

Call for Papers

**On Bits of Europe Everywhere:
Overseas Possessions of the EU Member States in the Legal-Political
Context of European, International and National Law**

University of Groningen, Faculty of Law (The Netherlands)
14–15 December 2009

Special welcome:
Secretary of State for the Interior and Kingdom Relations
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (TBC)

Keynote address:
Prof. Jacques Ziller (Università di Pavia)

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

Several of the Member States of the European Union have overseas possessions lying thousands of kilometers away from Brussels. These countries and territories enjoy a wide array of diverse legal statuses governing their position in national, international and EU law and seem to have one thing in common: the functioning of all the three aforementioned legal orders there is highly atypical. Just as it is unusual, the legal situation of the overseas is highly acute, as hundreds of thousands of Brits, Dutchmen, Frenchmen, Danes, Spaniards and Portuguese permanently reside in such possessions, being subject to their law, to say nothing about innumerable companies registered there.

While the implications of the specific legal position of the overseas possessions of the Member States of the European Union for the interaction between the legal orders are extremely far-reaching, they remain dangerously under-researched. In fact, some of the more obscure overseas possessions seem to exist in a kind of legal limbo.

The Conference ‘On Bits of Europe Everywhere’ aspires to unite a number of legal experts working with the overseas. By bridging the confines of different constitutional systems and striving to cover all the main legal issues arising from the specificity of the overseas of all the Member States of the EU having such possessions, the conference promises to be of utmost importance for the study of the legal issues related to the overseas possessions’ specificity. The conference will focus of three main themes:

- the place of overseas possessions in the Constitutional law of the Member States (how far should their autonomy go, how can high legal standards be promoted over there, etc.)
- the role played by the law of the European Union in such possessions (the borders of Europe, special legal regimes of such territories, issues of accountability, derogations from the *acquis*, overseas possessions' influence on Community law);
- the overseas possessions in International law (International legal personality of the overseas possessions, possible conflicts between the foreign policy of the Member States and their overseas possessions).

This major two-day event is to be opened by the Secretary of State for the Interior and Kingdom Relations (TBC). Prof. Jacques Ziller, a renowned expert in the law of the overseas possessions has kindly agreed to deliver the key-note address.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Interested scholars are invited to submit an abstract of up to 450 words broadly falling within the theme of the conference by May 25, 2009. Abstracts shall be submitted in English or in French. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-June. Please send your abstract to Dr. Dimitry Kochenov (d.kochenov[at]gmail.com) and Dr. H. Gerhard Hoogers (h.g.hoogers[at]rug.nl). Abstracts should include your institutional affiliation and the topic of your paper, as well as full contact information. Doctoral students are specifically encouraged to apply. The finalised papers will be due by November 15, 2009.

FUNDING

Limited amount of funding is available to the organisers to cover the paper-givers' travel and hotel expenses; please indicate in your proposal if you are interested in benefiting from our financial support if your proposal is selected.

PUBLICATION PLANS

The organizers plan to publish an edited volume based on the selection of the papers presented at the conference. We are currently in negotiations with several leading publishers. While the acceptance of your proposal cannot guarantee publication of your paper, the organizers intend to do their best to make the edited volume as inclusive as possible.

WHY GRONINGEN?

Founded in 1614, Groningen University is celebrating its 395th anniversary this year. It is one of the leading Law Schools of the Netherlands. The faculty has been building expertise in the area of the legal issues related to the overseas possessions for years by now. Our researchers produced a number of cutting-edge publications on this subject, especially focusing on the Kingdom on the Netherlands. Our faculty-members consulted the Dutch Government with regards to the reforms of the legal framework governing the overseas possessions of the Kingdom.

Convening Committee:

Dr. Herman E. Bröring (Professor of Law and Academic Director, Groningen Centre for the Study of Law, Administration, and Society);

Dr. H. Gerhard Hoogers (Associate Professor of Law, Department of Constitutional and International Law);

Dr. Dimitry Kochenov (Assistant Professor of Law, Department of Corporate Law and European Law).