

LLM

MASTER
OF LAWS



Public lecture

“Working at the European Commission”

Prof. Dr. Rob Cornelissen
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Thursday 30 April 2015, 18h – 19h

LLM-Room, Universiteitstraat 6

The lecture is followed by a reception.

Registration is free. Please confirm your attendance before Friday 24.04.2015

to: Svitlana.Berezhna@UGent.be.

As the executive body of the EU, responsible for proposing legislation, monitoring adherence to European Union law and managing the day-to-day business of the EU, the European Commission has tremendous power. The politically responsible 28 members of the College of Commissioners are assisted by an administrative body of about 23,000 European civil servants, divided into departments called Directorates-General.

Having worked in several units of DG "Employment and Social Affairs" for more than 30 years, Dr. Rob Cornelissen has witnessed the transformation of a rather harmonious and confident European Community made up of 10 Member States into a European Union of 28 Member States that has become increasingly unsure of itself, being affected, among other things, by the global financial, European debt and euro crises.

During the lecture Dr. Cornelissen will provide an inside look into what it is like to work at the European Commission. The presentation will focus on the challenges of being a "Eurocrat". Some personal stories will illustrate that working at the European Commission can be a difficult but at the same time an extremely rewarding experience!



DR. ROB CORNELISSEN started his career as an assistant professor at the Radboud University in Nijmegen where he taught for 4 years "General introduction into law". In 1983 he was recruited by the European Commission and worked there until 1 January 2014. Since 1990 he has been the Head of several departments of the European Commission in fields such as free movement of workers, social protection and social inclusion, anti-racism and coordination of social security. In addition, he has been closely involved in issues relating to EU immigration policies, cross-border health care, posting of workers and the supervision of the implementation of the EU Treaty provisions combatting discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, handicap or sexual orientation. He has also contributed to the implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, since 2009 integrated in the EU Treaty. During the process leading to the ratification of the Accession Treaties with 12 new Member states (former east bloc, Malta and Cyprus), he was responsible for the negotiations in the fields of free movement of workers (transitional measures) and coordination of social security. He had the same responsibility during the process leading to the ratification of the European Economic Area Agreement between the EU and Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. During the last three years he was also a member of the Disciplinary Board of the European Commission. He has widely published on issues in the fields of free movement of workers and coordination of social security.

Since 1 January 2014 he has been Guest-Professor "European social security law" at the VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel). Since September 2014 he has also been Visiting Professor at the Universities of Leuven and Gent. He is also a member of the European Institute for Social Security and a regular speaker at the annual conference of this Institute.