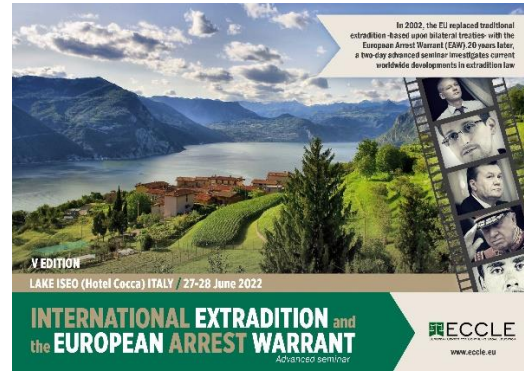


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PRESS RELEASE – THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL EXTRADITION AND THE EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT

26 law professors and practising lawyers from around the world congregated in Sarnico, Italy in the last week of June to brainstorm on current developments in extradition law and the practice of the European Arrest warrant. The fifth edition of the annual conference on **International Extradition and the EAW** was once again held at Hotel Cocca Royal Thai SPA, on the shores of beautiful Lake Iseo (Italy) and attracted experts from the **United States, Australia, Canada, Belarus, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe.**

The seminar began with a brief report by Dr **Stefano Maffei** of the University of Parma on the impact that COVID had on extradition and EAW cases across Europe.

UK Barrister **Mark Summers QC** - who appears on a regular basis in extradition cases, including the Assange cases – chaired the first session that was specifically focused on the developments of extradition in the UK. The session featured the contributions, among others, of solicitor **Anand Dobay** (overviews of the new extradition arrangements between the UK and the EU), solicitor **Hannah Raphael** (“politically” motivated requests from Turkey), and barrister **Malcolm Hawkes** (extradition requests from Russia).

Thomas Wahl, expert in EAW and managing editor of the EUCRIM (the European Criminal Law Associations’ forum?) then chaired the second session that was designed to present a number of reports from EU countries. They included The Netherlands (by professor **Joske Graat**), Belgium (by **Paul Bekaert**, former lawyer of Catalunya President Charles Puigdemont), Germany, Finland (by **Taina Neira**, from the Finnish Ministry of Justice), Poland (by prosecutor **Lukasz Zygmunt**) and Croatia (by judge **Tania Pavelin**).

Attention then shifted to the topic of “assurances” in extradition cases. We discussed what assurances are, why they are so important and what may happen in case the terms of assurances are violated by the requesting states. **Anna Oehmichen** (a lawyer and University lecturer from Germany) presented a model for a possible uniform regulation of assurances across Europe.

A separate session also featured presentations on extradition in Canada (by academic lawyer **Robert Currie**) and reports from Albania (by lawyer **Arben Brace**) and Switzerland (by lawyer **Gregoire Mangeat** and professor **Maria Ludwiczak Glassey**).

Other participants and presenters included UK researchers **Polona Florijancic** and **Mohammed Badar**, American law professors **Frances Olsen** and **Stephen Smith**, Italian lawyers **Omar Hegazi**, **Denise Pedrali** and **Alessandro Gentiloni Silveri**.

The **VIth International Extradition Conference** will be held in Northern Italy on **June 19-22, 2023**. All those interested should email the team of organisers at stefano.maffei@gmail.com