

This issue contains the proceedings from the International Association of Law Library's 24th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship. The meeting was held at the European University Institute, Badia Fiesolana, San Domenico di Fiesole, just outside the famously beautiful city of Florence, Italy. It was a singularly beautiful venue for the Annual Course, and also contained a wealth of information about Italy and the EU that all conference delegates could bring back to their libraries or other places of work.

The theme of the conference was The European Union in the 21st Century: New Challenges in Law and Legal Information. Not only was the conference venue beautiful, but the content of the conference was superlative. The articles in this issue of the International Journal of Legal Information attest to the excellence of the speakers. The program for this conference can still be viewed online at www.eui.eu. The conference was particularly timely as it followed closely on the heels of the defeat of the new EU constitution.

This issue of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) contains the comments from nearly every speaker at the conference. After **Jules Winterton's** President's Report, the issue presents the reports from two of IALL scholarship recipients: **María M. Otero**, Director, University of Puerto Rico Law Library, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Harvinder Kaur, Reference Librarian, Tan Sri Professor Ahmad Ibrahim Law Library, University of Malaya - Pantai Valley, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Their brief reports contain the scholarship recipients' reflections on their experiences at the Annual Course.

The first article in this issue of the IJLI is a paper presented at the first session of the conference, by **Julio Baquero Cruz**, Marie Curie Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre, European Union Institute. Mr. Cruz was part of the first session of the conference and his presentation discusses The Court and EU Constitutional Law.

The Fiesole conference also contained excellent information on the EU Copyright Directive, devoting the entire second session of the conference to this important topic, critical to law librarians, legal practitioners, and judges around the globe. **Marco Marandola**, international copyright adviser, presented a paper on The EU Copyright Directive as Compared to US Copyright Law and its Implications for Libraries. His presentation was

followed by that of **Michèle Battisti**, ADBS, Paris, who spoke on the Implementation of the EU Copyright Directive; her comments focus particularly on the French perspective of this issue.

Session three of the conference focused on the law of the host country, Italy. **Mirinella Baschiera**, Ph.D researcher at the Law Department of the European University Institute, provided an Introduction to the Italian Legal System. **Ginevra Peruginelli**, Istituto di Teoria e Tecniche dell'Informazione Giuridica, Florence, described Legal Information on the Web: the Case of Italy. Ms. Peruginelli was followed by **Enrico Francesconi**, also from the Istituto di Teoria e Tecniche dell'Informazione Giuridica, Florence. Mr. Francesconi outlined the complex subject of the "Norme in Rete" Project: Standards and Tools for Italian Legislation. Rounding out this excellent session was the presentation of **Paola Gargiulo**, from the Library automation area, CASPUR. Ms. Gargiulo spoke on Open Access in Italy: Achievements and Future Prospects. All four of these excellent speakers' comments are in this issue of the IJLI.

The final session of the conference centered on *Ius Commune*. *Ius Commune* is the body of law which the various European states had in common before the codification movement. It also refers to a new common core of law upon which a kind of European Civil Code can be founded. The first speaker was **Martin Doris**, Ph.D researcher at the Law Department, European University Institute. His paper focused on the Continued Resonance and Challenge of the *Ius Commune* in Modern European Contract Law. The final paper was presented by **Eleanor Cashin-Ritaine**, vice-director and Head of Scientific Staff of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne. Ms. Cashin-Ritaine's lecture is titled, Harmonizing European Private International Law: a Replay of Hannibal's Crossing of the Alps?

As you can see from the speakers and topics outlined above, the IALL's 24th Annual Course was – and this issue of the IJLI is – particularly rich in important and pertinent information about Europe for law librarians, lawyers, and judges. And last – but certainly not least – are the usual top-notch contributions from the IJLI's book review editor, **Thomas Mills**, and the editor of the International Calendar, **Lyonette Louis-Jacques**.

The IALL Annual Course in International Law Librarianship is a unique and valuable experience for those who attend. The opportunity to meet in interesting and beautiful venues, opportunities to network with colleagues from around the world, and stimulating intellectual program

content make for a truly enriching personal and professional experience. The conference in Italy was particularly wonderful, and the 2006 Course in Russia just this past September was absolutely fascinating. The next course will be held in Mumbai, India in December 2007. The conference planning is well underway, and a website containing conference information can already be found at <http://www.iall.org/iall2007/>. For those of you who have already attended an Annual Course, you can already imagine what a great experience the 26th Annual Course in Mumbai will be. And for those who have yet to attend an Annual Course, why not start making plans to come to Mumbai next year? I hope to see you there.

*Mark Engsberg, Editor
International Journal of Legal Information
Yale Law Library
Yale Law School*