

LEX & FORUM Vol. 2/2022 - Private International Law & the Internet

The current issue of Lex & Forum explores the existing status of Private International Law & the Internet, and tries to map out solutions and proposals for the future.

The issue benefits from the privilege of hosting papers of two worldwide leading figures in the area of private international law: Professor *Dan Svantesson* is sharing his insightful conclusions about the current state of the interplay between Private International Law & the Internet and, also, points at the critical problems that need to be addressed in order to secure a better digital future. In doing so, he sets the tone of the entire issue. At the same time, Professor *Symeon Symeonides* offers a fascinating account of a much needed international coordination effort. After explaining the current status of addressing internet related personality infringements across different jurisdictions, Prof. *Symeonides* focuses on the initiative of the Institut de Droit International (IDI), which at its 79th biennial session adopted a critical Resolution on internet related personality infringements and Private International Law. Prof. *Symeonides* explains vividly how this transnational initiative improves over existing regional approaches and offers great insights on its history, rationale and development.

The papers of Prof. *Svantesson* and Prof. *Symeonides* are accompanied by that of Professor *Ioannis Deliskostopoulos*, University of Athens, who offers an excellent account of how the CJEU has been dealing with the challenge of personality related internet disputes. Trying to address future challenges, a second family of papers focused on blockchain based issues. Dr. *Ioannis Revolidis*, Lecturer at the University of Malta, contributes a primer on International Jurisdiction and the Blockchain, by exploring the unique characteristics of blockchain based systems and by extending his analysis on the so-called Non Fungible Tokens. Dr. *Nikolaos Zaprianos* puts the challenge of smart contracts into perspective, offering an excellent account about the limits of automation in contractual relationships, while Dr. *Konstantinos Voulgarakis* monitors the impact of cryptoassets in capital markets and the ensuing private international law challenges. All the

aforementioned papers have been presented during a webinar hosted by Lex&Forum on May 13 2022 (youtube.com/watch?v=84wCNVyWXP&t=652s, accessed 3.9.2022).

The analysis of the relation between Private International Law & the Internet in the current issue of Lex&Forum is concluded with the Praefatio authored by another leading expert in the area, Prof. *Gerald Spindler* from the University of Göttingen/Germany. The title of it reads as follows: “The Internet and other emerging technologies within the EU and international legal order - aspects of conflicts of laws and international civil procedure”.

At the same time, the Judge of the Court of Appeal Mr. *Ioannis Valmantonis* has provided a comment on the decision of the CJEU in *Gtflix v DR*, while Dr. *Apostolos Anthimos* contributes his views on two Greek court decisions on the refusal of recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards ordering payment in bitcoin (Court of Appeal Western Central Greece 88/2021 and Court of First Instance of Agrinio, Single Chamber, 193/2018). Lastly, Dr. *Evangelos Ziakas* contributes a paper on the mosaic approach of the CJEU on internet related personality disputes.

Lex&Forum will return with a new issue, which will be focusing on the relationship of the EU Private International Law acquis with cases including third country elements.