

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2011



Our heads are round  
so that thoughts can  
change direction.

—Francis Picabia

**Thank you for the fruitful co-operation throughout the past year.**  
We wish you a healthy and prosperous new year.

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

May the new year be rich in innovation, good news and financial success.

The declining year brought about a number of important changes. Dr Lowitzsch was awarded the **Kelso Professorship** of Comparative Law, East European Business Law and European Legal Policy (with emphasis on Employee Financial Participation) at the European University Viadrina. As his assistant, Stefan Hanisch was appointed lecturer and research associate.

Dr Lowitzsch remains closely affiliated with the Inter-University Centre at the Free University of Berlin as assistant director.

The accession of Viadrina to the Inter-University Centre partnership is currently being negotiated.

On 21 October 2010, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the **Own-Initiative Opinion SOC 371** “Employee Financial Participation in Europe”. Dr Lowitzsch participated as an expert for EESC Group I (employers).

Furthermore, the German **Hans Böckler Foundation** granted the funding of the project “Employee Share Ownership and Co-Determination”.

Finally, on 18 November 2010, the Inter-University Centre, as leading member of a European consortium, was awarded the

**Commission-funded project** “Promoting Employee Financial Participation in the EU-27 (PRO-EFP)”.

A total of 9 national workshops each organised by the national partners aim to disseminate results providing policymakers with concrete tools and instruments to promote EFP. Viadrina will host the German event on 30-31 May 2011. As main event, the “Week of Employee Financial Participation” will take place on the premises of the EESC in Brussels on 17-19 October 2011. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

**Prof. Dr iur. Jens Lowitzsch**  
**Dipl. iur. Stefan Hanisch**