



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Centre for European Legal Studies (CELS)

Faculty of Law

"Social Welfare and EU Law"

Friday 13 - Saturday 14 June 2003

Faculty of Law, 10 West Road, Cambridge

General Aim of the Conference

The aim of the Conference is to facilitate an interdisciplinary debate on the scope of national sovereignty in welfare provision in the light of current developments in EU law.

The assumption that Member States of the European Union enjoyed “exclusive competence” over social provision has been shaken by the realisation that they are now “semi-sovereign welfare states” whose policy choices are subject to increasing scrutiny under Community law (e.g. on free movement and fair competition). Recent rulings of the European Court of Justice on issues such as health care and Union citizenship demonstrate that Community law reaches even further than previously assumed, hinting towards the evolution of a new “supranational” model of social solidarity. Policy contributions from the European Commission on topics like the modernisation of pension systems, and recent political discussions within the Council of Ministers on reform of the Social Security Regulation, further challenge traditional assumptions about the welfare responsibilities of individual countries. The time seems ripe for both policymakers and academics to take stock of how Community membership is currently reshaping the legal environment of social provision across Europe.

Structure of the Conference

The conference will consist of two main strands. First, papers setting the broader context of welfare provision and EU law. These will cover: the evolving economic debate about Community intervention in social rights, with particular emphasis on how the “capabilities theory” can offer an economic justification for high standards of welfare provision; how changing theories of governance within Europe influence the division of welfare competences between the Community and national authorities; the impact of the Euro and, in particular, the effect of the budgetary constraints imposed under the Growth and Stability Pact upon the economic underpinnings of the welfare state; the relationship between public services and Community competition and state aids law.

Secondly, papers dealing with more sectoral issues. One panel will deal specifically with health care: the relationship between free movement law and national health systems post-*Peerbooms*; and Community competence over public health in the light of the *Tobacco Advertising* and *Tobacco Labeling* judgments. Another panel will address the significance of recent judgments on the free movement and equal treatment rights of Union citizens for national education and social assistance policies (e.g. *Grzelczyk*, *D’Hoop*, *Baumbast*). The conference will conclude with an attempt to define and assess the dynamic legal contribution to the elusive notion of social solidarity within the contemporary European Union.

For further details, please contact:

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Provisional Conference Programme – Subject to Changes

Friday 13th June

Session 1: Horizontal Issues (9.45-13.00)

Professor Alan Dashwood, Cambridge University: Welcoming Address

Professor Simon Deakin, Cambridge University: The Economic Dimension

Dr Mica Panic, Cambridge University: The Euro and the Welfare State

Coffee Break

Mr Nick Bernard, Queen's University of Belfast: The Governance Dimension

Speaker TBC: Open Method of Co-ordination

Discussion (Chaired by Professor Alan Dashwood)

Lunch (13.00-14.30)

Session 2: Educating, Assisting and Excluding (14.30-16.30)

Dr Anne Pieter Van Der Mei, Maastricht University: EU law and Educational Policy

Professor Catherine Barnard, Cambridge University: Citizenship and Social Assistance

Speaker TBC: Reform of the Social Security Regulation

Discussion (Chairperson TBC)

Tea Break (16.30-17.00)

Session 3: Competition Law and the Welfare State (17.00-18.30)

Dr John Temple Lang, Brussels: Competition Law and the Welfare State

Dr Andrea Biondi, King's College London: State Intervention in Privatised Public Services

Discussion (Chairperson TBC)

Drinks Reception; Dinner for Speakers and Chairpersons

Saturday 14th June (9.30-13.00)

Session 4: Community Law and National Health Care Provision

Professor Derrick Wyatt, Oxford University: Community Competence over Public Health

Dr Panos Koutrakos, Birmingham University: Health Care as an Economic Service

Coffee Break

Speaker TBC: Impact of Community Law on National Health Care Policies

Discussion (Chairperson TBC)

Conclusions

Dr Michael Dougan and Ms Eleanor Spaventa, Cambridge University: Competing Models of Social Solidarity

Professor John Bell, Director of CELS: Closing Address

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"Social Welfare and EU Law"

Friday 13 June 2003 (9.30am-6.30pm) and

Saturday 14 June 2003 (9.30am-1pm)

Venue: Faculty of Law, 10 West Road, Cambridge

REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to register for the conference "Social Welfare and EU Law", which is being organised by the Centre for European Legal Studies.

Title _____ First Name _____

Surname _____

Job Title/Position _____

Institution/Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

e-mail _____

Any special dietary requirements _____

Any other requirements _____

How did you hear about this event? _____

We may wish to send you details of CELS publications, conferences and other events which we think may be of interest to you. If you'd prefer not to receive such information, please tick here

Delegate fees:

Full fee £150 / Academics £75 / Students £40

I enclose a cheque for £150 / £75 / £40 * made payable to the "University of Cambridge". This covers the cost of the Buffet Lunch and the Drinks Reception on Friday, and refreshments on both days.

**Please circle as appropriate.*

Please send your completed form, together with your cheque, to:

Catherine Bedford, Centre for European Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, 10 West Road,

Cambridge CB3 9DZ. Tel: 01223 330093, Fax: 01223 330095, email cels@law.cam.ac.uk

A booking acknowledgement, map, directions and information about finding guest house and hotel accommodation in Cambridge will be sent to confirmed delegates. We may be able to arrange accommodation on a first-come first-served basis for attendees who book by

15 March 2003.