



ECBA Autumn Conference 2025, 19-20 September, Belgrade, Serbia
Protecting Rights, Facing Challenges: Criminal Defence in Europe and Beyond

Friday 19 September

19h00 – 21:30	<p>Reception</p> <p>Venue: <u>Kalemegdanska Terasa</u></p> <p>Address: Mali Kalemegdan, bb, Beograd, Serbia</p> <p>Welcome words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Vânia Costa Ramos, Chair of the ECBA, Portugal○ Serbian Bar Association (TBC)
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Saturday 20 September

9h00	<p>Conference</p> <p>Venue: Metropole Palace Hotel, Nikola Tesla meeting room</p> <p>Address: Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 69, Beograd 11000, Serbia</p> <p>Registration and welcome coffee</p>
9h30	<p>Conference opening – welcome speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Vânia Costa Ramos, Chair of the ECBA, Portugal
9h45	<p>BIG SURPRISE!</p>
10:00	<p><u>Panel No. 1</u></p> <p>Rule of Law</p> <p><i>Chair: Mikolaj Pietrzak, ECBA, defence lawyer, Poland</i></p>

Saturday 20 September (contd.)

10:00

Panel No. 1

Rule of Law

Chair: Mikolaj Pietrzak, ECBA, defence lawyer, Poland

The panel will explore the role of lawyers as key players in the legal system and the proper administration of justice who contribute to maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights. Lawyers' rights include fair access to clients, case files, courts, and confidentiality in communications. However, in today's world we are witnessing interference with lawyers' rights that necessitate formal protection to ensure lawyers can carry out their professional duties free from improper interference.

- Vladimir Beljanski, defence lawyer, Serbia
 - Sylwia Gregorczyk, pro bono defence lawyer, Poland
 - Ilene Jaroslaw, defence lawyer, USA
 - András Kádar, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Hungary
- Q&A

11h30

Coffee Break

12h00

Panel No. 2

Procedural Safeguards

Chair: Alex Tinsley, ECBA, defence lawyer, United Kingdom

The panel will take stock of the EU law acquis on procedural rights of suspected and accused persons, almost a decade on from the completion of the first six directives. It will consider major outstanding challenges in implementation, the impact of the acquis on ECtHR case law, the perspectives and initiatives of key stakeholders, the impact and relevance of this acquis in the wider Council of Europe including the Balkans, and lessons learned for future EU policy making.

- Chryssa Mela, Fair Trials Senior Legal & Policy Officer, Belgium
 - Laura Stelzer, Legal and Policy Officer, DG Just
European Commission, Belgium (online)
 - Jugoslav Tintor, defence lawyer, Serbia
- Q&A

13h30

Lunch – Restaurant Parallel 44

Saturday 20 September (contd.)

14h30

Break-out sessions (split rooms)

Join us in one of the three breakout sessions, during which participants will engage in focused, small group discussions on key issues led by ECBA Working Groups: Cybercrime, International Cooperation and Business Crime. These breakout sessions are designed for interactive participation, on a voluntary basis, offering a deeper dive into specialized topics beyond the main conference agenda, with hands-on insight from practitioners.

- **Business Crime (Nicola Tesla A)**

Dos and Don'ts in Sanctions Cases – interactive feedback from practitioners

Chair: Salomé Lemasson, ECBA Advisory Board, Germany/France

This session will target key practical questions often faced by sanctions experts when handling sanctions matters, from case strategic considerations to obtain a delisting to common mistakes to be avoided during ECJ hearings or more generally, tips on how to engage with local authorities when seeking a licence.

- **Cyber, Tech and AI (Nicola Tesla B)**

OSINT, Cyber Investigations and Defence Challenges

Chair: Judith de Boer, ECBA, defence lawyer, The Netherlands

Guest speakers: Ovidiu Valea and David Timofte, CyberOps Network, Romania

This panel will explore the investigative means used to trace the location or identity of perpetrators in cybercrime and fraud cases. Cyber security experts will explain the use of OSINT, social media investigations, and other digital investigation techniques. They will show us live how perpetrators can be located, what a proper chain of custody looks like, and how to challenge the chain of custody of digital evidence presented by the prosecution.

- **International Cooperation (Nicola Tesla C)**

Interpol and Transnational Repression

Chair: Sören Schomburg, ECBA Advisory Board, Germany

The session will explore key themes from the ECBA's draft position paper on INTERPOL reform, including disclosure, pre-emptive red notices, asylum, and the use of INTERPOL tools in transnational repression.

16h00

Closing the Conference (Nikola Tesla A&B)



Saturday 20 September (contd.)

19h30

Dinner and dance party (optional)

Venue: Ambar

Address: Belgrade Port, [Karađorđeva 2, Beograd 11000, Serbia](#)

Sunday 21 September

10h00 – 12h30

Belgrade sightseeing tour (in English, optional)

9h45 - meeting in the Metropole Hotel lobby for transfer to downtown

Discover the remarkable story about the “City at the Crossroads of the Worlds “, one of the oldest constantly inhabited spots on the planet. This carefully designed programme combines history, culture, architecture, customs, and important figures in one comprehensive experience.