



Central & Eastern European Moot Competition

CEEMC 2022 (Budapest)

Best Speaker Report (Karolina Michková, Masaryk University)

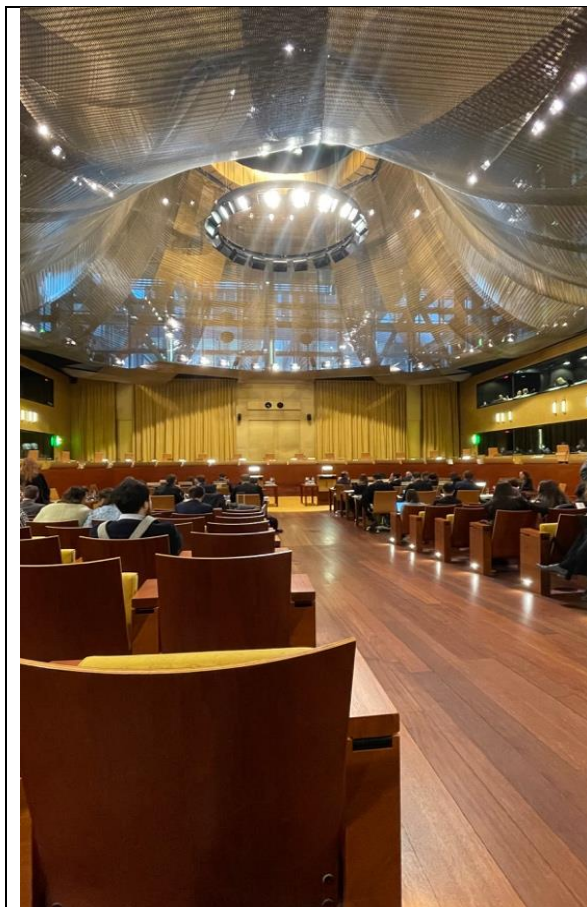
As a student at the Faculty of Law at the Masaryk University I had the opportunity to participate at the Central and Eastern Europe Moot Competition (CEEMC) in Budapest that took place between 6th and 8th May 2022. As the winner of the Lord Slynn of Hadley Best Speaker Prize of the 2022 competition, I received a funded week-long study visit at the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg in March 2023.

My study visit mainly took place at the General Court in the chambers of the Polish judge Krystyna Kowalik-Bańczyk. Judge Kowalik-Bańczyk was very nice and helpful. She introduced me to her whole team and made me feel very welcome. She and her whole team were willing to answer any question I had about the CJEU as well as other topics and made my time at the CJEU memorable.

Judge Kowalik-Bańczyk was also very kind and prepared a programme for me for the whole week. I had the chance to watch two hearings at the General Court one of which Judge Kowalik-Bańczyk was part of as a member of the judicial panel. I also attended a Grand Chamber hearing at the Court of Justice. The case concerned a Czech dispute, so this was particularly interesting to me since I got to see the Czech legal counsels at work. I also had the chance to meet all three Czech judges working at the court. Judge Kowalik-Bańczyk invited me to lunch with her and judge Jan M. Passer who is the Czech judge at the Court of Justice.



We spent a pleasant time at the Court of Justice's restaurant during which I had the chance to ask anything I was interested in both judges as well as listen to their reflections regarding the work at the court. Judge Kowalik-Bańczyk also arranged for me to meet both Czech judges working the General Court – judge Petra Škvařilová-Pelzl and judge David Petrlík. With both I had the chance to discuss their journey to the General Court as well as the functioning of the General Court as opposed to the Czech Supreme Administrative Court where I was working at the time. At the end of the week, I also got to meet Advocate General Maciej Szpunar whom I visited with judge Kowalik-Bańczyk. We had a chance to discuss the workings of the CJEU as well as my dissertation project and I received some interesting insights.



All in all, in the five days I have spent at the CJEU I got a very immersive experience of its inner workings as well as its general functioning. My days were spent with enriching conversations on various legal topics as well as interesting judicial hearings. This week-long study visit at the CJEU has been one of the main sources of my motivation to continue my work in the legal field ever since. I am very grateful for this experience, and I give my biggest thanks to the British Law Centre as well as to judge Kowalik-Bańczyk who made this happen.



The study visit would of course not happen if it wasn't for my participation at the CEEMC. CEEMC was not my first moot-court, but it was the best one. The organisers put a lot of effort into the competition and make it an unforgettable experience for all the participants. Me and the rest of my team got to meet our fellow colleagues from different parts of the CEE region as well as several judges, Advocates General and other senior representatives from the CJEU. Even though the competition was tough the atmosphere throughout it was very friendly and our hard work paid off since we got to argue our case in front of legal professionals, make new connections and learn something more about EU law.

I seriously recommend to every law student interested in EU law to participate in this moot court. You will learn a lot and make great memories along the way!

