



Max Planck Institute
LUXEMBOURG
for Procedural Law

Press release

European Commission assigns a principal study on the future development of Civil Procedure in Europe to the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg

Luxembourg, 24.11.2015 - **In 2016 an international consortium, under the auspices of the Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law (MPI) located in Luxembourg, will conduct a central study on the future of European procedural law for the EU Commission. The MPI prevailed in a tender open to competitors from all over Europe and in doing so, was able to bring an important externally-funded project to Luxembourg.**

Once commissioned, the study will deal with the question of whether the different laws of civil procedure in the 28 EU Member States promote the effective enforcement of European law or whether this diversity rather hampers it. "There are significant differences in the judicial systems of the EU Member States," says Professor Burkhard Hess, Director of the MPI and leader of the study. "Such gaps in legal protection harm not only citizens, for example in respect of consumer protection, but also companies in cross-border debt collection. We will collect statistical data and empirical evidence from the Member States and undertake an evaluation of this data, taking advantage of the latest methods of comparative law. As a result, the study will present different options for lawmaking that might trigger the political activities of the European Commission."

The study involves researchers from the Universities of Florence, Ghent, Heidelberg, Madrid (Complutense), Oxford, Paris (Sorbonne), Rotterdam, Uppsala, Vienna and Warsaw. Both legal and economic practice will be widely consulted through a specially designed online platform. In total, about 50 people will participate in the research project operating as part of a Europe-wide network. Prof. Hess says: "The MPI Luxembourg is proud to lead such a consortium. After all, the Institute was created from scratch just three years ago - now it has become one of the leading research institutions in Europe in this field. This was the aim when the Institute was



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founded, and we are grateful for the continued support of the Luxembourg Government.” This project also strengthens academic research located in Luxembourg and it is a visible example of the co-operation of the Max Planck Institute with the University of Luxembourg; indeed, Prof. Cuniberti of the Faculty of Law will participate in the endeavour. The results of the study will be presented and discussed in an international conference at the Institute which will take place in autumn 2016.

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