



THE ONLY GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS

**PARIS CONGRESS 2008**  
**- Working Sessions and Workshops - something for you? -**

As most of you already know, the 2008 Congress will take place in beautiful Paris. We; Philip Nolan and Tanja Meinander, will act as work coordinators for the Congress and coordinate the scientific program. In doing this, our aim is to achieve a high-class program with sessions that are of a high standard, lively, interesting and attractive to our numerous attendants. You can help us achieve this!

Together with the Congress organising team, we have decided to propose that a new concept, workshops, be introduced in Paris in 2008. Our proposal is that workshops would be an alternative to the traditional working sessions and differ from working sessions mainly in that they would be shorter (maximum 90 minutes), the number of attendants may be smaller and they would be more focused and interactive and involve less "lecturing" and report production. Ideally, attendants would be encouraged to take active part in the workshops and they would become a forum for debate and discussion on current hot topics.

Additionally, practical topics, such as contract drafting, negotiation skills or advocacy, have recently proven to be popular and a workshop would be an ideal forum for dealing with such professionals skills training. Another idea is to have mock trials or mock negotiations, for instance with the audience participating. Workshops would have a general reporter or reporters just as working sessions, but not questionnaires, national reports or general reports.

Workshops are a new thing for AIJA and their success hinges on plenty of innovative thinking. You now have the chance to participate in developing this new concept into something successful by coming up with ideas, volunteering as a general reporter or helping out with the organisation of a workshop. Above, we have given you our view on what they could be, but your feedback, ideas and proposals are more than welcome. Nothing is forbidden in workshops (well, almost nothing, let's remember the high-standard requirement).

We are also proposing that there would be traditional working sessions in Paris, all joint half-day working sessions involving at least two Commissions per Working Session. The working sessions would be of the more traditional format with one or more general reporters taking the lead and organising the session and writing a general report and, as a general rule, national reporters submitting national reports. As there is less time-constraint on a working session, it is an ideal forum for prominent outside speakers or a combination of, for instance, speakers, panels and/or mock trials or negotiations. Organising or participating in a working session is an ideal tool for you to become active or more active in AIJA, develop your public profile as a lawyer and share, learn and benefit.

Now that you have received this insight into the plans for the Paris 2008 Congress and the scientific work of AIJA, we invite you to take part! If you want to take this chance to develop your legal skills, enhance your professional profile, get to know other like-minded lawyers and experience taking part in the scientific work that is central to AIJA, join in. Notify the President or Vice-President of a Commission of your interest and share your ideas and receive more information on what the Commission is planning. You are also welcome to contact us should you have any questions or feedback (contact details below).

We hope you find our ideas useful and that you will join us in our efforts to make the scientific program for Paris 2008 a great success.

Best regards.

Philip Nolan & Tanja Meinander

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