

2023 CEEMC (Dubrovnik)

Best Speaker Report (Aneta Dejlová, Charles University)

My participation in the CEEMC has been an incredible journey from the beginning when my team and I spent countless hours analysing case law and composing the written pleadings to the end, when we got the chance to plead in front of all the judges and our fellow competitors. Winning the Best Speaker Prize felt unbelievable. While I'm proud of myself and my performance, I must emphasize that receiving this prize wouldn't have been possible without the immense help of my amazing teammates and our wonderful coach. It was sharing the experience with them that made it so special.

As a part of the prize, I had the chance to undertake a two-week internship at the Court of Justice of the European Union. To see the centre of EU justice in real life, let alone walk in its hallways with an intern badge after only reading its case law and seeing it in textbooks was truly a dream come true for me.

I was welcomed into the cabinet of Judge Jan Passer, a Czech judge at the Court of Justice. He and his team were exceedingly warm and made me feel very welcome. During my conversations with Judge Passer, I was able to peek behind the curtain of this remarkable institution. He answered all the questions I had and generously shared his personal experiences allowing me to understand what the position of a judge entails which deepened my appreciation of their hard work and dedication. He also discussed with me the hearings I attended and explained everything I did not understand. Moreover, he provided me with many useful tips for my future career.

Attending the various hearings before the General Court and the Court of Justice proved to be a valuable aspect of my experience. I had a chance to witness a hearing before the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice and I also attended a hearing before the Second Chamber of this Court, of which Judge Passer is a member. Additionally, observing hearings at the General Court shed light on the nuanced distinctions between these two judicial entities, despite them being hidden under one roof. Reviewing the background details of all cases was particularly exciting as each was unique and I could immerse myself into





different areas of law from restrictive measures over GDPR to classification of chemical substances. I realized that no topic is boring and there are always intricate legal conundrums warranting resolution.

I delved personally into one of the complex legal issues while conducting research for one of the preliminary questions that the cabinet was dealing with at the time. I got an opportunity to work with Mr Hadrousek, a *référénaire* at the cabinet of Judge Passer, who has been unbelievably kind to me during the whole internship. Not only was this task a great opportunity to educate myself about a topic I would have probably never thought of researching, but it also gave me an insight into what the job of a *référénaire* entails. I was once again left in awe of their thoroughness and passion for their work. Moreover, Mr Hadrousek

showed a genuine interest in my ideas and encouraged me to formulate my own opinions about the question at hand.

One of the remarkable privileges of interning at such an esteemed institution is that you get to meet incredibly interesting people. For instance, I had the honour of conversing with a Czech judge at the General Court, Judge Škvařilová-Pelzl. Not only was the conversation with her exceptionally enlightening but also very inspiring. I also got a chance to meet *référénaires* from various other cabinets, assistants and of course fellow interns who worked in an office with me. Every conversation gave me more and more insight and I learned so much from every single person I talked to.

In summary, my internship experience surpassed all my expectations. It is difficult to find words to describe it that would do it justice. And it is especially the cabinet of Judge Passer and the lovely organisers of the CEEMC that made it possible. I am extremely grateful to all of them. The lessons gleaned from the CEEMC experience are invaluable. At the risk of sounding cliché, I have to say that I will benefit from them immensely in my future career but also in life in general. So, to everyone who is considering participation, I wholeheartedly encourage you to go for it. I am not going to sugarcoat it, there is a lot of work behind it, but every minute is worth it and I promise you, you will never regret it!

