The Role of In-House Counsel in Today’s Legal Practice

The role of employed lawyers in today’s legal practice – and the regulation of their profession – continues to be controversial. While much academic and judicial consideration has been given to the role and independence of private practitioners, less attention has been paid to the role or independence of in-house counsel. On May 29, 2014, the European Company Lawyers Association (“ECLA”) published a White Paper entitled “Company Lawyers: Independent by Design”, which makes a number of recommendations including proposals aimed at: (i) better recognising the need for companies to receive independent advice from their in-house counsel; (ii) clarifying, both at the EU and Member State levels, the independent nature of the in-house counsel role; and (iii) securing legal privilege for in-house counsel advice.

Against the backdrop of ECLA’s White Paper, this conference will explore: (i) significant recent developments regarding the role and status of in-house counsel in the EU; and (ii) how – in a global business environment increasingly dominated by “risk” and “compliance” – in-house counsel are uniquely-placed to uphold and promote the rule of law.

Confirmed Speakers:

- **Sofia Alves**, Head of Unit – DG Competition, European Commission
- **Philippe Coen**, President, European Company Lawyers Association (ECLA)
- **Matthew Heim**, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Qualcomm
- **Dr Boris Kasten**, Head of Competition Law, Schindler Management AG
- **Kristina Nordlander**, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP
- **Steve Preece**, Assistant Director, Competition Markets Authority
- **Karen Williams**, Director – DG Human Resources and Security, European Commission

Additional speakers to be confirmed.

Pricing and Registration

**In-house Counsel:** Free

**BIICL Members:** **Non-members:**

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N.B. The Academic rate also applies to staff of government and non-profit organisations.

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