

A Message from the President of the Central and Eastern European Moot Court (CEEMC)

The CEEMC was founded in 1994 as an educational/ professional initiative intended to help train students and young lawyers from Central and Eastern Europe in the workings and structure of the EEC at a time when a number of countries from that region aspired to EEC membership. Now in its 25th year, it has grown in reputation and status since its modest beginnings in Torun (Poland). This year's edition is being held inside the judicial heart of the European Union: at the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg.

The CEEMC is a friendly 'teaching moot' with a proven track record and an excellent reputation. It helps young lawyers to make the transition from law student regurgitating what is needed to pass the exams to responsible advocate, able to advance the client's interests ethically. The CEEMC's story so far has proved that the time and effort invested in the CEEMC by participants, organizers and judges are richly rewarded. Students who have mooted with the CEEMC have gone on to become successful practitioners and academics, legal advisers and indeed Members of EU jurisdictions.

The European Union itself plays a central role in promoting stability in Europe. However, the current times are challenging, both legally and politically, and every initiative counts. The judges and organizers who pour out their creativity and energy every year in preparing and judging the CEEMC do so because we are all convinced of its utility and of the real 'value-added' that it provides in promoting European solidarity. On our collective behalf, I extend a very warm invitation to you to send a team to participate in this year's moot court. Your mooters will learn a lot technically about how to be more effective lawyers; but they will also have an unrivalled opportunity, in a very friendly and informal atmosphere, to encounter like-minded young lawyers from different backgrounds and cultures and to find out more about how – and why – we are building Europe together under the rule of law.

I do hope that your students will be joining us.



Advocate General Eleanor Sharpston

Court of Justice of the European Union