# "Digital Assets and Private International Law" - Conference in Vienna on 11 and 12 April 2024







On 11 and 12 April 2024, an international conference on the current topic of the appropriate approach to digital assets in PIL cases will take place at the University of Vienna in a hybrid format. For the impressive speakers list, including internationally renowned academics as well as representatives from UNIDROIT and the HCCH, please refer to the conference announcement below, which was kindly provided by the organizers:

# Digital Assets and Private International Law

### **Conference**

## 11 and 12 April 2024 in Vienna

#### **Outline**

Digital assets, such as cryptocurrencies, stablecoins and other tokens, have become important as objects of investment and trade. They are recorded on the blockchain, an electronic ledger held in identical form on servers (nodes) all over the world. Therefore, the determination of the governing law presents particular challenges. This conference will explore whether Private International Law

methodology can be successfully applied to digital assets or whether it needs to be changed in light of the 'blockchain revolution'.

**Date** 11 and 12 April 2024

Place Juridicum, Schottenbastei 10-16, A-1010 Vienna, roof top floor

#### **Format**

The conference will take place in a **hybrid format**. Speakers and participants will meet in the Juridicum. The proceedings will be streamed simultaneously online. **Registration** (both for physical attendance and online participation) can be made **until 6 April 2024** by email at the following address: service.rechtsvergleichung@univie.ac.at. **Participation is free** but registration compulsory.

#### **Programme**

#### Thursday, 11 April 2024

Time	Topic	Speaker		
13.00	Registration and Coffee			
14.00	Inauguration	Prof. Brigitta Zöchling-Jud, Dean of the Law School of the University of Vienna		
14.10	Welcome Address	Dr. Thomas Gstädtner, President of Supervisory Board, EBI		
14.15	Introduction	Prof. Matthias Lehmann, University of Vienna and Radboud University of Nijmegen		
Part 1 - Overarching Issues				
14.30	Do We Need a 'Blockchain Revolution' in Private International Law?	Prof. Andrea Bonomi, University of Lausanne		

14.45	Proprietary Rights in Digital and Other Assets and the Conflict of Laws	Prof. Christiane Wendehorst, University of Vienna		
15.00	The Law Applicable to Payments, Tokenisation and Contracting on Cross- border Digital Platforms	Prof. Dr. Gérardine Goh Escolar, Hague Conference on Private International Law		
15.15	Which Role for Consumer Law in Blockchain Transactions?	Prof. Teresa Rodriguez de las Herras Ballell, UNIDROIT/University Carlos III Madrid		
15.30	Discussion			
16.00	Coffee Break			
Part 2 - Law Applicable to Digital Assets				
16.30	Money or Securities as the Paradigm for Digital Assets?	Dr. Burku Yüksel, University of Aberdeen		
16.45	A Single Law for the Blockchain vs. Layer-, Protocol- or Asset-Specific Law	Dr. Augustin Gridel, University of Lorraine		
17.00	Choice of Law for Digital Assets -Technical Possibilities and Legal Conditions	Prof. Florian Heindler, Sigmund Freud University Vienna		
17.15	Discussion			
17.45	Summary and Conclusion of the First Day	Prof. Matthias Lehmann, University of Vienna and Radboud University of Nijmegen		
19.00	Speakers' Dinner			

Time	Topic	Speaker		
08.30	Coffee			
Part 3 - Law Governing Blockchain Transactions				
09.00	The Determination of the Law of Custody and Its Importance for Digital Assets	Prof. Matthias Haentjens, University of Leiden		
09.15	Secured Transactions in Digital Assets	Prof. Spiridon Bazinas, Sigmund Freud University Vienna (online)		
09.30	The Law Applicable to Staking	Dr. Fabio Andreotti, Bitcoin Suisse AG		
09.45	Decentralized Finance (DeFi) - Which Law is Governing the Entities, which the Transactions?	Dr. Pascal Favrod-Coune, Aegis Partners		
10.00	Discussion			
10.30	Coffee Break			
Part 4 - Law Governing Particular Issues				
11.00	The Law Governing Private Relations and Liability on the Network	Prof. Tobias Lutzi, University of Augsburg		
11.15	The Law Governing Trade Finance Tokens	Prof. Koji Takahashi, Doshisha University (online)		
11.30	Determining the Law Governing Smart Contracts	Dr. Jasper Verstappen, University of Groningen		
11.45	Discussion			
12.15	Summary and Conclusion	Prof. Matthias Lehmann, University of Vienna and Radboud University of Nijmegen		

About the Interdisciplinary Association of Comparative and Private

#### **International Law (IACPIL)**

IACPIL is a platform for discussing issues in comparative law and private international law. The association is based in Vienna, where it organises events on current topics, fundamental issues, and methodological questions. Its members reflect a broad professional base rooted in the academic, judicial, and administrative fields, and are also joined by translators and specialists from international organisations.

The association is a critically scrutinising forum. Interdisciplinary topics with legal, political, historical, social, economic, and cultural dimensions are frequently considered. In this way, IACPIL endeavours to promote a modern, humane, and social regulation of cross-border conflicts.

#### **About the European Banking Institute (EBI)**

The EBI is an international centre based in Frankfurt for banking studies resulting from the joint venture of Europe's preeminent academic institutions which have decided to share and coordinate their commitments and structure their research activities in order to provide the highest quality legal, economic and accounting studies in the field of banking regulation, banking supervision and banking resolution in Europe.

EBI aims to become a point of reference in the research of banking regulation research in Europe. By promoting the dialogue between scholars, regulators, supervisors, industry representatives and advisors in relation to issues concerning the regulation and supervision of financial institutions and financial markets from a legal, economic and any other related viewpoint, the close relationship with regulators, supervisors, and private sector is expected to guarantee a one-of-its-kind academic research production.