



Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission and EU Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

"As any builder of bridges can tell you, you need a reliable and sound surveyor to advise you where and how to build the foundations of the bridge on both sides of the river. You, the members of the European Law Institute, will provide practical advice to policymakers and authorities across Europe on how to build these bridges. Advice that will ultimately help to build the European area of law and justice for the benefit of our citizens."



Vassilios Skouris, President of the European Court of Justice

"I am sure that the Institute, which has the active support and the keen interest at the highest level of the European legal community – including judges, practitioners and scholars – will make a valuable contribution to the development of the law in Europe."



Sir Francis Jacobs, President of the ELI

"ELI attaches high importance to its independence, which is guaranteed by its Statute and will ensure that it acts independently, in particular, in relations with all governmental bodies and the European institutions. Its members, on joining the Institute, undertake to act independently as a condition of membership."



Irmgard Griss, Speaker of the ELI Senate

"The founding of the ELI is due to the efforts of a great number of people from academia as well as from practice. It was viribus unitis that the dream of a European equivalent of ALI became true. And viribus unitis we will have to continue if we want the ELI to have an impact on the European legislative process."



Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson, Vice President of the ELI

"ELI strengthens the links between the different legal cultures and traditions of the European countries. It enhances our common inheritance and the special place of Europe in the global world. ELI is an extraordinary achievement in terms of innovation and cooperation among jurists from multiple backgrounds. "



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About the European Law Institute

The law in Europe has a profound impact on the daily lives of European citizens, companies and national political and legal structures.

The European Law Institute (ELI) has been established to initiate, conduct and facilitate research, make recommendations and provide practical guidance in the field of European legal development. ELI's working definition of the law in Europe encompasses not only the development of European law by the European Union and the Council of Europe, but also other fields of national law and may also include the development of international law, both public and private.

ELI analyses the difficulties that legal professionals face, develops suggestions for reforms of legislation in all areas including its application, and enhances the role of European law in the global arena. ELI also serves as a forum for discussion for lawyers, academics and other professionals from different legal traditions with a goal to facilitate the exchange of best practices in European law. ELI is an independent non-profit organization with headquarters in Vienna and is supported by the University of Vienna.

Opportunities for networking & cooperation

As a hub of European and international law, Vienna is a home to numerous institutions that could be of interest to ELI's work such as the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Vienna is also at the crossroads where East and West meet, a location particularly suitable to host an institution that aims to gather experts from all corners of Europe.

ELI wishes to engage the community of legal professionals, as well as the institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe, in a fruitful discussion aimed at bringing about tangible results. The Institute looks forward to working together with all organisations that share its ambitions and goals of improving the quality of European law.

About our Members

The Institute is uniquely broad in its membership, bringing together scholars, practitioners and judges from the whole of Europe. It is not intended for pure academic research, but rather to promote ideas for the development of the law which will have a real impact in practice.

Members come from academia, the judiciary, various legal professions, government, legislatures or other vocations. There are two categories of Members: Fellows, who participate in the Institute's activities on the basis of their own convictions; and non-voting Observers, who may be either individuals or legal entities such as European institutions, national authorities, or professional legal organisations.

Members are invited and encouraged to become closely involved in the Institute's work by proposing topics for projects or teaming up with other colleagues. ELI aims to ensure a diverse, collaborative working environment that will reflect various legal traditions in Europe and the varied experience of its Members. For more information on how to become a member, visit ELI's website.