

WHAT'S NEW IN EU FAMILY LAW?

High-level conference on the Brussels IIb Regulation



THURSDAY,
8 SEPTEMBER 2022
13.00 TO 16.00

SPEAKERS



Ewa Kopacz, Vice President and European Parliament Coordinator on Children's Rights.

Ewa Kopacz was born in 1956. She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Lublin 1981, attaining her second degree of specialisation in pediatrics and family medicine. Until 2001, she worked in clinics in the Masovian Province and headed the health care facility in Szydłowiec.

Ewa Kopacz became active in local politics in the 1980s joining the United People's Party. In the 1990s, she joined

Freedom Union and chaired the party's structures in the province of Radom. In the years 1998-2001, she held the position of a Mazovian Regional Assembly councilor. She joined *Civic Platform* in 2001.

Elected for the first time as a deputy to the Sejm of the Republic of Poland in 2001, she was subsequently re-elected in 2005, 2007 and in 2011. In 2005, she became the head of the Health Committee as well as she worked as the chairperson of the *Civic Platform* structures of the Masovia Province. In 2007, she became a Minister of Health and she remained in that position until 2011 when she became the first woman in Poland to serve as Marshall (Speaker) of the Sejm (2011-14). In the years 2014-2015, she served as leader of the *Civic Platform*. On 22 September 2014, Ewa Kopacz was sworn in as Prime Minister of Poland and remained in office until 16th of November 2015.

Following the 2019 election to the European Parliament, Ewa Kopacz has been serving as a Member of the European Parliament and became one of its Vice-Presidents. As Vice President, she was appointed to the role of European Parliament Coordinator on Children's Rights in July 2019, and reappointed to this position in January 2022.



Didier Reynder, Commissioner for Justice

A father of four, Didier Reynders was born in Liège on 6th August 1958. In 1981, he obtained a degree in law at the University of Liège. Guest lecturer at the universities of Liège and Louvain, he never really left academia until he became on 1th December 2019 the European Commissioner for Justice.

After chairing the Belgian railway Company and the Belgian Airways Agency, he was elected Member of the Belgium Parliament in 1992.

In July 1999, he became Minister of Finance and, in July 2004, Deputy Prime Minister (until November 2019). He was Chairman of the Mouvement Réformateur (liberal party alliance) from October 2004 until February 2011. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade

and European Affairs from December 2011 until November 2019. He was also Minister of Defense from December 2018 until November 2019.



Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs, European Parliament

Adrián Vázquez Lázara (Madrid, 1982) is a Spanish politician, Member of the European Parliament for Ciudadanos (Citizens), which is part of the Renew Europe parliamentary group.

He is Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), and Substitute Member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee (AGRI). Member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China (as a full member) and the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (as a substitute member).

With a Master in International Relations from the University of Warwick (United Kingdom) and a Degree in International Studies from the University of Lindenwood (Missouri, United States), Mr. Vázquez has a vast experience in international affairs and international organizations. He has worked in different organisations including the OECD and NATO. He was advisor to the former Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ana Palacio. He also worked as a Public Affairs consultant.

Prior to his nomination as a Member of the European Parliament in February 2020, Mr. Vázquez was the Head of Cabinet of the Delegation of "Ciudadanos Europeos" in the European Parliament.

Dr Miloš Haťapka, Justice and Home Affairs Counsellor, Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU.

Dr. Haťapka obtained his law degree from the University of Comenius in Bratislava in 1982. Between 1982 and 1989, he worked at the Centre for International Legal Protection of Youth in Brno, the Central Authority of (then) Czechoslovakia under the 1956 New York Convention on the Recovery of Maintenance Abroad. From 1989 to 2014, he worked at the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, holding the office of the Director of the Private International Law Division. Between 2004 and 2008 he was seconded as a national expert to the European Commission (Civil Justice Unit of DG Justice and Home Affairs).

Currently he is a Justice and Home Affairs Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Slovakia at the EU responsible for legislation in the area of civil justice. During the SK PRES (2016) he chaired the Working Party on Civil Law Matters dealing with the revision of the Brussels IIa Regulation.

He published regularly in the Slovak periodical for legal practitioners "Justičná revue" and he is a co-author of the 2016 edition of the Slovak text book on Private International Law.



Dr. Boriána Musseva, Associate Professor of Private International Law, Sofia University Bulgaria

Dr Musseva is Associate Professor of Private International Law at Sofia University, Bulgaria. She is Head of the Department of International Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Law with numerous publications in the field of private international law and procedure. Lecturer of judges, attorneys, legal enforcement agents, notaries and other practitioners.

Attorney at law at Sofia Bar Council since 2002. Since 2021 Chair of the Bulgarian Attorney' Training Centre. External expert at the Ministry of Justice, founder of the Bulgarian Association for European Law and President of the Bulgarian Institute of Private International Law. Chair of the Working Party on Civil Law Matters (Brussels IIa) during the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council in 2018.



Martina Erb-Klünemann, Family Court Judge

Judge Erb-Klünemann is a German family court judge. She worked as a judge in civil law and criminal law cases at various courts before her appointment as a family judge in 1996. In this capacity she is responsible for international family conflicts pending at Hamm District Court as the centralized court for the District of Hamm Court of Appeals. Martina Erb-Klünemann is a network judge in the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (EJN) and in the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) as well as co-chair of the Association of International Family Judges (AIFJ). She publishes and runs worldwide training courses on cross-border family law and mediation in cross-border family conflicts. Her main focus is on strengthening children's rights in cross-border proceedings.



Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome

Ms Khalaf-Newsome is a trainer, cross-border family mediator and family lawyer. She is Head of Advisory Services and Co-CEO at MiKK e.V. - International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction in Berlin. Prior to joining MiKK in 2014 she practiced family law for nine years with Dawson Cornwell, a London based family law firm specialized in international family law disputes including child abduction cases.

Before that, Ischtar worked as a case manager at the child abduction NGO Reunite International in London. She completed her Legal Studies in London at BPP University Law School and holds a Master's Degree (MA) in Near & Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Law from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London, as well a Master's Degree in German and English and a teaching qualification from the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin. Ischtar qualified as a mediator with the Family Mediators Association (FMA) in London as well as with Inmedio (Multi-Track Peace Mediation) in Berlin. She also trained in Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) with the FMA. Ischtar is a MiKK Cross-border Family Mediation (CBFM) Trainer (Berlin, Singapore) and has developed content, trainings and workshops within EU projects (VOICE, LEPCA, CODEMAL, I-Care) and for MiKK projects funded by the German Ministry of Justice (BMJV). She has provided diverse trainings in the field of CBFM for MiKK internationally as well as for other organizations, i.e. the Academy of European Law (ERA) and has conceived EU co-funded projects for MiKK (AMICABLE). She regularly speaks at national and international conferences on behalf of MiKK and has published on family law and mediation in e.g. The Family Law Journal, Spektrum der Mediation and Die (Wirtschafts) mediation. Contact: ischtar.newsome@mikk-ev.de



Arnaud Gillard

Arnaud Gillard studied law at the Université Catholique de Louvain and political sciences at the KU Leuven, Belgium. He is a lawyer at the Brussels Bar since 2003. Having worked as a partner in two leading law firms in Belgium, he founded his own law firm specialising in family law 'Gillard Avocats' Brussels in 2019.

He is recognised by the French-speaking Order of Lawyers of the Brussels Bar as a specialist in Family Law and Estate planning law. He is the author of several publications in international private law and family law, primarily regarding international divorce, child relocation and international maintenance claims. Mr Gillard is a speaker at various conferences in Belgium and abroad in International and European Family Law.

He is fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and one of the Belgian representatives at the Family Law Committee of the CCBE (Council of Bars & Law Societies of Europe).



Markus Brückner, Secretary General of the European Judicial Training Network

Judge Brückner is a judge from Southwest Germany who currently serves as Secretary General of the European Judicial Training Network.

Judge Brückner attended the universities of Passau and Freiburg and completed his mandatory legal clerkship (bar exam equivalent) at the Regional Court of Baden-Baden. He obtained the additional academic degree of Master of Laws in Competition Law of King's College, London.

He was appointed a public prosecutor in 2010 and subsequently a Judge in 2012. From 2016 till 2019 he was seconded to the judicial training unit of the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer protection before he was elected Secretary General of the European Judicial Training Network in 2019. Besides law, Judge Brückner studied applied music (double bass) at the Freiburg University of Music.