

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPARATIVE LAW, INC.

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To: All Directors, Editors, and Delegates, ASCL  
From: Symeon C. Symeonides, President  
Date: February 18, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

It is my honor and pleasure to serve you in this new capacity. The purpose of this letter is to bring you up to date on what has happened since the 2006 annual meeting and to help prepare us for the 2007 annual meeting and beyond.

**1. 2006 Meeting and Congress.** First, some basic information for those who did not attend the 2006 meeting, which was held in Utrecht in conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> quadrennial congress of comparative law. Both the congress and our meeting were well-attended and successful. Once again, the United States delegation was the largest, except for the host country, with more than fifty U.S. colleagues from forty-four ASCL sponsor members attending. The Academy held elections, which resulted in the election of one of our own, George A. Bermann, as new president, and Jurgen Basedow as Secretary. The Society also held elections, which resulted in the election of the following officers: David S. Clark, honorary president (2006-08); Symeon C. Symeonides, president (2006-08); John C. Reitz, vice president (2006-07), Leila Nadya Sadat, secretary (2006-08), and Ved. P. Nanda and Teemu Ruskola, executive committee (2006-08). The minutes of the meeting are posted on the ASCL web site at <http://www.comparativelaw.org/> under Organization/Organizational Documents/Minutes.

**2. 2007 Annual Meeting.** As previously agreed, the 2007 annual meeting will be held on November 9-10, 2007, at Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY. Details will be posted later on the ASCL web site. I urge your to make every effort to attend this meeting for all the usual good reasons, but also because the members will decide some very important matters involving the financial future of the *American Journal of Comparative Law* and the Society and selecting a U.S. venue for the next international congress (see below).

**3. 2010 International Congress in the U.S.** The next congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law will be held in the United States, in 2010. This will be the first time since the Academy's founding in 1924 that this congress will be in the United States. We have committed to hosting it, and we must ensure it exceeds the successes of all previous congresses. The first step in this direction is the selection of a host school from among our sponsor members. This selection will be made by the ASCL membership at the Cornell meeting.

**4. Selection of Congress Host and Venue.** In the meantime, I urge all of you to give serious consideration to whether your school is able and willing to host or co-host the congress and, if so, to submit a proposal by August 1, 2007. A committee chaired by David Clark ([dsclark@willamette.edu](mailto:dsclark@willamette.edu)) will evaluate all proposals and will, through the Executive Committee, make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The other members of the committee are Dominique Custos, Paul Dubinsky, Bill

Fisch, Patrick Glenn, Louise E Teitz, and Stephen Thaman. At this time, we do not have any information regarding the financial costs of hosting a congress, but the organizers of the Utrecht congress have promised to send us all of their data as soon as they are finalized in early March. In the meantime, you can find useful information about what the congress entails by visiting the web site of the Utrecht congress at <http://www2.law.uu.nl/priv/AIDC/index1.asp>. The Academy's website is <http://www.iuscomparatum.org/> The Society is prepared to provide a modest subsidy for the costs of hosting the congress. The amount of the subsidy will be decided by the membership at the Cornell meeting.

**5. Submission of Topics for the 2010 Congress.** As in previous congresses, the Academy will select the topics of the congress from proposals submitted by member countries at least two years earlier. To meet the Academy's deadline, we must collect our topics at the Cornell meeting, at the latest. John Reitz has agreed to serve again as the coordinator for this matter. Please send your submission with an one- or two-paragraph explanation to [john-reitz@uiowa.edu](mailto:john-reitz@uiowa.edu), before the Cornell meeting. Although the Academy reserves the right to make the final selection, this is our opportunity to make the next congress more interesting by submitting good, timely topics.

**6. Serving on committees.** The list and compositions of ASCL committees can be found on the ASCL website under People/Committees. If you would like to serve on any of these committees, please send me an e-mail to that effect.

That is all for now. I look forward to working with you in this, the 55<sup>th</sup>, year of our Society.

Cordially

Symeon C. Symeonides