the following questions:

- (a) Report on activities: the Executive Committee took note of the report on activities of ISL&SSL submitted by the Secretary General;
- (b) Financial report: the Executive Committee took note of the financial report, submitted by our Treasurer Giuseppe Casale. It noted with satisfaction that most of our national members had paid their dues until 2007. It also conveyed its deep thanks to Ms. Johanna Ruefli, for all the assistance she provides to the Treasurer and the Secretary General;
- (c) Election of a President Elect: the Secretary General informed that he had registered two nominations for President-Elect, namely Professor Franco Carinci, nominated by our Italian Member and supported by our Turkish Member, and Professor Michal Sewerynski, nominated by our Polish Member and supported by Vice-President Jozsef Hajdu on behalf of a number of associations from Central Europe. Both nominations were introduced by their respective sponsors, after which a secret ballot was called, the result of which was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Total votes cast | : 39 |
| For Professor Sewerynski | : 30 |
| For Professor Carinci | : 8 |
| Blank or void | : 1 |

Professor Sewerynski was accordingly declared President Elect of ISL&SSL. In accordance with our by-laws he has immediately joined the Officers' Board, together with our current President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. He will take up his position of President of ISL&SSL at the closing ceremony of our next World Congress in Sydney, September 2009, for a three-year mandate running until the closure of the following world congress, Santiago de Chile, 2012.

I warmly congratulate Professor Sewerynski for his election. I wish him a fruitful and successful presidency of our Society.

Professor Sewerynski (1939) is an active and well known member of our Society and its former Vice-President (2000 – 2003). At present he is the President of the Polish Section of ISLSSL. He was a member of the Organizing Committee of the 7th World Congress (Warsaw 1970) and the President of the Organizing



Committee of the 6th European Congress for Labour Law and Social Security in Warsaw (1999). He is author, co-author or editor of 15 books and some 140 articles published in Polish and other languages. He is Head of the Chair of European Law (Chaire Jean Monnet) and former President of Lodz University (1990-1996). He has also been President of the Polish Conference of University Presidents. At present he teaches Labour Law at the University of Lodz and is a member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. Apart from academic activity he has been involved in policy-making in his country as Minister of Science and Higher Education (2005-2007)

- (d) Venue of next ISL&SSL congresses: The Executive Committee decided that the VIII American Congress will take place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2010; the X European Congress will be held in Sevilla, Spain, in 2011, and that Santiago de Chile will host the XX World Congress in 2012. Proposals of agenda items and general reporters of these congresses will be decided at a later stage, after consultations between the respective organizing committees, the officers and vice-presidents of ISL&SSL.
- (e) Reform of our by-laws: the Executive Committee approved most of the reforms proposed by the officers, some of which after some discussion and amendments. Some points are, however, still to be clarified. This will be done during the next Executive Committee meeting in Sydney, next year, just before the opening of the World Congress. After adoption by the Executive Committee, the by-laws as amended would need to be submitted to the General Assembly, for ratification.
- (f) Composition of regional groups and distribution of vice-presidencies: Following a motion by Professor Ghera (Italy) a working party will be established, to review the present distribution of regional sub-groups, which is relevant for the appointment of vice-presidents, and also is taken into account for the rotation of the Presidency of our Society amongst the different sub-regions.

At present we have national associations or individual members in 58 countries, with the following regional and sub-regional distribution:

| SUB-REGION | COUNTRIES WHERE ISL&SSL HAS NATIONAL CHAPTERS OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS | N° of countries |
|--|--|-----------------|
| WESTERN EUROPE | Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, | 17 |
| CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE | Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey | 12 |
| AFRICA | South Africa, Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia | 4 |
| NORTH AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Canada, United States, Mexico, Dominican Republic | 4 |
| CENTRAL AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA | Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, | 13 |
| ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | Australia, Bangladesh, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan (China), Thailand | 8 |



2. IX European Regional Congress of Labour and Social Security Law, Freiburg, 16-19 September 2008

I warmly congratulate Professor Manfred Löwisch for the success of this Congress, which was held in the premises of the University of Freiburg, from 16 to 19 September 2008. It was attended by some 250 delegates, from some 40 different countries, and examined the following agenda:

- Theme 1: Implementation of the equal treatment principle in employment and occupation in the EU and EEA Member States. Chairman: François Gaudu (France); General reporter: Irene Asscher-Vonk (the Netherlands); Contributions: Monika Schlachter (Germany), Ronnie Eklund (Sweden)
- Theme 2: Status and protection of migrant workers. Chairman: Ludwik Florek (Poland); General Reporter: Ruth Nielsen (Denmark); Contributions: Rolf Birk (Germany), Stefano Bellomo (Italy), Mijke Houwertijl (the Netherlands)
- Theme 3: The impact of ageing on pension schemes in Europe. Chairman: Manfred Weiss (Germany); General Reporter: Tomas Davulis (Lithuania); Contributions: Sijbren Kuiper (the Netherlands), Wolfgang Schulz-Weidner (Germany), Fritz von Nordheim (European Commission)
- 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), François Gaudu (France), Shelley Wallach (Israel).
- 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 Systems of law enforcement in labour law with special attention to the activities of lawyers and legal advisors in the field of labour law and their qualification. Moderator: Manfred Löwisch (Germany); Panelists: Stein Evju (Norway), Kostas Papadimitriou (Greece), Kirill Tomashevski (Belarus), Reinhard-Ulrich Vorbau (Germany), Roland Wolf (Germany)

The reports and papers submitted to this Congress have been gathered on a CD. They can also be found in the homepage of the congress (www.labourlawfreiburg2008.de) which will remain open until the end of February 2009.

Reports of the congress will be published in Europäische Zeitschrift für Arbeitsrecht (EuZA), Recht der Internationalen Wirtschaft (RIW), Neue Zeitschrift für Arbeitsrecht (NZA) and Recht der Arbeit (RdA).

3. XIX World Congress, Sydney, 1-4 September 2009

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

Preparation of this congress is well underway. The venue is the Hotel Wentworth Sofitel, near the Harbour and the Opera House. The organizing committee has given careful



thought to the congress format. It intends to organize a number of workshops which will be running simultaneously in the afternoon sessions, so as to facilitate group discussion and exchange of views amongst the participants. Interpretation from and into English, French and Spanish will be provided during all the plenary sittings and in one workshop everyday. German interpretation would be provided should the number of registered German-Speaking participants is sufficient enough so as to make it cost-efficient. Social programs for accompanying persons and side trips for those who want to prolong their stay in Australia after or before the Congress are also being proposed.

Below is the agenda and name of the general 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)

Registration: It is already possible to register online, through the webpage. Those who register before May, 31, 2009 will benefit from a reduced registration rate.

Below are the registration fees, in Australian dollars¹, as announced by the Organizing Committee.

| | Early Bird Rate Until 31 May 2009 | Standard Rate After 1 June 2009 | Onsite Rate after 18 August 2009 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Delegate | 795 | 950 | 1100 |
| Student | 495 | 605 | 715 |
| Accompanying person | 330 | 330 | 330 |

I am urging the Organizing Committee to reconsider the amount of these fees, as they are higher than those paid by participants to the last World Congress, Paris, 2006. In Paris early bird rate had been fixed at € 360 (roughly AUD\$ 632 at current exchange rates) and regular and onsite rate was € 420 (roughly AUD\$738) including VAT (refundable to non EU residents).

4. News from our Members

Argentina

¹ Average exchange rate of the AUD, in September 2008 :

1 AUD = 0,570331 EUR

1 AUD = 0,837526 USD



The Argentinean Association for Labour and Social Security Law organizes its XVII National Congress in Salta, Argentina, from 9 to 11 October 2008. More information on this congress is available on the webpage: <http://www.asociacion.org.ar/>

Brazil

Professor Marly Cardone has asked me to announce the composition of the new Executive Board of our Brazilian Member, the Instituto Cesarino Junior de Direito Social, as following:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Chair: | Prof. Dr. ARION SAYAO ROMITA (RJ) |
| Vice-Chairs: | Des. ANNA BRITO DA ROCHA ACKER (TRT/1• R) Prof. Dr. RENATO RUA DE ALMEIDA (PUC/SP e adv.) Des. ODETE DE ALMEIDA ALVES (TRT/8•R) Des. ALCINO B. DE FELIZOLA SOARES (TRT/5•R) |
| Executive Secretary: | Prof Dr MARLY A. CARDONE (USP/Adv) |
| Secretary: | Dr. MARIO LINDONOR BASTOS DE BRITO (Adv. em Salvador) |
| 1 st Treasurer: | Dr. MARCIO FERZIN CUSTODIO (Adv. em SP, mestrando em Direito do Trabalho Univ. Mackenzie) |
| 2d Treasurer: | Des. TOBIAS DE MACEDO FILHO (TRT/9•R) |

Tunisia

Professor Ennaceur has sent me the reports of an African Symposium on Labour Law that was held in November 2007, with the collaboration of the ILO and the French Association for Labour and Social Security Law. The Symposium was attended by labour law academics from South Africa, Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Morocco, France and Tunisia. It discussed the following topics:

Topic 1: Changes of the Labour Law in the light of the liberalization of trade (introduced by Professor A. Lyon Caen, France).

Topic 2: Challenges of the social protection of workers in Africa (introduced by Ms. Corinne Vargha, ILO).

Topic 3: The impact of regional integration on the Social Law in Africa (introduced by Professor, Paul Kiemdé, Burkina Faso), and

Topic 4: Decent Work in Africa, (introduced by Professor Jean Michel Servais, Honorary President of ISL&SSL).

During the symposium a decision was taken, to launch a network of labour law specialists in Africa, the coordination of which during the first two years was entrusted to our Tunisian member, the Tunisian Association for Labour Law and Industrial Relations.

More information is available on the website of the Tunisian Association: <http://www.droit-social-tunisie.org.tn/>

United Kingdom

I am sorry to announce that Professor Brian Bercusson suddenly died at his home in Tuscany on 17 August at the age of 60. He was born in 1947 in Montreal (Canada). He



came to the UK to study law at the London School of Economics in 1967. He obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge and was appointed as a Research Fellow at Christ's College in 1974. His distinguished career included an appointment as a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence and a professorship in the Department of Law at the EUI. He also was Chair in European Law at the University of Manchester and then Chair in European Social and Labour Law at King's College London. He has authored many publications in Labour Law.

5. Books received

Jean-Michel Servais: *Droit Social de l'Union Européenne*, Bruylant, Bruxelles, 2008. After his retirement from ILO in 2005 our former Secretary General and Honorary President Jean-Michel Servais undertook a new career as Visiting Professor at the universities of Liège (Belgium) and Girona (Spain). His book on the Labour and Social Security Law of the European Community comes as support material for his lectures, in addition to his well known *Droit International du Travail* which also exists in English (*International Labour Law*).

Kind regards

Arturo Bronstein
Secretary General