EU-UK FUTURE RELATIONSHIP:
FAQS FOR (YOUNG & WOULD-BE) BARRISTERS

Part IV STUDY & CAREER CHOICE CONUNDRUMS

Introduction: State of Play EU-UK negotiations

1. Following the departure of the UK from the EU[1] on 31 January 2020, and in accordance with the terms of the binding withdrawal agreement **2019** (WA) we are now in the final days of the Transition Period provided for in the WA during which the EU and UK have been negotiating the terms of their future relationship – the Future Partnership Agreement (FPA). There having been no UK request to extend it, the transition period will end at 11 pm GMT on 31 December 2020. As of that moment, all UK rights and obligations under EU law (which were temporarily extended during the Transition Period) will end[2], with the UK becoming a "third country" in the full sense.

2. At the time of writing, there is still no clarity on whether an FPA will be agreed to replace /complement the Withdrawal Agreement by 31 December 2020. And if one is, it is unlikely adequately to provide for cross-border provision of legal services. Thus, we hope and expect to see negotiations continue, or as applicable, recommence in the near future, with a view to concluding a more ambitious agreement in this as in other important areas like judicial cooperation. Meanwhile, the influence and effect of EU law in the UK will be curtailed. The expected impact on practice, and cross-border case management, and what should be done to mitigate these effects, is explored in the Bar's FAQ Papers I and II. See: https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/policy-representation/policy-issues/eu/brexit.html

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[1] Note that, as the UK was a Contracting Party to the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement (between the three EFTA States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the EU) by virtue of its EU membership, 31 January 2020 also marked its departure from the EEA.

[2] The WA does preserve certain limited EU rights and obligations on and in the UK. Where relevant, these are expressly referred to in this paper.

So, how much influence is EU law likely to have in England & Wales going forward?

3. The UK Parliament has adopted hundreds of legislative instruments which have the effect of on-shoring large swathes of EU law as "retained EU Law", often with minimal amendment. Moreover, whatever the rhetoric, the expectation is that developments in English law will shadow those in EU law in many fields for some years to come, if not indeed, indefinitely in areas where interests overlap. These may prove to be wider than expected: during the UK's 40+ years of EU membership, the Common Law approach has influenced a lot of EU law-making, meaning that the ideological gap between the two is not what it once was. Obvious examples include competition law, data and environmental protection; and criminal judicial, police and security cooperation, to name but a few. But we also note that, if the FPA does (eventually) contain level playing field provisions, as the EU has long-insisted it should, then developments in UK law in areas like state aid, social and consumer protection will also inevitably mirror EU law, at least in areas relating to cross-border trade.

4. Of course, the status of EU law within the UK legal system will be fundamentally different, in that the concepts of direct effect and supremacy of EU law will no longer apply[3]. Unlike the position now, from 1 January 2021, it will be possible for EU retained law to be revoked or amended by Parliament, or in accordance with statutory powers conferred by Parliament, whether or not such changes are consistent with EU law. Similarly, although first instance courts and tribunals will be bound by existing retained EU legislation and CJEU decisions, the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court will be free to diverge from EU law in appropriate and reasoned circumstances. National Courts will not be bound by EU law developments after 1 January 2021 but may have regard to them. Nonetheless, UK practitioners should ensure that they are well versed in EU law, even if, beyond the terms of the WA, it is no longer a source of directly applicable rights that override inconsistent provisions of UK law. That is because EU law will inform the interpretation of retained EU law and future developments will provide a source of inspiration for legal arguments as to how UK law should evolve in parallel.

5. Moreover, it is important to underline that practitioners in areas touched by EU law will need to maintain a working knowledge of the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU). The status of the judgments of the CJEU under EU law will ***not*** change. This is a matter of EU not UK law: the CJEU will remain the international court designated by the EU Treaties as the final source of legal authority as to the validity and interpretation of EU law – the departure of the UK will have no effect on that issue.

6. UK companies that sell products or services to customers in the EEA will find their commercial behaviour and trade standards continue to be governed by EU law. Even if not directly trading with the EEA, the same will hold true if their conduct has an effect on EU markets or consumers. They may face investigations by EU or national authorities and/or need to challenge any adverse findings. They may be sued in claims brought in national courts across the

[3] With the limited exception of the provisions in the Withdrawal Agreement, including Part Two, Citizens Rights – See Article 4(1)

EEA. There may be preliminary references to the CJEU from courts in the EU27 States in which they are involved.

7. With the end of transition nearly upon us, clients with business or private interests in the EEA have been seeking advice from practitioners on the implications for them of the imminent changes to law and practice. Given the continuing lack of certainty, the demand for expert legal advice, covering EU law as well as international and domestic, is not going to subside anytime soon. The courts too, will be faced with new questions regarding, say, their jurisdiction to hear a civil case involving a party from an EEA Member State, with the added uncertainty that the conflicts rules governing such questions as between the EU and the UK are themselves likely to change and evolve further in the coming months (see further FAQ Paper III: https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/uploads/assets/f044e7e9-c041-482e-892d1a216b01b6c7/Transition-FAQs-Part-III-Civil-Justice-Jurisdiction.pdf). Whilst the judiciary is itself being specifically prepared for these challenges, the Bar is well placed, not only to provide the expertise needed by its clients, but also to assist the judiciary and by extension, the administration of justice, through this legal minefield.

It sounds like established EU practitioners are going to be busy. What about everyone else?

8. It is true that well-established EU practitioners in mid-career can probably expect to remain busy for at least a decade or more, handling the myriad legal issues that the end of transition and beyond will throw up. But what of non-specialists, or those at a much earlier stage in their career, or even embarking on it? Should knowledge of, or expertise in, EU law be part of their professional offer? What opportunities will there be in these practice areas? Does Brexit and the end of transition create additional demand for other areas of expertise?

9. This paper attempts to provide answers or at least guidance in answering, such questions. We hope it assists.

Questions

Q. 1 I am a law student / thinking of studying law in the UK. Should I study EU law?

10. It will be obvious from the foregoing that a good foundation in EU law, its origin and development, will enhance the interpretation and understanding of domestic UK law in many practice areas for years to come. The EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (the Withdrawal Act) replicates certain general principles of EU law, such as supremacy and direct effect. A solid understanding of such principles will therefore continue to be essential to the interpretation of "retained EU law" i.e. EU-derived laws that are being retained as domestic law under the Withdrawal Act (which affect most regulated fields, such as Environmental, Consumer and Data Protection).

11. Additionally, many of the provisions in the EU regulations and directives being retained under the Withdrawal Act have been the subject of interpretation by the CJEU. These judgments,

in so far as they predate the end of the transition period, will continue to bind domestic courts after transition, with the exception of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal (and, possibly, other domestic courts in the future). It follows that, until the UK chooses to depart from retained EU law, the CJEU's rulings on the meaning and effect of provisions contained in it will continue to be of relevance. Moreover, it is worth noting that the Withdrawal Act provides that domestic courts "may have regard" also to CJEU judgments handed down *after* the end of transition (see s. 6(2)). This will require practitioners in many regulated fields to keep abreast of EU legal developments.

12. Similarly, knowledge of EU law will be essential for anyone wanting to work in an international field, to enter a niche practice area where the law is likely to evolve in tandem with EU law (e.g. Competition, Intellectual Property; Data protection, Environmental and Consumer Protection), and/or where their clients will need to be advised of the law as it stands in both jurisdictions (e.g. a company seeking IP protection in both the UK and Europe). Practitioners can expect to draw parallels with developments in the EU, US and other Commonwealth countries in their legal arguments.

13. Moreover, whilst not politically foreseeable at the moment, it cannot be ruled out that the UK will end up tied to EU law more closely than is currently envisaged. During your working lifetime, it may apply to become a member of the European Free Trade Area, enter some as-yet-undefined new form of relationship with the EU, or even, dare one write it, to re-join the EU.

Q. 2 What about the option of doing a combined law and (EEA) languages degree, becoming an exchange student or doing an LLM abroad (in an EEA Member State)?

14. Many UK universities offer combined degrees in law with Languages or Comparative law or EU political sciences, with a year abroad at a university in the EU27. Universities can continue to participate in existing Erasmus programmes after 31 December 2020, provided the funding has been allocated prior to the end of the transition period[4]. UK participation in Erasmus Programmes launched after transition will depend on the outcome of the FPA negotiations, though as things stand, it looks unlikely. However, that does not rule out the possibility of future UK requests to take part in such EU programmes, nor indeed, the more challenging and expensive option for an individual student of enrolling on a course in the EEA as a third country national. It is also possible to study at postgraduate level at universities in EU27, with specialist one year EU LLM programs at the College of Europe in Bruges, the European University Institute in Florence, Leiden University and others.

15. Such qualifications and indeed, life experience, are valuable and will stand you in good stead, regardless of Brexit. All the more so if you intend to work in an international field or for e.g. a law firm in Brussels. It will also help with your legal analytical and comparative law skills: many EU texts and judgments are only available in other EU languages and a good working

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/brexit_en.

knowledge of French is an asset. It also helps to create international networks of contacts if you study and work in other jurisdictions; in developing areas of the law you may need to call on contacts in other jurisdictions to compare how their regulators and courts are dealing with common issues.

Mobility issues if you are not an EEA national

16. Before leaving this, we note however, that apart from eligibility for the course itself, potential exchange students who do not hold an EEA nationality will also have to comply with new immigration rules after 31 December 2020. As things stand, UK nationals will only be able to stay in an EU country for 90 out of every 180 days without a visa (except for Ireland, which will still have free movement with the UK). Beyond that, a student visa is likely to be required. The immigration regime will vary between Member States – see HMG's **advice on each country here**.

Q. 3 Has Brexit created extra demand for expertise in other fields of law?

17. The Bar Council's Future Relationship Working Group (FRWG) and its EU Law Committee (EULC) bring together expertise from across multiple practice areas. As our work has evolved post-referendum, two particular areas of expertise have emerged as growth areas for practitioners: international trade law and migration.

- **International Trade law** - Like all EU Member States, the UK has not had to negotiate its own trade deals during the life of its EU membership, meaning that trade law issues, if they arose in practice, tended to be subsumed into wider commercial and/ or EU law questions, or were in very specialist areas like sanctions. Now, questions on the interpretation and application of the WTO rules, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (goods) and GATS (services), and the possibility of disputes arising in the context of the UK's new trade agreements, promise a lot of work to those with the requisite expertise.
- **Migration** – While the UK was an EU Member State, its citizens enjoyed free movement rights across the entire territory of the EEA, and vice versa. From 1 January 2021, that ends. The Bar's FRWG has been grappling for some time now with questions regarding the rights of practitioners to continue to provide legal services on the territory of EU Member States. Whilst that is in part a trade law issue, it also by definition involves the physical presence of the lawyer on that territory, and their right of entry and then to work, and be paid for that work, while there. Bearing in mind the changes afoot at the Home Office regarding inward migration as well as the entry of visitors to the UK; and then extrapolate these questions to all the other sectors that will be affected, as well as questions around the status of accompanying family members, and you can quickly see how much new work there is likely to be here too.

18. These are by no means the only practice areas that are seeing a surge of work in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU, but some of that work could be deemed a "Brexit dividend" – a short-to-medium term rise in demand for advice, and litigation, as a direct result of Brexit. The loss of mutual recognition and legal assistance measures, at least until other arrangements are

put in place, will also make, for example, extradition cases involving EEA citizens, or securing their antecedents or evidence from an EEA jurisdiction, much more complex and time-consuming – with additional requisite legal guidance therefore needed.

19. Looking further ahead, trade disputes, migration problems, data protection issues in the context of cross-border data flows; mass consumer claims and collective redress; litigation arising from cross-border ecommerce and the ever-increasing use of AI – these are among the myriad areas of growth in demand for legal expertise in areas crossing national boundaries, some of which is enhanced due to Brexit.

Q. 4. I am doing the Bar vocational course:

- **Are there still pupillages for those wanting to practise EU law?**
- **Is there any future for me in an EU law set of chambers / practising EU law?**

20. EU sets are offering pupillages and see EU relations as an important part of their practice. That said, there are relatively few that are purely specialised in EU Law. Generally EU law has rather fitted in with other practice areas, such as public law, human rights, commercial, competition, regulatory, IP and data. That will continue to be the case. Practitioners will also need to adapt their knowledge and skills to develop in areas such as International Trade – see above.

Q. 5. What about a legal career away from the independent Bar – in a law firm, as in-house counsel, in the Government Legal Service (GLS), etc. How important will EU law be there?

21. For regulated entities, such as telecoms, energy, pharmaceuticals, transport and financial services, a large part of the regulatory legal framework originates in EU harmonised provisions which will now be replicated in domestic law. Many of these businesses are international and supply their products and services cross-border e.g. airlines taking off in one State and landing in another. Companies may face parallel antitrust or regulatory investigations before the UK and European authorities, with the prospect of double fines for non-compliance. In-house lawyers for international companies will be expected to know, and be up-to-date with, both the UK and EU regimes to ensure that they are compliant with both sets of standards, whether or not the EU-UK relationship requires there be alignment.

22. Post-end of transition, the UK Government will be redefining its own industrial policy in many areas that were previously governed by EU law. For employed barristers in the GLS, it will be helpful to have a knowledge of EU law (and drafting) and future pipeline developments in particular sectors. That will help to inform domestic policy development, whether to align or diverge from the EU model in particular aspects, and the potential implications of that decision. Again, as noted earlier, if the FPA, now or in the future, does include level playing field

commitments, there will be little option but to align in practice in many areas having a direct bearing on cross-border trade.

23. It is perhaps telling that the UK Mission to the EU (UKMis) (formerly the UK Representation to the EU) in Brussels has actually increased its staff numbers in anticipation of the higher demands that will be placed on officials both in trying to keep abreast of EU policy and legal developments and ensuring (in its own words) that "the UK's interests are promoted and explained to Member States and the EU institutions on the full range of EU business". The UKMis webpage describes UKMis Brussels as "one of the UK's busiest diplomatic posts, with a team sourced from around 20 UK government departments and talented locally engaged staff."

Q. 6. Am I still eligible to do a traineeship at e.g. the EU institutions?

- **Would said traineeship still count towards my pupillage?**
- **Would this still enhance my career prospects, especially if I intend to return to practice in the UK?**

24. The European Commission's Traineeship homepage (https://ec.europa.eu/stages/home_en) is the gateway to answers to the institutional aspects of this question, regardless of the form of traineeship or the institution sought. It indicates that "subject to eligibility criteria, the traineeship is open to all EU citizens, regardless of age. A limited number of places are also allocated to *non-EU nationals*".

Further examination of the Rules governing the official traineeships scheme of the European Commission (Commission Decision C(2005)458) reveals that (emphasis added):

(i) "Trainees are selected from nationals of the Member States of the European Union and of candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy. However, *a limited number of nationals of non-Member States are also accepted according to available resources*." It goes on to say that:

(ii) *"Trainees may not be recruited to any sector where a conflict of interest might occur, irrespective of the candidate's prior professional experience or nationality*. Certain Directorates General or Services *may not recruit* nationals from non-Member States."

Relevant information, as provided by the Services, is published on the Website:
https://ec.europa.eu/stages/sites/default/files/rules_en.pdf

25. Thus, based on the above information, we can surmise that:

- Provided you satisfy the other criteria, in particular holding a bachelor-level university degree or equivalent, AND you have an EU nationality, or that of a candidate country, you are eligible (though by no means guaranteed a place);
- If you do not have an EU nationality, there are some Commission departments that are simply not allowed to offer you a traineeship. The website has more details
- If you do not have an EU nationality, your chances of securing a slot in one of the other departments would depend on "available resources".

- In any event, a possible conflict of interest would knock you out even if you are otherwise eligible.

Realistically, at least for UK nationals or those whose eligible qualification is from a UK institution and/or professional experience purely UK-based, (presumably unless they can demonstrate a clear intention to pursue their future career within the EEA), the chances of securing such a traineeship must be considered slim, at least for the foreseeable future.

26. There are also a limited number of paid 5-month traineeships offered on an annual basis by the CJEU, spent in the chambers of Members of the Court of Justice and the General Court and in the administrative departments of the Court. The requirements specify a good working knowledge of French and a law degree – there is no nationality requirement nor a requirement for the law degree to be from a university in a Member State. Further details can be found here: https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_7008/en/

27. The other elements of this question, as regards the EU institutions, therefore become rather theoretical:

- It will be increasingly difficult to identify officials in the EU institutions whose professional profile would satisfy the criteria needed by the UK regulator for a period of traineeship with them to count towards pupillage, which has in the past been the case.
- There can be no doubt of the value of such traineeships, were they available, but young would-be practitioners who fall foul of the issues touched on above might do better to seek internships in other international bodies / law firms/ companies etc. See more below.

Q 7. Am I still eligible to become a Referendaire at the CJEU?

- **Would this still enhance my career prospects, especially if I intend to return to practice in the UK?**

28. Referendaires have tended to be nationals of a Member State, which is a requirement for working in the civil service. They are also required to be legally qualified in a Member State. If you have dual nationality, you will be eligible, and the experience will stand you in good stead. Although it may not be as directly relevant to practice at the UK Bar as previously, the skills will be transferable and valuable on your return, not least due to the continuing relevance of CJEU jurisprudence to retained EU law as outlined above. In addition, as with all international training and / or professional experience referred to in this paper, such a placement may open up networks and other opportunities in law firms in the EEA or the EU institutions.

Q. 8 What about pupillage/ traineeship in a law firm or with a barrister practising in Brussels or elsewhere in the EEA?

29. The arguments above in support of studying a combined languages and law degree, and/ or a master's degree, that involve a period of study abroad, as well as those in support of an institutional traineeship, can equally be invoked in support of traineeships / internships / work

or practice experience with a law firm / in house legal department or indeed with one of the handful of barristers in independent private practice, in an EEA country.

30. For UK citizens, your right to pursue such opportunities in EEA countries after the end of the transition period will depend in part on the outcome of the negotiations. Absent an EU-UK level agreement, these rights will depend on the rules applicable to third country nationals in the Member State concerned. By rules, we mean national rules on visitor and residential rights, as well as national (including GATS reservations and commitments) and responsible authority rules relating to access to and exercise of the profession.

Mobility issues again

31. As regards mobility, if an FPA is concluded, we would expect it to have an influence on the conditions for short-term stays (less than 90 days over a period of 180 days) in an EEA Member State, which are likely to be dependent on reciprocal access to the UK. Absent that, the default third country rule will apply. In Belgium for example, for a stay of less than 90 days there is no VISA requirement and the permit needed is type B: no requirement of minimum salary and no payment of social security. For longer periods of up to 12 months, a single permit is needed, with minimum salary and social security payments. If you are already working for a firm in say, London, that also has an office in Belgium, the firm may avail of the intra-corporate system if they so wish. Either way, the rules are exactly the same as for other third country citizens http://werk-economie-emploi.brussels/en/single-permit-work-permit

Other administrative requirements

32. As regards related administrative issues such as work permits, social security and health insurance, the steps needed to be taken vary depending on the length of the period of training on the territory concerned. Again in Belgium, candidates for traineeship and internship below 90 days do not need to take any additional steps over and above those applicable to a third country visitor. For periods over 90 days, a permit must be requested in advance (which takes 3 or 4 months to be granted) and there is a minimum salary threshold of around 1700 euros a month, with provision for payment of social security and health coverage. Remote working from the UK does not require any permit. Anyone interested in such a placement would do well to consult the website of, or directly contact, their chosen firm / organisation for more advice.

Q. 9. I am under 7 years call (or thereabouts) and have started out on an EU law career path. Should I switch?

33. The UK may have left the EU, but many UK-based clients, and indeed those based in third countries outside the EEA, will continue to seek EU law advice from UK practitioners. This will be especially so for those involved in cross-border trade with the EEA, where up-to-date advice on EU competition law, consumer law, employment, contract, public procurement, IP, company and insolvency law, to name but a few, may be necessary. But PI practitioners whose clients include applicants who suffered injuries while on holiday in the EEA for example, would also do well to stay abreast of the evolving insurance and civil justice rules. UK consumers can be

expected to continue to purchase goods and services from the EU, with all the difficulties that may follow. That such litigation will be more costly and complex (see FAQ Paper III, link above, for an overview of the new conflicts of law rules that are likely to apply in the civil justice field) does not mean that it will not happen.

34. FAQ Papers I and II explore the, for now, more limited circumstances in which UK-qualified lawyers will also be able to continue to provide legal advice and services on EU law to clients based in the EEA. The Bar Council's Future Relationship Working Group is pursuing various parallel routes to try to secure access to that work for our practitioners going forward (see more below), both at EU-UK and bi- and multilateral level, and we will keep you abreast of any developments.

Q. 10. I had planned to spend part of my career in practice in an EEA Member State. Can I still do that?

Acquiring a local qualification before the end of transition

35. If you are already qualified as a barrister, the best way to keep that option open would be to have your qualification recognised in an EEA Member State before the end of this year. That way, you could benefit from the grandfathering of your rights under the WA. It is really too late to launch such a process now, but if you have already fulfilled the requirements and completed all the necessary steps on your side before 31 December 2020, we consider that it is within the host Bar's gift to honour the recognition of your title thereafter, even if say, you have not formally been called to that Bar by the deadline. See FAQ Paper I for more details: https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/uploads/assets/87a69ddd-e8c5-492c-9cef52e374821004/Transition-FAQs-Part-I-Practice-Rights-13-October-2020-final.pdf

I am too late for that. Is there no other way?

36. Third country lawyers can establish long term and provide legal services in certain EEA states, though in compliance with applicable national rules and those of the responsible regulatory authority, as well as the GATS and immigration rules of the Member State concerned. These rules may, variously, (severely) limit the areas of law that can be practised (and thus those in which legal advice given will attract LPP and be insured); restrict the form of practice and exclude (some or all) rights of audience before local courts and other authorities. Moreover, it is important to note that regardless of the Member State concerned, third country lawyer practice rights are limited to their territory, unless said lawyer has EEA nationality. Some Member States, Belgium again being a good example, were quick to embrace the concept that having an open regime, rather than splitting up a small cake, would actually increase the size of the cake for the benefit of all. It thus opened up its legal market to third country lawyers and as a result, Brussels is a thriving hub for the practice of EU law Third country lawyers who comply with the relevant conditions can practice there based on their home title. And many do, among them hundreds of US attorneys, who habitually take the precaution of ensuring that an EEA qualified colleague is present or countersigns advice on which LPP is needed. Moreover a third country lawyer who

is resident in Belgium can choose to register with the local bar on its "List B" and extend those practice rights on the territory, though always falling short of those of a fully-qualified EEA lawyer. To find out more, the Law Society's advice for solicitors has links to relevant information for several different EEA Member States, including Belgium: https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/brexit/preparing-for-the-end-of-the-transition-period
You will also find links to some of this data in the Bar's FAQ papers I and II. See: https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/policy-representation/policy-issues/eu/brexit.html

It sounds like I can still work under my English title in some Member States. Can I also still access the host title, and if so, should I?

37. If you plan to practise for more than a couple of years in an EEA Member State, you would probably be well advised to take the necessary steps (possibly from scratch) to requalify locally, absent any MRA or other arrangements that may yet be concluded, giving you access to host country title based on mutual recognition (see more on that below). Again, the conditions for so doing vary between states and some, for example, impose (local or EU) nationality requirements. Apart from the immediate advantage of opening up the full plethora of practice rights on the territory, having an EEA title would maximise your prospects for career progression. We say this because, realistically, even in a relatively liberal jurisdiction like Belgium, if a law firm were choosing between, say, two otherwise equally able candidates, only one of whom enjoyed rights of audience before the local courts, full LPP and the right to provide legal services in and into all the other EEA Member States, it is not hard to see which they would favour. And again, for Belgium, note that a continuous period of residence of more than six years may open up citizenship rights, with FOM to follow.

I really do not want to have to requalify. Is there no prospect of my English title being recognised, giving me access to the host title in an EEA Member State?

38. As things stand, as of 1 January 2021, the short answer is no, at least for now.

39. Whilst we are not expecting any immediate solutions at EU-UK level, the Bar Council, Law Society and other representative bodies of the UK legal profession continue to explore ways to secure cross-border practice rights going forward. Our own regulators are examining their rules so as to facilitate possible reciprocal arrangements, which may pave the way to Mutual Recognition Agreements with other national bars and regulatory authorities in EEA Member States. In addition, some EEA Bars are considering rule changes of their own, such as extending their third country lawyer practice rights offer or facilitating access to a partial or temporary title. And in the context of free movement, the EU has started to examine the possibility of facilitating cross-border movement for third country nationals who are long-term resident in the territory. None of these projects will bear fruit immediately, but we will continue our work to try to ensure that some or all of them offer opportunities to our members in the months and years ahead.