



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

## *BULLETIN N° 126*

*December 2009*

*Season's Greetings*  
*and*  
*Best Wishes for 2010*

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**Dear colleagues**

## **News from our Society**

### **1. Task Group Servais**

Further to a decision by the Executive Committee in Sydney, September 2009, a working group has been set up, with the mandate of reviewing:

- (a) the format of our congresses;
- (b) the design of a more attractive and interactive webpage, which would include information on substantial developments in Labour Law and Social Security in the countries where our Society has national associations, and
- (c) how to better promote and expand our activities?
- (d) how to attract young scholars and researchers from all parts of the world?

The Group will be chaired by our Honorary President and former Secretary General Jean-Michel Servais. In addition to the Chair, it will be made up of the Officers, the Honorary Presidents Blanpain and Sugeno, Vice-Presidents Araki, du Toit, Potocnjak, Valdés dal Ré, Trudeau and Pereira, and the following members: Steve Adler, Ronnie Eklund, François Gaudu, Alvin Goldman, Oscar Hernández Alvarez, Richard Mitchell and Jeffrey Sack.

The Working Group will make recommendations to the Executive Committee on the above questions at its meeting in Seville, 2011.

### **2. VIII Regional Americas Congress of ISL&SSL, Cartagena de Indias, 25-28 May 2010**

Our colleagues of the Colegio de Abogados del Trabajo y Seguridad Social are working hard in the organization of this congress, for which many national papers on the agenda items have already been received.

The Congress venue is the Convention Center of the City of Cartagena de Indias. The Congress will be held from 25 to 28 May 2010, and will take place together with the XXVIII National Congress of Labour and Social Security Law of Colombia.

The agenda includes the following themes:

Theme 1: Current situation and the future of public and private pension systems in the light of the worldwide crisis. General Reporter: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, United States.

Theme 2: Public and private systems of settlement of individual and collective labour disputes. Co-reporters: G. Valdés S. (Colombia) and Steven Willborn (United States)

Theme 3: The protection of worker's privacy at the workplace. Co-reporters: Cristina Mangarelli (Uruguay) and Gilles Trudeau (Canada)

Round Table 1: The so-called "news forms of employment" and their impact on:

- a) individual employments relations;
- b) collective labour relations; and,
- c) the social protection of workers concerned

Moderator:

Round Table 2:

The use of international law by national courts in view of the adjudication of labor disputes.

Moderator: Xavier Beaudonnet (ILO)

Keynote Speech: Strike in the Public Service. Speaker: Carlos Álvarez Pereira (Colombia)

Registration rates for non-Colombian participants are us\$220 until January, 31, and us\$ 250 after February, 1 st.

Avianca is the official airline of the congress. It offers discounted rates to participants at the Congress. Contact Andrea Garcia [andregarcia@gematours.com](mailto:andregarcia@gematours.com)

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Bogotá, Colombia

### **3. X European Regional Congress, Seville, 2011**

The Executive Committee approved that this Congress be held from 21 st to 23 September 2011, and that it discusses the following agenda:

Theme 1: Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the Light of the Economic and Social Changes

Theme 2: Collective Bargaining Rights in a Globalized Economy.

Theme 3: Social Protection of the Unemployed.

Round Table 1: Public and private employment services as intermediaries in the hiring of workers.

Round Table 2: Groups of workers who risk exclusion or unprotection under labour law.

Workshop 1: The role of the judiciary vis a vis the changes in labour law.

Workshop 2: Interruptions and suspensions of the employment relationship.

In my next Bulletin (March 2010) I will come before you with more information concerning the Congress.

### **4. XX World Congress of ISL&SSL, Santiago de Chile, 2012**

This Congress will be held in the week beginning September, 24, 2012. Details relating to the venue of the Congress, agenda items, registration fees, reporters and social

programme are being worked out by the organizing committee in consultation with the officers.

## 5. International Seminar

As many of you perhaps already know, the International Seminar of Bordeaux will no longer take place. At its last meeting in Sydney, the Executive Committee put on record its deep thanks to Professor Philippe Auvergnon for the hard work he had done during ten years for organizing and running this Seminar.

You may remember that the International Seminar of Comparative Labour Law, Industrial Relations and Social Security was held during ten consecutive years in Bordeaux. Previously it had been held in Trieste, Italy and Szeged, Hungary. At present the universities, of Krakow, Poland, and Leuven, Belgium, are considering organizing a similar seminar. President Sewerynski and I are following very closely this matter. We hope that current efforts to organize such seminar bear fruit and we again have this indeed worthwhile and rewarding session every year as from 2011 if not already in 2010.

## 6. News from our members

### Australia

I have received the following e-mail from Professor Ron McCallum

As the Secretary of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law, I write to inform you of the names and the email addresses of the new office holders of the Australian Labour Law Association.

Yesterday evening, Monday 16 November 2009, the Australian Labour Law Association conducted its 2008 Annual General Meeting by video link between Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. At that meeting, Professor Andrew Stewart, University of Adelaide, email [Andrew.stewart@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.stewart@adelaide.edu.au) was elected as our new President. Professor Marilyn Pittard of Monash University, email [marilyn.pittard@law.monash.edu.au](mailto:marilyn.pittard@law.monash.edu.au) was elected as our new Vice-President. Dr Shae McCrystal of the University of Sydney, email [s.mccrystal@usyd.edu.au](mailto:s.mccrystal@usyd.edu.au) was elected as our new Secretary. Mr Michael Tamvakologos, who is a legal practitioner at the national law firm of Blake Dawson, email [Michael.Tamvakologos@blakedawson.com](mailto:Michael.Tamvakologos@blakedawson.com) remains as our Treasurer. Neither Professor Richard Mitchell, nor Associate Professor John Howe, nor I stood for our old offices. We are all delighted with the new team who will do a splendid job. Associate Professor John Howe and I are ordinary members of the National Committee. With best wishes, Professor Ron McCallum AO.

I would like to thank Professor Ron McCallum for the outstanding job he did as inaugural President of ALLA and the successful World Congress he organized in Sydney. I also congratulate him for his unanimous election as Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and wish him a fruitful mandate.

### Belgium

The Leuven Institute for Labour Law (Professor Frank Hendrickx, Director) organizes the "Brussels seminar" in European labour law in cooperation with the Jean Monnet Chair in European Labour Law at *ReflecT (Tilburg University)*. The Seminar will take place from 22 to 26 February 2010. It is designed for advanced level students, researchers and practitioners with a broad interest in European and comparative labour law and industrial relations. Registration fees are 75 Euro for students and 175 Euro for other participants and include registration for the five days (covering costs for the meeting room, sandwich lunch and administration). For more information and registration, please contact Ms. Helen Frenzel at the following e-mail address: [h.frenzel@uvt.nl](mailto:h.frenzel@uvt.nl).

### Costa Rica

I have the regret to announce the death of Professor Bernardo van der Laat Echeverria, in San José de Costa Rica, at the age of 67. During his academic career Professor van der Laat was Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Costa Rica (1986-1989), vice-president of our Society (1997-2000) and a Member of the Ibero-American Academy of Labour and Social Security Law. He has authored many publications in the field of labour law and was one of the leading labour law experts in Central America. Apart from his academic activities he was a well-known labour law practitioner in Costa Rica until he was appointed as Justice at the Supreme Court of his country in 1997. On behalf of our Society I have expressed my condolences to his family.

## Italy

The Fondazione Marco Biagi at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia is convening the Eighth International Conference in Commemoration of Professor Marco Biagi, on 18 and 19 March 2010. The title of the Conference is Rethinking Corporate Governance: from Shareholder value to Stakeholder value. The conference programme will be published from January 2010. More information is available online at <http://www.fmb.unimore.it/on-line/Home.html>

## Spain

The University of Seville, Spain, together with the European Industrial Relations Institute, organizes an advanced course on Labour Law for post-graduate students, from 30 August to 24 September 2010. Spanish and Portuguese will be the working languages of this course. Registration fees are 800€. For more information, please write to [ieri.secretaria@hotmail.com](mailto:ieri.secretaria@hotmail.com)

## Venezuela

The Fundacion Universitas organizes its 4 th International Congress of Labour and Social Security Law. The venue is Margarita Island and the dates are from 28 April to 1 st May 2010. For more information and registration, please refer to the following web address: <http://www.congresolaboralmargarita.com.ve/ver.php?nombre=inscripcion>

## 7. Other

Our former President and current Honorary President Roger Blanpain has published his memoirs under the title "What can I do for you?" The publisher is van den Broele (Belgium) <<http://www.publishers.vandenbroele.be/catalogue.html>> In "What can I do for you?", Roger Blanpain describes in detail his rich and varied academic career, which began at the University of Leuven (Belgium), the societal problems that touched him most, and his journey through national and international organisations, like the EU, the OECD, the ILO, the International Society of Labour and Social Security Law, and the International Industrial Relations Association. Amongst other questions the book provides the reader privileged insight into key questions of Belgian, European and international social history, including the Badger case, the Bolkestein Directive, and the Volkswagen case... Roger Blanpain offers his outspoken opinion on numerous hot topics, like the trade in humans in sports, the tobacco lobby, smoking bans, and the apartheid system separating blue and white collar workers.

Kind regards

Arturo Bronstein  
Secretary General

