

Rev. Donald Prentice

My observations are:

1 There are significant areas where the UK can experience a detrimental imbalance. e.g. the flow of Legislation can challenge the UK's ability to stay informed and keep pace with new EU legislation. Communication of new legislation to solicitor practitioners alone, far less our politicians and the UK public... is an issue.

2. The EU laws coming from Luxemburg may not be easily compatible with law in England and Wales - e.g. wrt accepted Authentic Instruments

3. There may be a crisis of representation, of lack of voice and acceptance of UK solicitors in any EU international actions / representations as Germany in particular may relegate our solicitors' accreditation to less than Notary Public in certain areas. So consensus and reciprocity must prevail and be established.

My own take on the meeting was that effective discussion for the future needs more - practitioner presence, discussion and anecdotal evidence. Also, a fuller discussion (possibly a full day's seminar) is needed to examine first and second order repercussions of having or not having effective instruments for security and justice e.g. EU wide Police - Europol, more effective and better resourced OSCE and EU external action services. Due to the bureaucratic inertia and slow EU decision process, implementation and effective action to prevent crime and maintain justice will require a rapid response service of a multi-disciplinary nature to preserve the status quo until adequate investigation and judicial response can be made.

My main point is that any deficits in Justice mechanisms will play out across Europe in various ways unless the instruments of justice are able to respond effectively. Otherwise issues of ethics and law are merely paperwork or digital data.