



## Central & Eastern European Moot Competition

**2024 CEEMC (Prague): Best speaker report (Filipa Ledic, University of Zagreb)**

If I'm being honest, the CEEMC was probably the most meaningful experience I had during law school.

At first, I joined because I thought it would be a good academic challenge, but it quickly became much more than that. It became a journey that shaped me, not just as a future lawyer, but as a person.

What I loved most was how real everything felt. Suddenly, law wasn't just something I read in books or studied for exams. It was alive. It was something I could argue, defend, question. And for the first time, I saw myself not just as a student, but as someone who could actually belong in this world of legal reasoning, courtroom dynamics, and EU law debates.



I'll never forget the people I met along the way. My teammates were incredible, smart, supportive, funny, and endlessly dedicated. We went through all the highs and lows together, from staying up late drafting arguments to celebrating small wins during practice rounds. And our coaches... I can't thank them enough. They believed in us before we believed in ourselves, and they pushed us to grow in ways we didn't know we could.

Winning the Best Speaker award felt surreal. I still remember standing there, a bit stunned, thinking, "Wait, me?" It meant the world to me, but not just because of the

title, but because it felt like a recognition of everything we went through as a team. I didn't win it alone. It was our shared effort, our trust in each other, and all the hard work we put in together.



And then came the moment that truly took everything to another level: being awarded a visiting stage at the cabinet of Advocate General Szpunar at the Court of Justice of the EU.

That opportunity was more than just an internship. It was deeply personal. I had spent so much time reading AG Szpunar's opinions during the moot prep, but also while working on my master's thesis in copyright law. So to actually meet him, to step into his world, and to be welcomed by him and his team with such kindness and openness, it truly meant everything to me.

They didn't treat me like "just a visitor." They involved me in discussions, asked for my thoughts, let me witness real debates on how AG opinions are shaped. I felt like I truly belonged in that space.

I also had the chance to attend hearings at the CJEU and the General Court, and it honestly gave me goosebumps. Seeing everything I'd studied come to life in such a powerful way... it was overwhelming in the best possible sense.

That whole experience (CEEMC and CJEU stage) reminded me why I chose this path in the first place. I realized how much I genuinely love EU law as something I want to live and work with long-term. It's where I feel at home.



I'll always be grateful to the British Law Centre, to AG Szpunar and his cabinet, to my team, my coaches, and everyone who was part of this journey. It wasn't just about law. It was about growth, courage, connection, and finding my voice in a world that once felt too big for me.

And I know this is only the beginning.

