Lord Phillips
Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales

Editorial

The Board will meet on June 30 in Ljubljana and many Board Members will be renewed for a further term. After two years as President of our Network, I will not seek renewal of my mandate. I would therefore like to express my gratitude to my colleagues in the Network who have all taken an active part of our meetings and activities; I am immensely grateful for all your help and support.

This issue of our Newsletter is principally dedicated to the Common Portal of national case law which the Network decided to create in May 2004. A first version will be available at the time of our meeting in Ljubljana. The portal offers Supreme Court Judges a new approach to case law of the other Supreme Courts, and as such this project has fulfilled our objectives in promoting and developing a common legal culture.

Dialogue with the European Institutions is also one of our aims. We took part in the launching of the European Justice Forum in Brussels on 30 May, informing it that the Network is prepared to assist the Forum provided nothing impinges on judicial independence.

Colloquium of the Network

The Network will hold in Ljubljana on 30 June next, its General Assembly and Colloquium on the theme of "The Motivation of Supreme Court Decisions".

The program of this event which is available on the website is the following:

09.00 – 10.00	General Assembly of the Network
10.00- 17.15	Colloquium of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union : "The Motivation of Supreme Court Decisions"
10.15 - 10.45	Chair : President Franc Testen, *President of the Supreme Court of Slovenia*
	Introductory Report : *The Rt Hon The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales*
11.00 - 13.00	Chair : President Willibrord J.M Davids , *Hoge Raad of The Netherlands*
	Session I : "The Assistance in Drafting the Motivation"
	"Is the Decision Taken by Way of a Single Judgment or by Individual Judgment?"
	General Report: Pauliine Koskelo, *President of the Supreme Court of Finland*
	Discussions
14.30 - 16.30	Chair : President Milan Karabin, *President of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic*
	Session II : "The Effect of the Decision as Precedent"
	"The Publication and Dissemination of Judgments".
	General Report: Chief Justice Vincent De Gaetano, *President of the Constitutional Court and of the Court of Appeal, Malta*
	Discussions
16.45 - 17.15	Chair : M. Torben Melchior, *Praesidenten for Hojesteret of Denmark*
	Concluding Remarks : Hon Prof Dr Irmgard Griss, *President of the Supreme Court of Austria*
	Closing : President Franc Testen, *President of the Supreme Court of Slovenia*

Conference on "Europeanization and Internationalization of Private Law as a Challenge for Judges"

The Supreme Court of Lithuania organized last April 18 a Conference on "Europeanization and Internationalization of Private Law as a Challenge for Judges". This event, which brought together Lithuanians and European researchers, took place under the chairmanship of ***Vytautas Greičius***, President of the Supreme Court of Lithuania.

The program is available on the website of the Network.

www.network-presidents.eu   **www.reseau-presidents.eu**

Common Portal of National Case Law

I Introduction

The "Common Portal of National Case Law" is a meta-search engine which permits simultaneous searches of almost all the case law databases of the European Union Supreme Courts.

This project was launched in June 2006. It is supported by the European Commission and monitored by the European Council's Legal Information Group.

Its internet address is **http://reseau-presidents.eu/rpcsjue/**.

From July 2008, a first version of the Portal will be accessible for the Supreme Courts, the European Commission and the Court of Justice via private access (with login and password). This will provide access to all the databases and online translation tools.

The Portal is also open to the public though with restricted access to the free case law databases.

Searches may be made in twenty languages: Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

More than twenty case law databases are now available, although this number will increase in future, thanks particularly to the addition of the case law databases of the Councils of State and of Supreme Administrative Courts.

II The available databases

The databases currently accessible are those of the Supreme Courts of Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (Civil), Italy (Criminal), Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom (British and Irish Legal Information) and United Kingdom (Parliament).

III The search

Screen 1: Portal Home Page

Authentication

A username and password are supplied to all Supreme Courts represented in the Network.

If you consider you should have access to all the features of the Common Portal, contact the Portal webmaster:

amelie.bidarddelanoe@rpcsjue.org

www.network-presidents.eu

Choice of language

Any of the official EU languages may be used to search the Portal (the language being changed via the links at the top and bottom of the page. See screen 1). The Portal will display suggestions based on the first four letters typed. These suggestions are not restrictive; if you cannot find the term you are looking for among the suggestions, simply type it in.

Some tips for a more efficient search

For a more effective search we suggest that you:

• Choose the keywords carefully

The keywords are first translated by the Eurovoc translation database. If no translation is found, the IATE translation database will be used. To increase the chance of finding a translation of the keywords in Eurovoc or IATE, it is preferable to use common keywords.

• Put the keywords in quotes

When a search contains compound keywords, it is preferable to place them between quotes so that the Portal does not translate each one separately. For example, "Arrest warrant".

• Omit unimportant words

When a search contains unimportant words, it is preferable to omit them, to avoid any problems that could be caused by translating them. For example, it is better to type in Tax Italy than Tax in Italy.

• Use the operators "and" and "or"

When a search contains several keywords, it is preferable to use the operators "and" and "or".

• Some examples of searches with comments

Right to justice and immigration – this syntax may cause problems in some languages because the Portal will search for a translation of "right" then "to" then "justice" then "and' and lastly "immigration". In some languages, the result consisting of the translations of each word juxtaposed will be different from the translation of the whole expression.
"Right to justice" and immigration – this syntax will give the best results when both search concepts must be present.
"Right to justice" or "right to strike" and "immigration" - this syntax will give the best result when one of the first two and the third search concept(s) must be present.
"Right to justice" "right to strike" - this syntax will give the best results when both search concepts must be present
NB: The space between the words in quotes will be interpreted by the Portal as the "and" operator.

• Select a maximum of seven databases per search

To speed up the search, it is preferable to make several searches, each time selecting a maximum of seven case law databases.

• Check the translations

Eurovoc and IATE will suggest several translations for each word. The Portal automatically sends the first translation found to the various case law databases consulted by the Portal. It can be useful to check whether the translation selected is accurate by means of the "Review translations" tab. If not, it must be altered by choosing from the other translations shown or by entering the translation of choice (see screen 2).

Screen 2: Translation selected by the Portal (in green). Alternative translations appear in blue color

"torture"
English (10 translation(s) found) change

☑ **torture** translated by user
☐ **torture lite** translated by IATE (reliability of 1)
☐ **water torture** translated by IATE (reliability of 3)
☐ **torture victim** translated by IATE (reliability of 1)
☐ **torture weapon** translated by IATE (reliability of 1)
☐ **torture chamber** translated by IATE (reliability of 3)
☐ **Torture Think Tank** translated by IATE (reliability of 3)
☐ **prevention of torture** translated by IATE (reliability of 1)
☐ **prohibition of torture** translated by IATE (reliability of 1)
☐ **extracted under torture** translated by IATE (reliability of 3)
☐ [   ] [New search]

Dansk (3 translation(s) found) change
tortur translated by IATE (reliability of 3)
torturoffer translated by IATE (reliability of 1)
forbud mod tortur translated by IATE (reliability of 4)

Browsing/viewing the results

By default, the first twenty-five results are displayed on the screen. The links "previous" and "next" make it possible to navigate intuitively among the judgments found.

The number of judgments displayed on the screen may be changed to 50, 100 or all results on one page (see detail of screen 3).

Show [25 ▼]
first << previous || nex| 25 |
| 50 |
| 100 |
| All |

IV The search results

Understanding the results

The number of judgements found in each database after a search is displayed at the top of the page (see screen 3).

The final list of judgments which may be consulted will be displayed when the last search engine has sent in its results.

If, for technical reasons, a database is taking too long to respond, the search process may be interrupted via the link "cancel search".

To view one of the judgments selected, click on the link "see the judgment" (see screen 3).

Translation

Each national case law database has its own format.
The results may be in either HTML or PDF format.
Only the results in HTML format can be translated using the DGT online translation database. The languages suggested for the translation of judgments depend on the possibilities of that translation database (the more common a language is, the greater the number of languages it can be translated into. See screen 4, proposed translation of a judgment in Portuguese into English or French).

It is also possible to view a judgment in its original language.

Screen 3: Search results

Screen 4 : Translation of the judgments

Sorting

By default the results are sorted by relevance.
By clicking on the sort operator, you can change the way the result is displayed (see detail of screen 3).
By clicking again, the results will be displayed in descending or ascending order, by date or country, depending on your choice.

Sort by Country / Relevance DESC/ASC / Date

Important : The Portal offers its users a tool giving an outline of the judgments selected and an idea of their content, thus enabling them to determine whether further research is warranted or not, but it does not provide a professional translation.