

BRATISLAVA LAW REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY
THE FACULTY OF LAW,
COMENIUS UNIVERSITY
BRATISLAVA

ISSN (print): 2585-7088
ISSN (electronic): 2644-6359

REPORT FROM THE ECCL (EUROPEAN COMPANY CASE LAW) SYMPOSIUM ON CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE – SUSTAINABILITY AND LAW (GHENT, 31 MAY 2024) / Mária Patakyová, Barbora Grambličková

prof. JUDr. Mária Patakyová, CSc.
Comenius University Bratislava
Faculty of Law
Department of Commercial Law
and Economic Law
Šafárikovo nám. 6
810 00 Bratislava; Slovakia
maria.patakyova@flaw.uniba.sk
ORCID: 0000-0001-5640-2381

JUDr. Barbora Grambličková, PhD.,
LL.M.
Comenius University Bratislava
Faculty of Law
Department of Commercial Law
and Economic Law
Šafárikovo nám. 6
810 00 Bratislava; Slovakia
barbora.czokolyova@uniba.sk
ORCID: 0000-0003-0458-3808

Suggested citation:

Patakyová, M., Grambličková, B. (2024). Report from the ECCL (European Company Case Law) Symposium on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence – Sustainability and Law (Ghent, 31 May 2024). *Bratislava Law Review*, 8(1), 267-268. <https://doi.org/10.46282/blr.2024.8.1.884>

Submitted: 24 June 2024

Published: 07 July 2024

The European Company Case Law (ECCL) Symposium took place on May 31, 2024, at the Faculty of Law, Ghent University in Belgium. The organising committee consisted of Professor Hans De Wulf (Ghent University), Professor Joti Roest (University of Amsterdam), and Professor Diederik Bruloot (Ghent University). The ECCL comprises a pan-European board of experts representing each EU member state and publishes the ECCL journal, which offers readers a comprehensive overview of laws and legislation in the EU.

The theme of the ECCL Symposium was sustainability in corporate law, with a particular focus on corporate sustainability due diligence. Just a few days before the symposium, on May 24, 2024, the Council of the European Union approved the political agreement on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. This directive aims to

foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour in companies' operations and across their global value chains. The final wording of the directive shall be available in the summer.

Professors Hans De Wulf and Joti Roest jointly opened the symposium. Following the welcome address, Professor Christopher M. Bruner from the University of Georgia School of Law (USA) delivered the keynote speech on developments and debates surrounding corporate sustainability in the USA, providing a complex perspective on the challenges faced in the USA.

Next, Professor Karsten Engsig Sørensen from Aarhus University presented his insights on the role of stakeholders in sustainability due diligence processes. This was followed by Professor Deirdre Ahern from Trinity College Dublin, who focused on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, examining its direct impacts on regulated actors and indirect impacts on value chain actors.

Professor Alain Pietrancosta from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne shared insights and experiences from France on the law of vigilance (Loi de vigilance). Professor Eva-Maria Kieninger from Julius Maximilians Universität Würzburg discussed private enforcement of human rights due diligence from a German and private international law perspective.

In addressing corporate social responsibility, Professor Giovanni Strampelli from Bocconi University Milan elaborated on the role of institutional investors in promoting ESG goals in Europe.

The final panel featured Professor Marleen van Uchelen from the University of Amsterdam and Professor Hans De Wulf from Ghent University. Professor van Uchelen discussed social enterprises and steward ownership, while Professor De Wulf addressed climate litigation against companies, highlighting the main challenges.

The symposium concluded with remarks by Professor Alexander Schall from the Leuphana University Lüneburg.

On behalf of the Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava, which is represented on the editorial board of the ECCL journal by Professor Ondrej Blažo, the symposium was attended by Professor Mária Patakyová and Dr. Barbora Grambličková. The symposium was valuable for them as it provided in-depth insights into the latest developments in corporate sustainability law and allowed them to engage with leading experts and peers in the field. Professor Patakyová and Dr. Grambličková have participated in the ECCL Symposium on four occasions. Each iteration of the symposium addresses a distinct topic, such as dual class share structures and EU companies' access to capital, corporate governance and information (in companies and financial firms), and groups of companies. The forthcoming symposium will delve into issues of corporate restructuring.