

International Association of Labor Law Journals  
Minutes of Annual Meeting  
Dublin, September 16, 2014

ATTENDEES:

Andrea Allamprese	Rivista Giuridica del Lavoro e della Previdenza Sociale (Italy)
Gian Guido Balandi	Lavoro e Diritto (Italy)
Kevin Banks	Canadian Labour and Employment Law Journal (Canada)
Roger Blainpain	Bulletin of Comparative Labour Relations (Belgium)
William Chiaromonte	Giornale di Diritto del Lavoro e Relazioni Industriali (Italy)
Massimiliano Delfino	Diritti Lavori Mercati (Italy)
Matthew Finkin	Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal (United States)
M <sup>a</sup> Encarnación Gil	Revista de Derecho Social (Spain)
Frank Hendrickx	European Labour Law Journal (Belgium)
Alan Neal	International Journal of Comparative Labour Law & Industrial Relations (Italy & The Netherlands)
Mia Rönmar	International Journal of Comparative Labour Law & Industrial Relations (Italy & The Netherlands)
Jeffrey Sack	Canadian Labour and Employment Law Journal (Canada)
Berta Valdés	Revista de Derecho Social (Spain)
Jesús Cruz Villalón	Temas Laborales (Spain)
Steven Willborn	Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal (United States)

GUESTS:

Elena Volk	Labour and Social Law (Belarus)
Lilach Lurie	Winner of the 2014 Marco Biagi Award

PROCEEDINGS:

**I. *Communications of the President***

The President, Steven Willborn, welcomed and thanked those present for their attendance. He also welcomed the winner of the 2014 Marco Biagi Award, Lilach Lurie. He thanked the Irish hosts of the meeting, Anthony Kerr and Michael Doherty.

Willborn asked Kevin Banks to say some words in memory of our good friend and colleague, Bernie Adell.

Willborn indicated that his interests and efforts for the IALLJ are reflected in the other business on this meeting's agenda. He encouraged members to contact him with other ideas and suggestions.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

The last business meeting of the IALLJ was held in Bordeaux, France, on June 5, 2013. The minutes of that meeting had been distributed to the group. The group approved the minutes as distributed.

## **III. Marco Biagi Award**

The judges for the 2014 award were Bernard Adell, Frank Hendrickx, and Jesús Cruz Villalón. The President extended his appreciation to the judges.

Twenty papers were submitted for the 2014 Biagi Award. The winner of the 2014 Marco Biagi Award was Lilach Lurie (Bar-Ilan University, Israel) for a paper entitled *Do Unions Promote Gender Equality?* In this paper, the author conducts a careful and extensive empirical study of Israeli collective bargaining agreements and concludes (in line with studies in other countries) that existing “family-friendly” policies are more attributable to the political process than to collective bargaining, and that trade unions are still surprisingly willing to tolerate collective agreement provisions which embody illegal gender discrimination.

Another paper was selected by the judges for special commendation: *Corporate Social Responsibility as Work Law? A Critical Assessment in the Light of the Principle of Human Dignity* by Isabelle Martin (University of Montreal, Canada). With an eye to the difficulties that labour law faces today in carrying out its traditional functions of furthering minimum standards and giving employees a collective voice, the author offers a novel and theoretically grounded consideration of whether corporate social responsibility (CSR) is well suited to take on any of these functions. She concludes that CSR does more to protect employee rights which are easily measured and already relatively well protected by law, in contrast to those (such as freedom of association) which are harder to measure.

The President presented a revised version of the Call for Papers for the Marco Biagi Award (attached). The revisions were supplied by Bernard Adell based on his concerns about ambiguities in the prior Call for Papers about permissible length and about the meaning of “early career.” After discussion, the group approved the changes to the Call for Papers suggested by Prof. Adell.

The President asked for self-nominations for judges for the competition for next year, and indicated he would let members know of the new judges when they were assigned.

## **IV. Admission of New Members**

The President reported that two applications for membership had been received. An ad hoc committee composed of Matt Finkin, Alan Neal, Jeffrey Sack and Manfred Weiss had reviewed the applications and made the recommendations below.

The Committee recommended that the *Russian Yearbook of Labour Law* (editor-in-chief: Viktoria Korobchenko) be admitted to full and regular membership. This recommendation was approved by the group.

The Committee recommended that the Belarusian journal, *Labour and Social Law* (editor-in-chief: Tomashevski Kirill) be admitted to full and regular membership. This recommendation was approved by the group.

The President accepted the suggestion from the group that when he contacts these journals about their new membership that they also be notified of the benefits and obligations of membership. Among other things, the President will notify new members of the expectations regarding the exchange of journals and meeting attendance.

As part of this discussion, there was also general agreement on a new initiative. It was agreed that the President would ask and encourage all members to submit English-language abstracts of all their articles to the Association. The Association would then make the abstracts available on its website, with a search function. The President indicated that he would communicate with the Association's website manager to develop a convenient procedure for facilitating this new initiative, and then communicate with the members about it.

#### **V. *Plans for Next Meeting***

The group discussed without resolution whether it would be preferable to hold the next annual meeting in Verona, Italy, or Leuven, Belgium. The President was directed to obtain details from the proposed organizers of the two meetings (Guido Balandi and Frank Hendrickx) and conduct a survey of the entire group to determine its preferences.

#### **VI. *Business Items***

##### **A. *Annual Volume***

The group had a robust discussion about the current status of the annual volume of labor law articles. Fourteen journals submitted articles for inclusion in the volume. The proposal in front of the group was to publish those articles, along with a preface by Steve Willborn and an overview of the articles by Alan Neal. The publication would take place both on-line through the websites of the Association and the International Society for Labor and Social Security Law and hard-copy through the publishing company, Lancaster House. A hand-vote was taken to exclude the overview from the volume. The vote failed. (Subsequent to the meeting, concerns were raised about the precise voting procedure used; see item B below.) Thus, the conclusion of the group at the meeting was to proceed with the proposal as presented.

No decision was made about producing a similar annual volume in subsequent years. The consensus was that we would review the experience with the current volume (the number

of electronic downloads, the number of volumes, scholarly reaction, etc.) before deciding about future years.

**B. *Organizational Structure and Decision-Making Processes***

Matt Finkin noted that the Association's origins were as a small group of journals that, because of its small, close-knit structure, could be operated very informally. But because the organization has grown so much, he suggested it was time to formalize the Association's organizational structure and decision-making processes. Currently, the Association has no formal structure or processes. He moved that the President appoint a committee to develop guidelines for the Association's organizational structure and decision-making processes. There was a general consensus about the need for consideration of these issues, but several attendees expressed caution about length and over-detail. With that caveat, the motion passed.

**VII. *Marco Biagi Paper***

As noted above, Lilach Lurie (Bar-Ilan University, Israel) was the winner of the 2014 Marco Biagi Award for a paper entitled *Do Unions Promote Gender Equality?* She presented the paper to the group and entertained questions and comments.

**VIII. *Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Steven L. Willborn

## Appendix

### CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE ~~2015~~2014 MARCO BIAGI AWARD

To stimulate scholarly activity and broaden academic interest in comparative labour and employment law, the International Association of Labour Law Journals announces a Call for Papers for the 2014 Marco Biagi Award. The award is named in honor of the late Marco Biagi, a distinguished labour lawyer, victim of terrorism because of his commitment to civil rights, and one of the founders of the Association. The Call is addressed to doctoral students, advanced professional students, and academic researchers in the early stage of their careers (that is, with no more than three years of post-doctoral or teaching experience).

1. The Call requests papers concerning *comparative and/or international* labour or employment law and employment relations, broadly conceived. Research of an empirical nature within the Call's purview is most welcome.
2. Submissions will be evaluated by an academic jury to be appointed by the Association.
3. ~~Papers accepted by the jury~~The paper chosen as the winner of the award will be assured publication in a member journal, subject to any revisions requested by that journal.
4. Papers may be submitted preferably in English, but papers in French, or Spanish will also be accepted. ~~The final version should not significantly exceed 50,000 characters which is about twenty printed pages.~~The maximum length is 12,500 words, including footnotes and appendices. Longer papers will not be considered.
5. The author or authors of the ~~papers selected by the jury~~paper chosen as the winner of the award will be invited to present the work at the Association's 201~~5~~4 meeting in ~~Dublin~~Verona, Italy. Efforts are being undertaken to ~~attach~~provide an honorarium and travel expenses for the presentation of the paper. Until that effort bears fruit, however, the Association hopes that home institutional funds would be available to support the researcher's presentation.
6. The deadline for submission is ~~April 30, 2014~~[insert date]. Submissions should be ~~transmitted~~sent electronically in Microsoft Word to both *Lavoro e diritto* at [lavoroediritto@unife.it](mailto:lavoroediritto@unife.it) and the *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* at [willborn@uni.edu](mailto:willborn@uni.edu).

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