

The foundation for continental law

A refreshed course of action

By Jean-François Dubos, President of the Foundation for Continental Law
(translated by Marlene Ertlmaier)

The foundation for continental law has been founded 10 years ago on the request of President Jacques Chirac and was inaugurated by the Keeper of the seals at that time, Pascal Clément. From the beginning, the foundation aimed at the **construction of a more equal legal world order by the promotion of the continental law system.**

The continental law regulates nearly 60% of the world's economies. It governs in Asia, Africa and South America and nearly exclusively regulates the European continent. The Romano-Germanic Law tradition is a living tradition. This is reflected for example in China's decision to incorporate the rules of the French notarial law in their own legal texts, or the interest that the Popular Assembly showed for the general dispositions/provisions of the Civil code last march. The success of the continental law is based on its economic efficiency and the principles it assures: legal certainty and liability.

With the help of its founders – the Superior Council of French Notaries, the National Council of the Bars, the “Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations”, Universities, Véolia, Schneider, Total and then Vivendi and EDF, the Foundation has committed to have the value of the continental law recognized, to emphasize its relevance and force. The foundation, which collaborates for this purpose with the Senate and the National Assembly, has established itself as an organization of great influence by the mobilisation of international stakeholders in the legal domain and actions as a research laboratory and a training institution.

The most visible personification of the Foundation's efforts are some 150 “young leaders” of the legal field that originate from more than 40 different countries and are trained every year within the programme of The Summer University of Continental Law: 3 weeks of training courses that are validated by a certificate of the University Paris Assas II. The Foundation also achieved to enforce a higher awareness of the principle of legal certainty in economic rankings.

By joining the Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs, the Foundation became an **important element in the French and European strategy of impact through law.**

Nowadays, the Foundation for continental law must align its actions with the great challenges of the present times. The decision of the United Kingdom to quit the European Union has a major impact on the aspiring European order. The Foundation, among other parties, will be committed to **making Paris the place of attractive and performing law** the public authorities want to see.

Two main initiatives of the foundation are linked to this context: The Index of Legal Security – a frame of reference about legal certainty whose relevance is recognized by the World Bank – and the International Observatory of Economic Regulations. With the support of the President of the Constitutional Council and the director of SciencesPo, the foundation supports within this Observatory an international panel of eminent legal experts, which publish a yearly report about the regulations that is presented in great juristic and economic forums.

The Foundation for continental law wants to contribute to a more sustainable and fair world order. This is why it chose to react to the challenge of environmental protection by reinforcing the legal domain concerned. Last month, the foundation was linked to the presentation of the “Global Pact for the Environment”, which was presented to President Emmanuel Macron at the Sorbonne. Two experts that were appointed by the Foundation participated in the work that was conducted by the “Club des Juristes” in order to create a legal text that unites the fundamental principles of environmental law. The same week, the foundation managed an important delegation of legal experts in China in the course of the French-Chinese Gatherings for Law and Justice, organized by the French Embassy in Peking. The foundation will furthermore extend its collaboration with China while giving priority in particular to environmental law issues.

Strengthen the legal infrastructure, encourage private and public investments and contribute to a more respectful development of Human Rights and Environmental Law: this is the ambition of the Foundation for tomorrow.