

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2012

We no longer ask of a judicial ruling or a legislative act: is it good? Is it fair? Is it just? Is it right? Will it help bring about a better society or a better world? Those used to be the political questions, even if they invited no easy answers. We must learn once again to pose them.

— Tony Judt, *Ill fares the land*



Thank you for your support and co-operation.
We wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

We hope this message finds you well and in good health and that you had a good start into the year 2012.

At the end of a fruitful year, full of events and new projects, the **Kelso Professorship** of Comparative Law, East European Business Law and European Legal Policy at the European University Viadrina finally moved to its new quarters in the old main post office last October.

The “Week of **Employee Financial Participation**” at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels was a full success and the conference trailer is now available online on our

blog “A Piece of the Cake” at apieceofthecake.wordpress.com.

Furthermore, it is a pleasure to announce that we have just been assigned a study on employee financial participation (EFP) for the European Parliament.

Currently, we are finalising two studies concerning EFP: at the German level for the Hans Böckler Foundation on the impact of employee share holding in SMEs—addressed to workers’ representatives—and at the European level for CEEP focusing on enterprises providing services of general interest.

We are half way through a project for the German-Polish Science Foundation aiming at developing national models of

leveraged employee buyouts in SMEs in both countries, based on the Anglo-American ESOP model.

Also, we keep working on issues of **legal reform in transition economies**, in particular **Central Asia**, and in the emerging democracies of **North Africa**.

We look forward to continuing existing co-operation and taking new opportunities.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr iur. Jens Lowitzsch
Dipl. iur. Stefan Hanisch
and team