

ROUNDTABLE REPORT: FORUM SHOPPING: BALANCING PARTY AUTONOMY AND LEGAL CERTAINTY?

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On 14 April 2025, the Faculty of Law of Trnava University hosted, under its auspices and on its premises in Trnava, an international roundtable discussion entitled ‘Forum Shopping: Balancing Party Autonomy and Legal Certainty?’. The roundtable was organised in cooperation with the University of Bologna, specifically with the involvement of Professor Michele A. Lupoi, an internationally recognised authority in the field of cross-border litigation and civil procedure. Professor Lupoi chaired the entire discussion.

Professor Lupoi, who also serves as the Director of the Summer School on Cross-border litigation and international arbitration organised by the University of Bologna at the Ravenna Campus, travelled to Trnava in person, accompanied by Professor Marco Farina from the Università Europea di Roma. In addition to the distinguished guests from Italy, the roundtable featured active contributions from Professor Kristian Csach, Professor Tomáš Gábriš, and Assistant Professor Dominika Moravcová from Trnava University, as well as Assistant Professor Ľubica Gregová Širicová from the Faculty of Law at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. The event was streamed live via Microsoft Teams, enabling passive international participation from attendees across various jurisdictions.

The central theme of the discussion was forum shopping, with each contributor offering a distinct perspective on the topic. Professor Lupoi formally opened the roundtable in his capacity as Chair and guided the overall discussion, later contributing his own insights on various aspects of forum shopping in light of EU instruments of international civil procedure. Professor Csach explored the role of specialised commercial chambers and critically reflected on their influence in international commercial litigation, referencing numerous practical examples from across Europe. Professor Gábriš approached the topic through the lens of sports law, highlighting the variety of fora available for sports-related disputes and the existence of *sui generis* adjudicatory bodies in this domain. Professor Farina, an expert in international arbitration, analysed forum shopping specifically from the perspective of arbitral proceedings. Assistant Professor Širicová examined the opposite dimension of the topic, namely, the restriction of litigation options in the context of selected legal instruments governing commercial relationships, including the EU Due Diligence Directive. Finally, Assistant Professor Dominika Moravcová concluded the roundtable with a presentation on the practical implications of the *Inkreal* judgment in the context of the European Small Claims Procedure.

Following the conclusion of all presentations, a lively and engaging discussion took place, with participation from both in-person and online attendees. The roundtable did not represent a one-off academic exchange; on the contrary, it laid the groundwork for future collaboration among participants. Ongoing joint initiatives in the field of international private and procedural law, as well as transnational litigation, are already taking shape. We look forward to reporting on the next event in the near future.

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