



EYBA Annual General Meeting

Saturday 24 June 2016- Düsseldorf, Germany

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Introduction

As established in our Articles of Association, the aim of this Report is to summarise all the work, achievements and improvements the EYBA Board has made during my Presidency year, 2015-2016. This has been a great honour and a big challenge for me.



I would firstly like to express my deep gratitude to my Executive Committee for their support throughout my year of Presidency:

President:	Elisabeth Batista
Vice-President:	Daniela Raquel Alves Valdez
Immediate Past President:	Andrea Sciarrillo
Secretary:	Nonna Leontieva
Treasurer:	Hekim Hannan
Exco Members:	Nina A. Fuhr
	Elin Dukes
	Guillaume Tatoueix

I am very proud for having led such an amazing Association and for having had the chance to manage the EYBA Board. We have worked hard and made many improvements in many aspects; though there is still much to do in future years. I am confident that the next President will continue the work started by our predecessors and especially continue to focus on the objectives fixed in the Year Plan of 2015.

My Report is divided into the following topics, and I shall expand upon the achievements and improvements we have made:

1. Promotion and Expansion of the EYBA:

a. Participation at international events.

- b. Presentations of the EYBA within Spain.**
 - c. Press releases.**
 - d. Social Media.**
- 2. Increase of the EYBA's Membership.**
 - 3. Collaboration/Cooperation with other international associations.**
 - 4. Newsletters' releases.**
 - 5. The EYBA website.**
 - 6. Sponsorship campaign.**
 - 7. Bank Account.**
 - 8. Conferences.**

1. Promotion and Expansion of the EYBA:

One of the objectives set out in our Year Plan was to promote and expand the EYBA. Our visibility has been increased by attendance at several international meetings, regular updates through our Social Media platforms, and publishing articles in our, and others', Newsletters.

a. Participation at international events.

I have attended several international meetings on behalf of the EYBA as your President. Specifically, I have represented the EYBA internationally at the following events:



- ✓ Opening of the Legal Year in Paris, France (December 2015).
- ✓ Opening of the Legal Year in Rome, Italy (December 2015).
- ✓ Opening of the Legal Year in Barcelona (Saint Raimon of Penyafort's Festivity), Spain (December 2015)
- ✓ European Bar Presidents' Conference, Vienna, Austria (February, 2016).
- ✓ *Justitia*, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (May 2016).
- ✓ *IBA Leaders' Conference*, Barcelona, Spain (May 2016).
- ✓ *Anwaltstag* ('Lawyer's Day'), Berlin, Germany (June 2016).

At these events I had the chance to strengthen the EYBA's relationship with colleagues around the world and, at the same time, to present the Association to new potential members.

At the meetings in Vienna, Barcelona and Berlin I met Presidents of many other Associations and discussed possibilities for collaboration, with the aim to offer greater overall benefits to our corresponding members.

Particularly, in Vienna I had the opportunity to meet nearly all the Presidents of Bar Associations and Law Societies and to introduce them to our Association. More specifically, I raised the issue of lack of funding for young lawyers to attend their conferences. I was also pleased to commence negotiations with the AIJA President, in order to introduce new forms of collaboration between both of our Associations for the benefit of our members.



At the "**Anwaltstag**" of Berlin I gave a speech in German regarding the mistakes we commit in international relationships and intercultural communication from my perspective as a President of an International Association. It was an amazing experience, not only because I had to prepare the presentation in German, but also because I had to undertake substantive research about intercultural communication and analyse my role as President of the EYBA, as well as the activities in which I have participated, how I have tried to manage the Association and the Board, my work to increase the interest and engagement of EYBA members, and how to increase the membership of our Association, etc.

This presentation was possible thanks to my colleague and friend, Nina A. Fuhr, one of our Executive Officers, who suggested me as one of the speakers. Nina also participated as a speaker about the same topic, but focusing her presentation on effective networking in order to increase our contacts and gain more international clients.

At Point 3 I will explain in more detail the fruits we have reaped from my participation in such meetings.

b. Presentations of the EYBA within Spain.

Within Spain and Catalonia I have promoted the EYBA at meetings of the **Spanish Young Bar Association ("CEAJ")** and the **Catalonian Young Bar Association ("JAC")**, an association which represents young lawyers across Catalonia, at their respective General Meetings, as follows:

- ✓ In November 2015, I presented the EYBA at the CEAJ, at their General Meeting in Valladolid and again at their first Annual Meeting in Alcalá



de Henares, upon which they decided to join the EYBA. The Madrid Young Bar also joined after the presentation in November in 2015.

- ✓ In January 2016 and again in March I presented the EYBA at the JAC's General Meetings. Prior to this, they were unaware of the existence of our Association and thanks to these presentations they had the chance to consider possible membership of the EYBA in the future.

c. Press releases.

In order to attract the interest of potential new members, I have prepared articles and given interviews, which have been published in various Newsletters. In summary:

- ✓ Interview by "EL JURISTA" (Barcelona, Spain), with the title "***The EYBA exists for defending the interests of the European young Lawyers***". (October 2015). You can find it at the following link: <http://www.eljurista.eu/2015/10/13/la-european-young-bar-association-existe-para-defender-los-intereses-de-todos-los-abogados-jovenes-de-europa/>
- ✓ Article published in the Newsletter of the Thessaloniki "LEXIS". This article was released in Greek, wherein I discussed my experience as President of the EYBA (November 2015). You can find it at the following link: http://eandith.gr/?page_id=514
- ✓ Article published in "EL JURISTA" (Barcelona, Spain), with the title "***The CEAJ decides to join the EYBA in its last General Meeting which took place in Alcalá de Henares***" (March 2016).

<http://www.eljurista.eu/2016/03/06/ceaj-decide-entrar-en-la-eyba-en-su-ultima-asamblea-celebrada-en-alcala-de-henares/>

- ✓ Article published in “EL JURISTA” (Barcelona, Spain), with the title "***The EYBA as a platform to defend the interests of the European young legal profession***". You can find it at the following link: <http://www.eljurista.eu/2016/05/12/la-eyba-como-plataforma-para-la-defensa-de-la-abogacia-joven-europea/>

- ✓ I was also interviewed by the ***Forum Junge Anwaltschaft*** and this interview is due to be published in the Newsletter of the ***Advice*** (Germany) within the next few weeks. The interview will be in German.

In our own EYBA Newsletters I have summarised the content of these articles and interviews, so that all EYBA members have the opportunity to read these.

d. Social Media.

In general terms, during the year 2015-2016 the Executive Committee has been concentrated on gaining greater visibility for the EYBA. This can be seen by the volume of news and comments posted on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

- Since June 2015, when I was appointed as EYBA President we have increased from 596 to 896 **Facebook** followers; more than 200 new followers.

- Regarding **Twitter**, as of June 2016 we now have around 315 followers. The number of followers has increased at times when we

have posted news of conferences and events which we have either organised or attended.

- On **LinkedIn** we have worked hard to increase the volume of our posts.

A good example of increased activity on our social media was our 2016 Spring Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland. This was largely thanks to the Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association (NIYSA).

Overall, the improvement of our visibility on social media has been very positive.

2. Increase of the EYBA's Membership

The increase of our membership has been predominantly with regard to Organisations rather the Individuals.

As stated, my presentations of the EYBA at the CEAJ resulted in:

- The Madrid Young Bar Association joining us, representing around 5,800 members.
- The CEAJ, representing more than 80,000 Spanish young lawyers also joining us.



More recently, the **Norwegian Lawyers Association**, which comprises the entire legal profession: judges, the highest courts, law students and lawyers joined the EYBA. At the present time, they are approximately 21,000 members of which 11,250 are 40 years old or younger.

Although it is difficult to indicate an exact quantity of all the young lawyers we are representing within the EYBA, gaining the CEAJ and the Norwegian Lawyers Association as members is a great achievement and I hope that we can collaborate together within the coming years.

3. Collaboration/Cooperation with other young lawyers' international associations.

During my term as President I have had a big interest in reaching agreements with other Associations, and not necessarily just lawyers. This is because I am eager to increase the benefits to our members in all senses: the chance to participate in conferences, to engage in more networking and to increase the possibilities of gaining new clients. Collaborating with other Associations is beneficial to us all.

For this reason, on 30 April 2016 a Partnership Agreement was signed between the EYBA and the **Tunisian Association of Young Lawyers ("ATJA")**. The Agreement attached as **ANNEXE I**. This is a declaration of intentions with the wish, among others, to work together for improving the working conditions of our corresponding members and to help facilitate reciprocal internships.

Over the past few months I have also been negotiating with the AIJA, and there is a mutual interest in cooperation. In light of the negotiations we have agreed that at least one of our respective members attends at each others' conferences. Therefore, in principle, one representative of the AIJA will attend our Summer Conference &



AGM 2016 and one of our board members will attend their Conference in Munich in August 2016.

The idea is to strengthen our relationship with the AIJA, learn from them in order to improve our Association and, in the future, to offer more benefits to our members, such as a reduction of the registration fees for the AIJA's Seminars.

We are also aiming to increase our involvement with the Young Division of the IBA. This is a powerful Association, of which we are already members, and I am confident that we can also gain opportunities and benefits for our members.

4. Newsletters' releases.

The content of our Newsletter has improved considerably; not only in the quality of the articles, but also in its presentation and the option to now share its content via Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

During the year 2015-2016 we have released the following editions, which can be found at the following link: <http://www.eyba.org/newsletter/>

- Spring Edition of 2015.
- Summer Edition of 2015.
- Autumn Edition of 2016.
- Spring Edition of 2016.



5. The EYBA website.

We have made some improvements to our website:

- Our Home page is now much more informative; and at the bottom of the page we now have moving slides, below the "Latest news", "Facebook Posts" and coming "Events".

- We now have a **list of the Former Presidents**, with their names and the year of their presidency. With the new application, we will be able to add photographs and additional information to each of the listings.

- A "**Membership's Directory**" has been created for including the contact details of those EYBA members who would like to be featured, with the aim of improving our network and facilitating potential client referrals between EYBA members. For example, our members will be able to look for an attorney at law by searching the specialisation in law and the city or country. As **ANNEXE II** is a letter to be signed by those EYBA members interested in being included in this Directory. The letter should be returned to our Secretary, and all EYBA members will receive a username and password to have free access to the Directory.

- There is a new "**Documentation**" tab where we will post, for instance, Minutes taken in previous General Meetings, our Articles of Association, agreements signed with other Associations, and other documents, which, we consider, are of interest to our members. Only EYBA members will be able to access these documents, by using their above mentioned username and password.

- As mentioned, you are now able to share on social media the articles of our Newsletters. This will help us to give greater visibility to the Association and to our achievements.

6. Sponsorship campaign.

I can say with pride that we have done a great job this year regarding sponsorship of our Association.

Particularly, we have achieved the following discounts, sponsors and funds for our Association, **with a total of €3,600.**

Sponsor	EYBA Members' discount	Date	Sponsoring Amount
International Legal Studies and Lazarky University	50% tuition scholarships to EYBA members	October 2015	€ 1.350
University of Pennsylvania Law School	\$500 program fee reduction	January 2016	€ 450
ERA The Academy of European Law	40% discount for all ERA summer courses	March 2016	€ 1.300
Fordham University School of Law	€500 program fee reduction And €500 off for early bid	March 2016	€ 500
Total amount received			€ 3.600



Apart from the sponsors mentioned in the following Table, we have also reached an interesting agreement with the company “ANWALT.DE”. This is a German directory of international, English speaking, lawyers, where EYBA members will have a special offer consisting of having their professional profile listed on the Anwalt website for 1 year for the cost of 8 months (therefore 4 free months during the first period) to be included in the list. Besides, our logo will be included in Anwalt website.

7. Bank Account.

As we explained at our last AGM, we were finalising the process of transfer of all our funds from our previous bank in Northern Ireland to our new bank account with BARCLAYS, at their office in London. All funds are already in our new bank account and we are operating it actively. Our current Treasurer and Vice-President are authorised to make transfers and to access the account.

8. Conferences.

As usual, we participated in the International Weekend last September 2015 in London and helped organise our own Spring Conference 2016, with many thanks to our colleagues of the Junior Lawyers Division and the Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association.

Aside from our three official conferences, in Barcelona on 30 April 2016 we co-organised the **International Meeting- The Value of Young Professionals ("the VYP Barcelona")**, together with the Barcelona Young Bar Association (GAJ Barcelona), the Barcelona Bar Association, the Junior Chamber International for Catalonia ("JCI") and



the Federation of Associations of Catalan Young Entrepreneurs and Businesses men/women (namely "FAJEEC" - Federació d'Associacions de Joves Emprendors i Empresaris de Catalunya).

The VYP Barcelona was a huge success. We were honoured by the presence of several professionals from different sectors (doctors, architects, students, lawyers, business people, etc.), as well as different nationalities (Ukrainian, Russian, British, German, Hungarian, Tunisian), and from different Spanish and Catalan cities (Madrid, Valencia, Sabadell, Granada, Igualada, Girona).

The topics addressed by the speakers, we hope, were very useful for the attendees. Some of the conclusions of the meeting were as follows:

- The significance of being active in social media in order to seek job opportunities, by keeping your professional profile updated, and making regular and diligent use of it.
- Turning an economic crisis period into a business opportunity, by adapting to the current market situation.
- Whether to create your own business or be employed will depend upon the advantages and disadvantages arising from the personal and professional situation of each individual.
- A good professional profile requires a balance between formation and experience. It is also important to be up to date in respect of any changes which may affect us, either directly or indirectly.
- Practical advice was also provided during a presentation on Personal Brand and Networking.

That day we signed the Partnership agreement with the **Tunisian Association of Young Lawyers ("ATJA")**, thanks to our colleague Yassine Younsi.

The day was full and tiring, but satisfying and certainly worth the effort.

B. The future of the EYBA.

During my year of presidency we have begun some other projects which the board would like to continue over the coming years. Such projects include:

- A **Survey** which has been prepared and sent to all EYBA members in order to establish the real situation of European young lawyers following their law degree. This will be a comparative survey of all EYBA members (Young Bar Associations and also individual lawyers) in order to prepare a final report to be presented at one of the EYBA's General Meetings. Having reviewed the results, the idea is to work to improve those aspects which require improvement. The Survey can be found using the following link. This will be managed by members of the EYBA Board with the support of the Barcelona Bar Association:

[http://us12.campaign-
archive1.com/?u=5542936adf32fc59fc5a0205c&id=ef9249883d&e=07587c669a](http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5542936adf32fc59fc5a0205c&id=ef9249883d&e=07587c669a)

All answers are anonymous and will not be published, but they will be used to prepare the mentioned report.

- It is important to have greater presence at various European institutions in order to show our interest in and support for matters which affect our members or European citizens generally. Slides were prepared and presented in Belfast in support of refugees and to show our position against terrorist attacks. We have also prepared a Manifest regarding these two issues. As **ANNEXE III and IV** the mentioned documents can be found.



- A **promotional video** of the EYBA is being prepared. The idea is to post it on YouTube, Social Media and on our website. The aim of this video is to continue the promotion of our Association.
- We are pleased to announce that we have a new **EYBA banner** for display at events in order to further promote our Association.

I am sure that next year's Board will do a great job and I hope they continue the improvement of our Association.

C. Conclusion.

After this intensive year, in which I have prioritised the EYBA above all else, I can only say that I would do it again if given the opportunity. I am grateful to both the Barcelona Young Bar Association and the members of the EYBA Executive Committee for all their support. Without them it would have been impossible to manage the Association. I also thank you, the dear EYBA members for your confidence in me and your support throughout this year. It has been an honour and a privilege to be your President and I will continue to support the EYBA as Immediate Past President during 2016-2017.

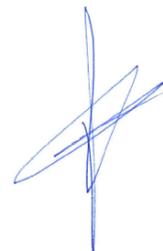


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Elisabeth Batista

EYBA President 2015-2016

In Düsseldorf, 25 June 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a vertical line extending downwards.