



## *Central & Eastern European Moot Competition*

**2025 CEEMC (Warsaw): Best speaker report (Maja Kalin, University of Ljubljana)**

It has been almost a year since my team and I began preparing for CEEMC 2025, which took place in April in Warsaw. It has been an incredible experience to take part in this moot court; not only because it gave me a chance to improve my written and oral advocacy skills, but also because it significantly deepened my understanding of EU law in all its complexities. Coming from a background of strong interest in human rights, I could not have been happier to learn that the topic of this year's CEEMC concerned the European Arrest Warrant, which required the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union on multiple occasions throughout the case.

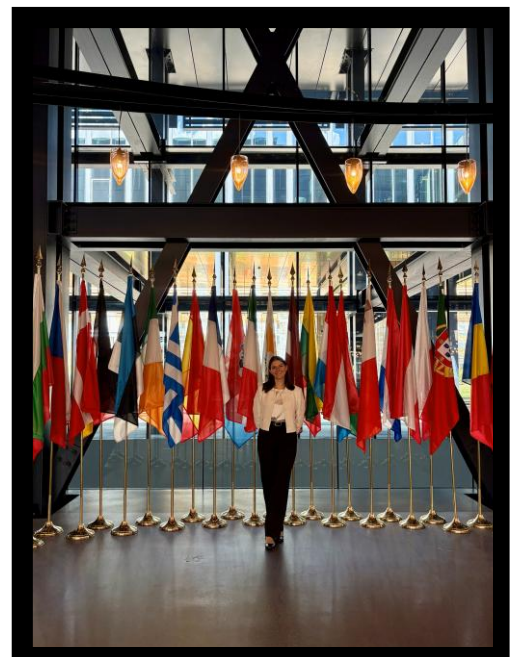


Perhaps that is why my team and I did so well in the competition, ultimately winning the entire event against some very strong teams from across Central and Eastern Europe. I am additionally proud to have been awarded the Prof. William Cornish Best Speaker Prize. I am deeply grateful to my teammates, coaches, and mentor for their strong support and dedication.

As part of the prize, I was awarded an internship at the Court of Justice of the European Union, where I was welcomed into the cabinet of Judge Jan Passer as a study visitor during September.

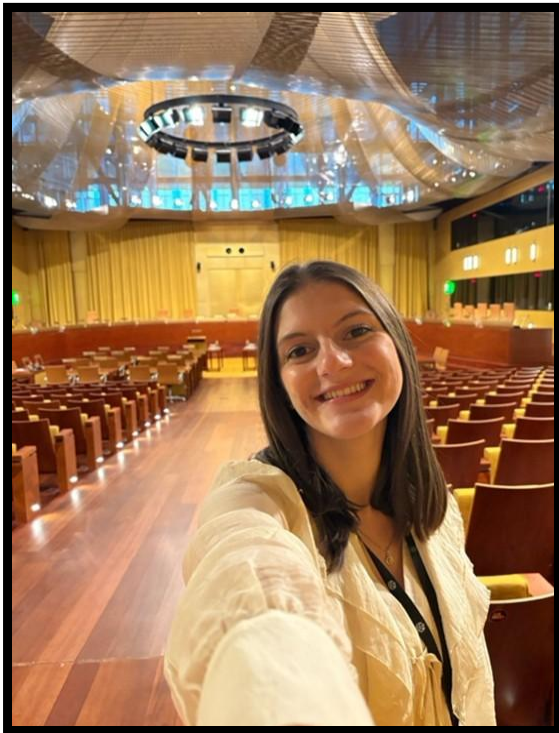
It felt unbelievable to be there and to see how EU law is shaped in practice and where “justice is served.” Walking through the halls of the Court, witnessing both its history and future in the making, was truly inspiring. I was also fortunate to begin my visit at the same time as the new stagiaires started their autumn term, which allowed me to meet many young and brilliant minds in European law.

I would like to express my specific thanks to the entire cabinet for making me feel so welcome, from the first emails with the



wonderful assistant to the very last goodbye with everyone. I experienced the Court as a remarkably supportive working environment, where everyone treated one another with warmth and respect. What I valued most was the cabinet's meaningful engagement with me: they listened to my interests and assigned me genuinely rewarding tasks. I worked on topics such as environmental protection, sports law, asylum law, and effective judicial protection. I was even involved in a preliminary ruling procedure originating from Slovenia.

My tasks mainly included conducting legal research. After delivering my assignments, the members of the cabinet always took the time to go through my work, offer feedback, and discuss it with me. The same goes for the judge, who explained the entire judicial process of the Court and engaged in insightful conversations with me about the many hearings I attended. I also particularly valued the professional insights I received about pursuing a career in EU institutions.



I was fortunate to attend several hearings involving the European Arrest Warrant, which felt particularly special given my previous work on the topic and helped with my understanding of the legal framework and the arguments of the parties. The highlight of my visit was undoubtedly attending the Grand Chamber hearing in *Commission v Hungary*, which took place during my first week at the Court. It was truly remarkable to follow a hearing in which almost half of the EU Member States intervened, as well as the European Parliament. I continue to closely follow the Court's website and cannot wait for the judgments in the cases I was

fortunate to contribute to, even if only a little, to be delivered.

During my time at such a significant institution, I was grateful to meet many inspiring people working at the Court. I met all three Slovenian judges, who provided me with a valuable insight into legal careers in the Slovenian context. I also met several *référéndaires*, as well as staff in the Registry and the Research and Documentation Directorate (which, I must admit, I did not even know existed before my visit).

This experience undoubtedly deepened my interest in EU law, the EU judicial process, and even the French language. I am eternally grateful to the cabinet for their warm welcome and to the British Law Centre for making this opportunity possible.

To anyone considering CEEMC: yes, it is demanding, but it is also an extraordinary opportunity to grow, to challenge yourself, and to discover the lawyer you aspire to be.

