

THE FORUM: SHARED POOL OF INFORMATION ROUND TABLE

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Introduction

Even though the Forum is now available to us for several years, unfortunately it has not succeeded yet, at least not in an extent that I would personally hope for.

While I understand that there might be various reasons behind this situation, it would be wonderful if we could discuss these individual causes and understand them, in order to be able to find a solution – such a solution, that would be capable of reviving the Forum, using its great potential and eventually enabling us to share relevant information quickly and effectively.

Being one of the most responding countries, it is obvious that we feel very strongly about the Forum. Personally I find it to be an excellent tool for cooperation and mutual sharing of information and I hope that during today I will be able to infect you all with my enthusiasm and faith for the Forum.

Several notes

Considering the Forum as a source of information, according to my opinion it might actually be the most useful kind of interaction platform possible. Every single time when we decided to turn to its help, it was always after a thorough research when we could not find relevant information on our own, from our traditional and usually reliable sources. Trust me that we never wanted to “abuse” the Forum. We appreciate the time and effort that needs to be invested into answering Forum questions and fully respect that you all are busy fulfilling your own tasks and duties, that is the reason why we would never turn to the Forum out of laziness. A lot of information is available in English nowadays, plus at my department we speak French and German, so we are able to find quite a lot of data on our own. But whenever we cannot, it would really be extremely helpful to know, that we can turn to a group of specialists from all across the Europe, who would be able to give us relevant answers or at least guidelines.

You only get what you give

It is essential that every one of us understands the very basic principle on which all databases and shared pools of information are based – getting only what was given. It is true, that every answer given always costs some time and energy, but the more we give, the more we should eventually get. When it comes to databases, it is only possible to find data there if someone inserted it in there, and it is similar when it comes to the Forum too.

We have to understand, that while answering the questions on the Forum almost always is an extra work, doing this extra from time to time might be a huge help for someone, and all of us might be in a similar situation one day – in a situation when such a help would make a real difference. Since not all information is available in English (or any other language we might speak), having someone to turn to when looking for national legislation, practice or case law actually might be a deal-breaker in a lot of cases.

Conclusions

I would like to thank everyone for their valuable views, opinions and suggestions about the Forum. I hope that we will now be able to understand better, that the situation at each institution is unique, and that it might not be possible to find one general solution for every single one of them, but at the same time that we will try to do our best to finally revive the Forum, make it a living organism and a helpful tool.

Thank you for your attention and talk to you all soon on the Forum.