

The Ius Commune Prize 2009

Our prize seeks to stimulate young researchers in the area of the Ius Commune research school. Its research is centered around questions concerning the harmonization of laws. The prize is explicitly not restricted to the school's members.

The jury consisted of Hildegard Schneider (University of Maastricht), Vincent Sagaert (Catholic University of Leuven), Sander Jansen (University of Maastricht), Jeroen Kortmann (University of Amsterdam) and Michael Milo (University of Utrecht).

The selection is grounded in criteria as outstanding quality (content, methodology), originality, and its contribution to the discussion on the ius commune (feasibility, methodology and content).

We have received papers of a very high quality this year. Many of the submissions either have already been published or are about to be published, and their quality was reflected in the pleasure the jury had reading these.

We received papers from China, Rumania, Switzerland, England, Tunisia, Australia, Germany, Italy, Finland, The United States, France, South Africa, Hungaria, The Netherlands and Belgium. They dealt with many subjects of interest and importance: the social constitution of the European Union; on the *societas Europea*; on unexpected circumstances and the duty to renegotiate; on cultural restrictions on migration; on comparative tax law, and many more. We would wholeheartedly like to thank all the authors who submitted articles.

One of the papers came out ahead. It was a truly wonderful contribution, and the jury was unanimous in its decision from the start. The winning paper was not written by a member of the research school, but by somebody whom the research school should wish to be among their members. We are very happy to at least have the winner here today, in Chateau Neercanne, at our yearly congress.

We came to the following decision.

The 2009 Ius Commune Prize is awarded to the submission which analyses critically, in a compelling style, the reasoning of the European Court of Justice. It forcefully rejects its judicial minimalism and favors a justification model, where authority is grounded in substantive reasoning. This change is - in the authors view and words - long overdue, as it can be a very important tool towards enhancing European political consciousness. It is indeed needed.

The winning paper is entitled: *Reason and Authority in the European Court of Justice*.

The winner of the Ius Commune Prize 2009 is therefore: Vlad Perju, from the Boston College Law School.