



**Association Européenne des Juristes d'Entreprise**  
**EUROPEAN COMPANY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**European company lawyers elect Philippe Coen as new President of ECLA**

Berlin, November 17, 2012

Philippe Coen, Vice President AFJE (French Association of Corporate Lawyers) has been elected President of the ECLA (European Company Lawyers Association), of which he was Vice President since March 2012. He was elected in Berlin with a large majority of votes on November 16, 2012.

ECLA is the federation of the European national associations of company lawyers (bars and professional associations), gathering altogether more than 32,000 company lawyers across 20 countries in Europe.

Philippe Coen has campaigned around three main axes in order to promote the value the company lawyer practice:

1. Develop the influence of company lawyers via ECLA in Europe and defend legal privilege for the benefit of corporations
2. Increase services and benefits to the members of ECLA and develop international cooperation
3. Develop a communication plan for ECLA and use of social networks.

On this occasion, Philippe Coen said: *"After 30 years of existence it is important to give a new impetus to the ECLA and our profession. ECLA has not had a previous French President. The job of a company lawyer is a vividly fascinating and exciting job which is still too little valued. ECLA needs us to work on several areas including helping company lawyers to raise our profile. ECLA needs a thorough reform and this is the meaning of my election. "*

Finally, regarding the future plans of the ECLA, Philippe Coen said: *"I was elected on a platform of 17 projects divided into 3 chapters. My main projects for ECLA aim at reinvigorating our professional representation vis à vis the European Union. We will promote and support cooperation within the 20-member national organizations. Countries provided with a status and legal framework for company lawyers have a vocation to help those without status. We are already starting two major projects. The first one is a white paper on the independence of the professionals we are in companies and how to preserve this valued independence of mind. The second major project is the creation of a European ECLA code of ethics and professional standards to serve as a reference for each national organization. Moreover I want to encourage our profession to engage in more cooperation, more joint research, more communication via social networks, more aid to develop international legal careers and more pro bono work. Our profession is so central to corporate citizenship and responsibility. Our objective is to show and organize the ethical approach for our business clients, this is what we should be expected to deliver and ECLA can help much to fulfill this objective. "*



### **On Philippe Coen:**

Philippe Coen (45) has been admitted at the Paris Bar and earned law degrees from the Universities of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Paris X (Nanterre). He is also a graduate of the Academy of the International Court of Justice in The Hague and of Harvard University (he earned an LL.M. with a scholarship of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He also has followed cinematographic studies at Paris 7.

After working in private practice with a British and then a French law firm, Philippe Coen is now Asst. Regional Counsel with the European headquarters of a large US media and entertainment company. He has taught European Business Law at the University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Paris X and currently teaches at ESSEC Business School and Paris II Assas.

A founder of "Juristes Magazine", a member of the Editorial Committee of the "Journal des Sociétés" and holds a chronicle in "Culture Droit", he also co-authored "The International Law of Electronic Commerce" (Sweet & Maxwell) and "The Law of the European Community" (Lexis Nexis -Matthew Bender).

He is now President of ECLA ([www.ecla.org](http://www.ecla.org)) and Vice President of AFJE ([www.afje.org](http://www.afje.org)), the French Corporate Association of In-Lawyers (4,200 members). He directed the following videos: <http://www.afje.org/library/videos>

He is a Vice President of the French Manufacturer Trade Association (Unifab founded in 1880) ([www.unifab.com](http://www.unifab.com)) and seats the ALPA (audiovisual antipiracy), SEVN (video publisher trade association) and SELL (video games trade association).

He is a member of the HEC business school jury and a regular judge on the panel of the Legal trophies and is a member of the Mediation Academy.

Philippe did run a weekly 25-minute long radio show for 12 years on Radio J: 'Cinema J" and directed a documentary named "Memory in all states". He is also the founder of [www.hateprevention.org](http://www.hateprevention.org)

### **Extra:**

<http://www.afje.org/library/videos?name=0PROFJURISTECOURT.flv&docid=37>  
<http://www.afje.org/library/videos>  
[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xnd4wx\\_le-juriste-d-entreprisephilippe-coen\\_news](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xnd4wx_le-juriste-d-entreprisephilippe-coen_news)

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