

## 'Brussels Legal 2016'

Brussels, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

This first edition of **Brussels Legal** was organized by [English Training S.a.s.](#) of Lissone, Italy in conjunction with in collaboration with [Dr David Albert BEST](#), lecturer in legal English at the [Faculty of Law and Criminology, Université libre de Bruxelles](#).



**Thursday March 11th** we arrived in Brussels on a sunny spring-like day and briefly explored the area near our hotel. This area is home to the European parliament, the European commission and endless building housing translators, lobbies and other interest groups. We really had the feeling of being in the very heart of Europe.

On Friday morning three seminars were held in the [Committee of the Regions](#) building. The first session given by **Justus Schonlau** explained the functions of the Committee of the Regions. This organisation attempts to advise the EU Parliament and Commission through representation at the regional and local level. **Julien De Ridder**, member of the Executive committee of the Committee of the Regions then took questions from participants.

The final session of the morning was held by **Raffaele Del Fiore** of the [European Economic and Social Forum](#) – a European body made up of employers' groups, workers' groups and various other interest groups representing civic society.



After lunch in the canteen of the Committee of the Regions we visited the Parliamentarium: an interactive walk-through exhibition explaining the development of the EU from its original conception in the 1950s, up to the present and also looking forward to a Europe in 2050.



**Friday afternoon:** The first session was a Q&A with **Prof Anne Weyembergh** - EU Criminal Justice and **Prof Erik Van Den Hauten** - European Law, International Commercial Law focussing on the international role of the degree courses at the **Université libre de Bruxelles** and how the university interacts with EU institutions given its privileged position of being at the heart of the EU.

The final session of the day hosted **by** Dr David Albert BEST, focussed on the linguistic issues, specifically the move from 'translation' to 'co-drafting' of EU regulations whereby all 24

languages have equal status i.e. the concept of any EU directive or regulation being issued in one language (the definitive version) and then translated into other languages no longer exists. All 24 leagues now have equal status pushing the role of the translator to the forefront.

**Friday evening:** Dinner in a traditional Brussels restaurant which means BEER. Restobières in the heart of the city lived up to its name by provided a wide range of dishes all cooked in beer - as well as an unrivalled beer list of Belgian specialities.

Great food, great beer and a great atmosphere – thanks to David for choosing this location. Another plus point for having a local resident able to offer invaluable advice.



### Saturday Morning:



On Saturday morning we had a guided tour of the *Palais de Justice*. We were the only people in this huge building (bigger than the Vatican). It is the biggest courthouse IN THE WORLD and was the biggest building constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It houses all three levels of Belgian justice from the court of the first instance to Cassation.

Being the only people in the building our guide was able to show us all the most interesting areas of the building and explained a lot of the symbolism represented in the designs by its architect Joseph Poelaert.

After lunch and shopping in the city centre we flew home. Fortunately avoiding by only a week the violence which erupted in the city at the end of March 2016. We were lucky, others were not.

Here below is some feedback:

**Dott. Laura Gerosa, Milan** [laura.gerosa@bdo.it](mailto:laura.gerosa@bdo.it)

*“Brussels legal 2016 was, indeed, an immersive experience: a seminar on legal English with great university professionals and in the most evocative places; a chance to really get into the political life of the EU; an occasion – as usual, with Mark’s organization – to get in touch with nice people and practice our English, notwithstanding the plurality of languages in Brussels!”*

**Avv. Alessandra Iurlaro Monza** [www.avvocatoiurlaro.it](http://www.avvocatoiurlaro.it)

*“It is always a stimulating experience to participate in study tours organized by Professor Mark Brophy. Personally it is the third time, after London and Budapest, that I have participated in the study group. The seminar held at the Committee of Regions was a training in terms of understanding the participation of individual local entity in the European Union. The seminar on how to harmonize in the individual European Member States the European legislation was interesting too. I recommend this study trip.*

**Avv. Mariacristina Zanata** [zanata.mc@tiscali.it](mailto:zanata.mc@tiscali.it)

*“Once again, after the two previous trips to London and Budapest, I had the opportunity to join the study group which this year went to Brussels.*

*I appreciated the seminars focused on the organization, the functioning and the role of some bodies of the European Union and the importance of harmonizing the cultures of the different States Members, even linguistically.*

*Finally, once again, I could enjoy the travel arrangements and the ability of Mark Brophy to create a team spirit that makes people remember the journey as a valuable human experience, besides being professional”*