



16th CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN REGISTRARS
26 and 27 May 2016 – Leuven, Belgium

Invitation

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

We kindly invite you to participate in the 16th conference of the European Association of Registrars (EVS) that will be held on 26th and 27th May 2016 in the university town of Leuven, Belgium.

The congress is organised by the EVS in collaboration with the Flemish Association of Registrars (VLAVABBS).

You are very welcome to join us and to exchange information with colleagues from across Europe.

On the first day, the conference will focus on the central theme of 'Citizenship in Europe at a turning point – Consequences for international family law and registrar's work'. We are proud that we will also be able to present news from the European Commission and to discuss about current problems with refugees and stateless persons in our working field.

On the second day we will dream of a vision for the future in Europe: 'One civil status throughout the EU'. The current situation and related problems teach us that we don't need a lesser Europe, but more genuine European solutions.

Arrival of the participants is foreseen on Wednesday 25th of May 2016. Departure is scheduled on Saturday 28th of May 2016. Of course you are very welcome to stay some extra days in the beautiful city of Leuven.

The conference fee includes lunch and dinner (drinks included), and a working visit to Brussels. For accommodation and breakfast, we offer arrangements with 2 hotels in different price categories: the practical and inviting Hotel IBIS Centrum in the city centre (300 m from the town hall/university hall/conference venue) and the modern, brand-new and low-cost Hotel IBIS Budget next to the railway station (1,1 km from the town hall/university hall). Accompanying persons are very welcome to join.

Could you please forward the information about the conference to your colleagues

We are looking forward to seeing you in Leuven!

Jürgen Rast
President EVS

Steve Heylen
President VLAVABBS



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Programme

Wednesday, 25 May 2016 – Arrival

Arrival of the participants in the different hotels

Hotels:

- IBIS Leuven Centrum (Brusselsestraat 52 3000 Leuven)
- IBIS Budget Leuven Centrum (Martelarenlaan 10 3010 Leuven)

Thursday, 26 May 2016 – First congress day

Citizenship in Europe at a turning point – Consequences to international family law and registrar's work

The first day of the 16th EVS congress, takes place together with the congress of the Flemish Association of Registrars, and focuses on citizenship. Nationality law changed thoroughly in many European countries in recent years. More and more states accept the dual or multiple nationality of their citizens. The growing international mobility of citizens and migration are closely related to this situation. Citizenship is less then it used to be a criterion for professional and social life. Not possessing the nationality of the country where you reside can, however, still cause specific problems.

Conditions for acquiring the citizenship are often made more strict. The citizenship as a “personal statute” stays on the European Continent the main connecting factor to determine family law related issues as maternity and paternity, marriage, name law etc. Conflicts of laws due to dual nationality have different solutions in different states. The jurisprudence of the European Court in Luxemburg sees this as a treat to the free movement of EU-citizens.

The European citizenship, established through the nationality of each EU member state, grows in importance. The EU interferes more and more in the field of family law and the registration of life events. The European Association of Registrars (EVS) wants to contribute to truly European solutions in the best interest of all of our citizens who are entitled to have the same name and family relations in the whole of Europe.

8.30 am	University hall (Naamsestraat 22 3000 Leuven)	Arrival of participants and opportunity to visit the exhibition floor Coffee, thee, juices and soft drinks	
9.30 am		Start of the 16 th Congress of EVS Welcoming speeches	Jürgen Rast President of EVS Dirk Vansina Alderman and registrar, city of Leuven



		Introduction	Veronique Blondeel (VLAVABBS)
10.00 am		Theme 1: Nationality law in the EU today	Prof. Dr. Gerard-René De Groot (Maastricht University) & Prof. Dr. Patrick Wautelet (Université de Liège)
11.00 am		Break and opportunity to visit the exhibition floor Coffee, thee, juices and soft drinks	
11.30 am		Theme 2: The role of nationality in international family law Private International Law: Lost in Nationality?	Prof. Dr. Jinske Verhellen (Ghent University) & Dr. Susanne Lilian Gössl LL.M. (Universität Bonn)
12.30 pm		Lunch and opportunity to visit the exhibition floor	
1.00 pm		General Assembly meeting Flemish Association (VLAVABBS)	
2.00 pm		Theme 3: The European scope – citizens of Europe Does EU Citizenship have a future? News from the European Commission Time for a change – make life easier for citizens	Prof. Dr. Jo Shaw (University of Edinburgh) European Commission representative (DG Justice and Consumers) Expert's committee EVS
3.45 pm		Break and opportunity to visit the exhibition floor Coffee, thee, juices and soft drinks	



4.15 pm		Theme 4: Citizens of the world – Refugees and stateless persons	Representative of the UNHCR
4.45 pm		Presentation of day 2	Veronique Blondeel (VLAVABBS)
5.00 pm		End of day 1	
6.30 pm	Lobby Hotels: - IBIS Leuven Centrum (Brusselsestraat 52 3000 Leuven) - IBIS Budget Leuven Centrum (Martelarenlaan 10 3010 Leuven) Other participants : City Hall	Guided tour in the city centre of Leuven Offered by the city of Leuven	
8.00 pm	Faculty Club (Groot Begijnhof 14 3000 Leuven)	Dinner	

Translation: Deutsch, English, Nederlands, Français, jezyk polski, Slovenský jazyk

Friday, 27 May 2016 – Second congress day

A vision for the future – one civil status throughout Europe

The second day of the 16th EVS congress focuses on Europe. Belgium welcomes this year the EVS-congress. Our country has always been strongly committed to the European integration process. It is not a coincidence therefore that Belgium is the host of many of the European institutions. Our message to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council is clear.

The European registrars want every EU citizen to be allowed to enjoy the same civil status in all Member States, because only this way can he exercise all the rights pertaining to EU citizenship. We strongly count on the EU to take action in order to maintain and develop an area of freedom, security and justice that will guarantee free movement of people.

Since the regulation of the civil status area differs between Member States, EU citizens encounter many problems settling their legally obtained civil status in another Member State. This leads to discrimination and hinders the free movement of persons within the EU. The solution to these problems is not complicated however, it depends on the motivation of the Member States. The European integration project brought peace and prosperity to our citizens, it is an exciting adventure in the best interest of our citizens. Let's not let them down!



8.00 am	Lobby Hotels: - IBIS Leuven Centrum (Brusselsestraat 52 3000 Leuven) - IBIS Budget Leuven Centrum (Martelarenlaan 10 3010 Leuven)	Bus transfer to the European Parliament in Brussels	
10.00 am	Parlementarium (Willy Brandtgebouw Wiertzsstraat 60 1047 Brussel)	Visit and meeting with Members of the European Parliament of your country – handover of the EVS Declaration	
12.30 pm	Brussels	Lunch	
2.00 pm		Bus transfer to the hotels in Leuven	
4.00 pm	University hall (Naamsestraat 22 3000 Leuven)	Festive academic session Family Law and European Identity Closing speech	Prof. Dr. Walter Pintens (KU Leuven & Universität des Saarlandes) Prof. Dr. Koen Geens (KU Leuven) Belgian Minister of Justice
6.30 pm	City Hall (Grote Markt 9 3000 Leuven)	Reception on the invitation of the city of Leuven Welcome Closing of the 16th EVS congress Presentation of the 17th congress of EVS	Dirk Vansina Alderman and registrar, city of Leuven Simon Rijdsdijk Vicepresident of EVS
8.00 pm	Salons Georges (Hogeschoolplein 15 3000 Leuven)	Festive dinner	



Saturday, 28 May 2016 – Departure

Preparation of the programme: VLAVABBS – Flemish Association of Registrars *

* The Organisation reserves the right to change the programme

Preparation of EVS opinions: Board of experts EVS *

* Dr. Jan Otten (Nederland), Christoph Cuypers (België), Beate Anefeld, M.A. (Deutschland), Dr. Giorgio Scalzini (Italia), Léon Evers (Nederland), Bogusława Mielcarek (Polska), Renata Mihaela Marin (România), Shirley Dicky (Scotland), Dr. Bojana Zadavec (Slovenija), Viera Zámečnicková (Slovenská Republika)

EVS www.evs-eu.org

VLAVABBS www.vlavabbs.be

LEUVEN www.leuven.be