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The latest issue of the Zeitschrift für Europäische Privatrecht has just been released. It contains the following articles:

Dagmar Coester-Waltjen, *Die Einführung der gleichgeschlechtlichen Ehe in ausgewählten Rechtsordnungen*

The introduction of same-sex marriage in German law has given rise to many discussions in society and politics. However, since the beginning of this millennium many states have accepted marriage as a union of two persons of different or of the same sex. Frequently these reforms have caused discussion on constitutional issues, especially on the prominent features of marriage and on the avoidance of any discrimination.

Juan Pablo Murga Fernández, *Payment of decedents' debts in succession law: "effects" and "defects" of the German and Spanish legal systems*

The transfer of the deceased's debts is a common consequence that arises from the phenomenon of succession in both Civil and Common Law legal systems. In this respect, a number of conflicting interests are at stake: namely, the interest of the heir that needs to be balanced against the interest of the different groups of creditors. This paper analyses the legal solutions given to these matters under the Spanish and German legal systems, pointing out their common and particular effects and defects.

Dirk Heirbaut, *The sleeping beauty awakens: Belgium's new law of inheritance as a first step in the greatest recent recodification program in Western Europe*

In the summer of 2017 the Belgian parliament voted a new law of inheritance, which is only a small part of larger program of recodification, announced on 6 December 2016 by minister of justice Koen Geens, and which includes, inter alia, a new civil code. This article explains why, after Napoleon, drafts of new codes failed in Belgium and why this may actually be one of the reasons, which make it possible that the recent recodification efforts may bear fruit very soon.

Martin Zwickel, *Die Einführung der obligatorischen Schlichtung in Frankreich*

In the context of the major judicial reform, France introduced mandatory conciliation as of 18 November 2016. In certain cases, it is now necessary to undertake a prior effort at finding agreement with a court-ordered conciliator. This article explains and evaluates this requirement