

# Tallinn - Capital of European Law 2012

It has become a tradition in Europe to elect capitals of culture. I think it would be appropriate to recognize capitals of European law and, thereby, bring attention to the achievement of advanced legal culture and laws that are as fair as possible.

The year after celebrating its status as European Capital of Culture, Tallinn becomes European Capital of Law for 2012. During that year, the European Law Association (FIDE Estonia) and Estonian Lawyers Association will host in Tallinn several activities which introduce European Union law and, also, more broadly laws in effect in Europe. The culmination will be the Congress of FIDE (Fédération Internationale pour le Droit Européen [International Federation for European Law]).

By organizing the FIDE Congress in Tallinn in 2012, FIDE Estonia and the whole country would be the first in Eastern Europe to host this international conference which brings together top jurists from across the world. In turn, the event would help to introduce Estonia, Tallinn and our jurisprudence to the world and to influence the decision making processes in the European Union as well as to prepare Estonia for the presidency of the European Union in 2018.

Being the Capital of European Law does not mean an elitist “juridical” happening designed for specialists. As member state of the European Union, the laws affect everyday life in Estonia. Therefore, being the Capital of European Law gives the ordinary citizen a unique opportunity to participate in, and to influence, justice related decisions made in the European Union, to learn more, and to get answers to questions, about individual rights.

With best wishes until we meet at the Capital of European Law.

Yours sincerely,



Photo: Aldo Luud

Julia Laffranque  
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## FIDE, FIDE Estonia, and the FIDE XXV Congress 2012 in Tallinn

FIDE (Fédération Internationale pour le Droit Européen, International Federation for European Law) focuses on research and development of European Union law and legal institutions, and serves to unite lawyers involved in European law from European Union member and candidate states.

FIDE's national federation in Estonia is the European Law Association, established on November 13, 2004 as part of the Estonian Lawyers Association.

FIDE Congresses are considered one of the highest and leading gatherings of European Union jurists in the whole world.

The congress is a major event for the public, participants and sponsors, and it receives wide coverage in the press. The media programme associated with the congress helps to explain the essence of the European Union in readily understandable language.

The event is of national importance and it is sponsored by

state authorities as well as constitutional institutions such as the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court. Sponsorship from the private sector is most welcome.

Tallinn will be visited by the presidents of FIDE's national federations from nearly 30 countries a year before the congress.

## Congress participants

The FIDE Congress brings together more than 500 participants from Europe and beyond.

The reputation of these congresses has always been excellent and the congresses themselves are very popular.

The significance of the congress is reflected by the fact that the participants are traditionally welcomed by the President or the Prime Minister of the host country, as well as ministers, the Speaker of Parliament, and judges of the Supreme Court.

The judges of the European Court of Justice and officials of EU institutions have always been among key participants. It has become a tradition for the President of the European Court of Justice to deliver a plenary speech that covers current issues in European law and the case-law of the European Court of Justice.

## Congress topics

The congress has three main topics, one of which always concerns European economic or competition law. On the last day of the congress, a topical issue pertaining to the future development of the European Union is discussed.

Some of the topics discussed to date at the FIDE Congresses:

- fundamental rights and freedoms;
- free movement of persons and social policy, including employment policy;
- freedom to provide services, including financial services;

- relations between European law, international law and national law;
- the present and the future of the European Union institutions;
- enlargement of the European Union;
- implementation of the European Union directives;
- breaches of European law, and corresponding sanctions;
- administrative proceedings in Europe;
- European environmental law;
- legal aspects related to energy policy;
- agricultural law;
- competition law and anti-dumping;
- right of establishment of companies;
- insurance law;
- banking law;
- taxation in the European Union;
- civil aviation;
- asylum and immigration policy in the European Union;
- co-operation in criminal law in the European Union;
- media policy;
- legal aspects related to the European cultural policy;
- foreign relations of the European Union.

## Congress structure and publications

As a rule, the congress lasts three days. The working languages are French, English and German.

The congress topics and questionnaires are distributed well in advance of the congress. Based on the reports prepared by FIDE member states and European Union institutions on the particular topics, a general report is prepared. The reports are published as a collection. The submission of a national report is the best way for the country to contribute to the shaping of European law.

During the congress, discussions on the reports are held in working groups over two and half days. On the third day of the Conference, the work done by the working groups is summarised by rapporteurs. These are published.

The congress materials are of interest to, and are actively quoted by, legal scholars as well as practitioners of European law.

Publishing houses of juridical literature from all over Europe offer their products at the congress.

## Cultural programme of the congress

The congress includes high-level receptions, a cultural programme, festive dinners and special programmes (city tours, sightseeing) for the accompanying persons.

Thus the host country and the city have an excellent opportunity to publicize themselves.

## Congress locations

The first congress was held in Brussels in 1961.

In addition to Brussels, FIDE Congresses have also been held in the Hague, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Luxembourg, Copenhagen, London, Dublin, Thessaloniki, Madrid, Lisbon, Stockholm, Helsinki, Limassol and Linz.

For additional information on "Tallinn - Capital of European Law, 2012" and the XXV FIDE Congress please contact the Association of European Law, the Estonian Lawyers Association: <http://www.juristideliit.ee>  
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