

CONFERENCES AND REPORTS

Report from the 13th International Legal Conference Law in Business of Selected Member States of the European Union held on November 4–5, 2021 in Prague, Czech Republic

The annual 13th International Scientific Conference “Law in Business of Selected Member States of the European Union” took place under the auspices and on-campus of Prague University of Economics and Business (*Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze*).¹ The conference was organized jointly by the Prague University of Economics and Business, University of Economics in Bratislava, and Silesian University in Opava.

The two-day conference opened with a plenary meeting on Thursday afternoon chaired by **Associate Professor Nicole Grmelová**, Head of the Department of Business and European Law of Prague University of Economics and Business and the Chair of the conference committee, who delivered her opening speech, welcomed the participants, and launched the EU Law plenary session. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, the conference has attracted more and more participants every year, receiving more than one hundred conference papers and registrations from participants this year. Counting both on-campus and online participants, legal scholars from 16 EU and even non-EU countries submitted their applications to the conference.

The first presentation was delivered by the keynote speaker **Dr. Marek Martyniszyn**, Interim Head of School of Law at Queen’s University **Belfast**, the United Kingdom. Dr. Martyniszyn presented his paper critically examining the issues of broadening the reach of EU competition law. Showing the gradual process of extending the extraterritorial application of EU law, he highlighted that the EU reached the point of recognizing extraterritoriality two steps removed for the first time in the landmark *Intel case (Case C-413/14 P Intel/Commission [2017] ECLI:EU:C:2017:632)*.

Following this presentation, **Štěpán Richter** of Masaryk University in **Brno** presented his research on consumer protection in the supply of digital content and digital services, both on the level of EU and Czech law. Another interesting presentation related to European law was delivered by **Martin Samek** of Charles University in **Prague**, who spoke on the issues concerning Net Neutrality and Zero Rating in the EU law.

The conference continued with International Banking, Finance, and Insurance Law plenary session. **Alexander Kult** (Charles University, **Prague**), spoke on the hidden issues of choice of law in insurance and related state liability questions, followed by **Simona Heseková** (Comenius University, **Bratislava**), who presented her paper on crowdfunding credit services from the viewpoint of the proposed EU consumer credits legislation. The conference continued with the keynote speaker **Professor Thierry Bonneau**, Vice-president for research from University **Panthéon-Assas (Paris 2, France)**, delivering his speech on the so-called digital finance package. Discussing this EU proposal from September 2020, the main focus of his conference presentation was on the proposed *Regulation on the markets in crypto-assets markets* and *Regulation on a pilot regime for market infrastructures based on distributed ledger technology (DLT)*.

The short evening plenary session of the conference was dedicated to constitutional law aspects of doing business. **Vladimír Šarapajev** (Charles University, **Prague**) presented his research on the impact of restriction of ownership rights on freedom of enterprise and business activities. **Professor**

¹ The conference was supported by internal grant No. F2/74/2021 “Law in Business of Selected Member States of the European Union (13th international conference) (*Právo v podnikání vybraných členských států Evropské unie (XIII. ročník)*” of the Prague University of Economics and Business.

Martin Boháček (Prague University of Economics and Business) concluded the first conference day with his comments on the case-law of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic on copyright.

The conference continued with two simultaneous sections on Friday; both being also streamed online. One section, which was mainly intended for face-to-face participants on the Prague University of Economics and Business campus, started with the introduction and greetings by **Professor Martin Boháček**.

Participants could hear four speakers on Friday speaking mainly about international aspects of IT and Competition Law, starting with **Tomáš Ochodek** (Charles University, **Prague**) discussing the third-party dispute settlement in online content moderation, followed by **Lucia Pitoňáková** (Trnava University, Slovakia) speaking on the impact of the Schrems II judgment on data exporters in Slovakia. **Barbara Dufková** (Charles University, **Prague**) presented her research on the Altice case and Gun Jumping in the EU. The section was concluded by **Regina Yusupova** (Prague University of Economics and Business), speaking on the impact of pricing algorithms on the competition.

The Banking, Finance and Insurance Law session started with a speech on crypto-asset services delivered by **Martin Hobza** (Charles University, **Prague**), followed by two speakers from the University of Economics in **Bratislava**. **Martin Winkler** presented his research on the role and function of a bond security agent, and **Andrea Slezáková** discussed the issues of online distribution of financial services performed by independent financial agents, which became increasingly important during the Covid-19 pandemic.

After the informal discussions of the participants during the lunch, the conference continued with **Jaroslav Denemark** (Charles University, **Prague**) analysing the EU's sound trademark case law. **Hamad Majed Alowaisiq** from Saudi Arabia presented his paper prepared together with **Sharique Ali** of Cardiff University, the United Kingdom, discussing the critical issues of non-existent criminal liability of corporations under public international law. The last presentation was delivered by **Ondřej Zezulka** (Prague University of Economics and Business), who presented his thorough empirical legal study with practical recommendations de lege ferenda on the remuneration of insolvency practitioners.

Another section, which ran online simultaneously, was mainly intended for participants who could not join the conference in person due to the tightening Covid-19 restrictions. Starting with **Petr Tomčíak**, who joined the conference online from South Korea to speak about regulations of crypto-assets under the Covid-19 pandemic veil, both from the EU and Czech perspective, **Vít Švestka** (Prague University of Economics and Business) continued with a critical discussion on the concentration of powers of monetary and macro-prudential policy, which may lead to a misuse of powers of central banks as regulators and policymakers. **Ivan Romashchenko** of Mykolas Romeris University, **Lithuania**, presented his recommendations on a possible unification of online formation of companies, which demonstrate considerable divergencies in different EU Member States.

The presentation on the relationship between *Lex fori* and *Lex arbitri* was given by **Kristina Sedláková Salibová** (Masaryk University, **Brno**). As the conference also attracted scholars outside of the EU, **Sena Karaduman İşlek** of Istanbul University, **Turkey**, presented her research on the data protection matters related to a very recent topic of Covid-19 vaccination practices in the workplace, both from the perspective of Turkey and the EU. A business law presentation was given by **Jiří Bálek** (Charles University, **Prague**), who examined the role of internal audit within the governance and internal control mechanisms from the business group level perspective. Similarly, **Jan Klouda** (Prague University of Economics and Business) elaborated on the extent of a duty to exercise the role of a member in an elected governing body with caution and prudence.

After the lunch, **Bartosz Ziemblicki** of Wrocław University of Economics and Business, **Poland**, explained the economic activities of the Catholic Church, which are perceived as entrepreneurship from the perspective of Polish secular law. Two comparative studies were presented at the end of the section; **Jana Strémy** and **Simona Adamiková** (both from Comenius University in Bratislava, **Slovakia**) critically assessed the differences in Company Liquidation in Germany and Slovakia. The section was concluded by **Lenka Vačoková** of the University of Economics in Bratislava, **Slovakia**, who

compared the consumer alternative dispute resolution in Slovakia and the Czech Republic and provided the participants with the result of her quantitative study of the outcomes of ADR in these two countries.

Both sections were concluded on Friday afternoon with the closing speech delivered by the scientific committee chair, Associate Professor Nicole Grmelová.

The organizers will **submit both this year's and future conference proceedings for indexing to the prestigious international Web of Science (CPCI) database.** As the conference is being organized on an annual basis already for 13 years and is still growing, the organizers would like to **invite both foreign and Czech academics and PhD candidates to submit their high-quality papers in English for the next conference, which will take place on the campus in Prague on November 3–4, 2022.** The corresponding call for papers together with all the details and a paper template will be posted soon on the conference webpage <https://lawinbusiness.vse.cz/>. **The deadline for registration and abstract submission is September 5, 2022.**

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