

Employment - 10 AM meeting in the lobby

Dascha Mengels will give a presentation on '**Working in Belgium with foreign companies**'. I have recently given a presentation to HR professionals on 'Menopause policy and the workplace' and I would be interested to hear about how your respective countries are approaching the menopause from an employment law perspective – it is certainly a live topic in the UK.

Lunch at the Hilton

M&A Corporate & Restructuring

- 10.00 Begin of the PG session - *Location: **Hotel***
- 10.00 - 10.15 Who is Who: Welcome an introduction round
- 10.15 - 11.00 One year of sanctions: Discussion on the effects on sanctions to our practices. Short report by all members regarding their jurisdictions / client experience.
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break at the bar of the Court House
- 11.30 - 12.00 Presentation of the UBO Questionnaire
 Status of the M&A Questionnaire
 Further planning of future questionnaire/brochures/publication of the Website development / Attracting new members
- 12.00 - 12.30 **"Belgian subsidiaries of foreign companies: compliance with (new) rules of Belgian company law. Obligation to amend the articles of association and possible personal liability of directors"** by Hannes Carpentier, Counsel at Racine Law Firm
- 12.30 End of PG session followed by a lunch at the Hilton

Intellectual Property

We will have the meeting at the Hotel on Friday morning and we have the following topics :

Unitary Patent Court (UPC)

Presentation by Lisa Imbernon and Adriaan van den Koster from the patent agency Arnold & Siedsma (<https://www.arnold-siedsma.com/offices/antwerp/>). Lisa worked 15 years for the EPO. They will give a general presentation and will also explain the possible strategies of the concerned companies in the light of the introduction of the UPC. There is no doubt that the new UPC will be a game changer in European patent law.

Customs and IP

Presentation by Yousaf Jaouhar, customs official dealing daily with these topics in the port of Antwerp and the airport of Zaventem. He will explain the legal aspects and the tips and tricks with regard to the enforcement of IPR by the customs.

ChatGPT and AI

Presentation by Tim Becker & Philip Lüghausen

Lunch at the Hilton

International Litigation

- 9.00 Meeting at the hotel, transport/walk to location
- 9.20 - 9.40 Welcome by the chairs at the Royal Circle la Concorde Philotaxe
(<https://www.concorde-philotaxe.be/>)
Benoit Timmerman (Belgium): Some words about the building and the Circle
- 9.40 - 10.00 Chairs: introduction to the practice group; who is around the table; programme of the day
- 10.00 - 10.45 Yoeri Deckers (Belgium) LEGRAND & PARTNER CVBA:
Things to know about the Belgian law system
- 10.45 - 11.30 Lotte Vanfraechem (Belgium) LEX LIBRIS Advocatenkantoor:
European procedural law and application in Belgium
- 11.30 - 11.45 Coffee Break
- 11.45 - 12.30 ***The need for translators in Civil Litigation***
Zoom presentation followed by discussion by:
Corinne Smith Vice Chair of the Association of Translation Companies, UK
- 12.30 - 12.40 Benoit Timmerman (Belgium) DELACROIX & PARTNERS:
Show your expertise
- 12.40 - 13.00 Discussion: Focus of the group and topics for next meetings
- 13.00 - 14.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Optional sightseeing walk guided by Benoit Timmerman

International Trade, Transport & Insurance

- 9.30 Departure from the congress hotel by taxi to **Antwerp's Port House**
(famous building of Zaha Hadid Architects).
- 10.00 - 12.00 ITTI-Meeting in the Antwerp's Port House
Presentation by Mr. Kris Luyten, attorney-at-law with HBSV Advocaten and external legal counsel of the Port of Antwerp:
"Case Study: Liabilities of shipping lines in case of a collision in a port area"
Followed by discussion of the presentation.
Discussion of the next congress and the focus of our Practice Group.
- 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch at the port area
- 14.00 - 16.00 Visit of the port area by foot

Private Wealth

- 10.50 – 11.00 CET
(09.50 – 10.00 GMT) Welcome by the chairs.
- Introduction to the practice group, who is around the table.
- 11.00 – 12.00 CET
(10.00 – 11.00 GMT) Presentation by Paula Piquer Ruz from Buckles Solicitors:
Minors inheriting in different jurisdictions
- 12.00 – 12.10 CET
(11.00 – 11.10 GMT) Questions/discussion on above presentation
- Lunch at the Hilton

Participants attending in Antwerp:

10.40/10.50 CET Gather in lobby at Hotel Hilton Antwerp Old Town and be directed to venue at hotel for meeting.

10.55/11.00 CET Join online meeting (details below)

Participants attending online:

10.55/11.00 CET Join Zoom Meeting Here
Meeting ID: 842 8731 7140
Passcode: 843439

Real Estate - 9.30 AM meeting in the lobby

During the Practice Groups' days in Antwerp the Real Estate group will work around the different ways of selling real estate in Belgium and in the other participants countries.

We will meet in the beautiful '**Notarishuis**', the public Notaries headquarters in the province of Antwerp.

We will have two speakers namely:

- Mr. Jelle Van Hove, public Notary and representative of the Belgian Federation of Notaries
- Mr. Daniel Buschman, Real Estate agent and president of CIB, the largest Belgian Federation of Real Estate agents.

Our speakers will clarify both the **public notaries and the real estates agents input in the sales process**: who is drafting the preliminary contract? How does the publicity work? What are their respective responsibilities? What are the costs? Is there any competition between the two professions on the Real Estate market?

Our speakers will also give an insight in the **evolution of the Real Estate market in Belgium**: figures and tendencies.

If time permits, we will also go into the organization, deontology and disciplinary frame of the profession of the Real Estate agent.

As always it is the intention to compare the situation in the participants countries.

We will meet between 10 AM and 1 PM and then have an informal lunch.

If the participants wish, we can continue after lunch for one more hour before giving the opportunity to discover the interesting city of Antwerp.

Renewable Energy, Environment and Regulated Markets - 10 AM

1. **Update on EU renewable legislation (RED III)**
2. **Country update RE**
3. Cross border practice example
4. External speaker on **Belgian market**