

## EYBA Summer Conference 2024 in Copenhagen – Conference Report

1. On 20-23 June, we attended the Summer Conference 2024 in Copenhagen, Denmark (the “**Conference**”) hosted by the European Young Bar Association (“**EYBA**”). Numerous seminars were held with distinguished speakers, including those outside the legal industry.
2. In the evening of 20 June, the Conference commenced with a cocktail reception at the Danish Bar and Law Society. We were greeted with delicious catering and drinks. We met with representatives of young bar committees/associations from all over Europe, as well as representatives from the Danish Bar and Law Society. Later that night, we also watched the UEFA Euro 2024 football match where the Danish team played against England.
3. On 21 June, distinguished speakers were invited to speak at the Conference held at IDA Conference Centre. The welcoming speech by Sergiy Barbashyn (the then President of EYBA) and Benedikte Bolvig Lund (Vice Chair of Djøf Lawyers) pressed upon us the importance of AI and legal-tech. We were encouraged to engage in new technology and incorporate such into our legal practice.



4. A keynote speech was then delivered by Michael Zilmar-Johns. He is a former diplomat and the chief of Protokol and Danish Ambassador to NATO. He shared his perspective on a world in change, in light of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The concept of global power fluidity was introduced, and he observed that power balances were shifting, and international rules and frameworks were breaking down. He also suggested that the use of AI would be the next battlefield of military capacity amongst the superpowers.
5. After that, Casper Munch, the Head of Legal and Deputy General Counsel at Maersk, the Danish-based world's leading shipping company, was invited to the stage. He shared his views on the international legal challenges including the ever-changing compliance issues Maersk faced day in day out. Particularly, he highlighted the legal and business challenges in the Suez Canal Crisis in light of pirates, war, and politics. Various force majeure clauses were discussed, particularly their applicability during COVID-19 and the recent Gaza warfare. He ended his speech by stressing the importance of crisis management in the logistics business amid the dynamic and ever-changing world.
6. Next up, Anne Nørvang Hansen, the Group Head of Content Strategy & Quality at Karnov Group AB, Scandinavia's largest supplier of information solutions for professionals in the areas of legal, tax, and auditing, shared with us her view on how to navigate in a new legal world order given the increasing complexity of society, geopolitical unrest, heavy regulation, and the emergence of AI tools. She suggested that while AI would bring along a paradigm shift to lawyers' life, it would be there to assist us, instead of replacing us altogether. She was, hence, optimistic that human would still be needed in the loop, whereas we shall let AI do the "*laundry and dishes*", leaving the "*art and writing*" to us.

7. After lunch, the Conference resumed with Winnie Højvang Bügel (General Counsel at Novonesis) and Christel May-Worre (Senior Director, Head of Corporate Legal at Novonesis) sharing their merger experience of two of Denmark's largest companies into Novonesis, the world's leading global bio-solutions company. They highlighted the key legal and commercial challenges associated with the merger, including the needs to deal with employees' anxiety throughout the process with over 10,000 global employees and expertise spanning more than 30 different industries. They also emphasised the company's commitment in ESG reporting and in meeting the net-zero goal by 2050.
8. After that, Ulrik Andersen (General Counsel and Head of Legal at Carlsberg) shared with us his experience in tackling the challenges in the interplay between politics and law when Russia nationalised Carlsberg's breweries in Russia. He then remarked that integration of business systems, which would increase efficiency and productivity, could also result in a locked-up contagious system in such unpredictable events.
9. The Conference was concluded by a keynote speech by Margrethe Vestager (Vice-President of the European Commission). She started by the Viking mythology of giants and shared with us her experience in regulating the international tech giants. The EU Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act were enacted to prohibit the giants in using their market power to exclude competition. She also explained how the new AI Act passed in March 2024 could regulate the use of Generative AI. While we are still in the beginning of the new digital age, she is optimistic that we could regulate the giants in levelling the playing field, and ultimately protect the customers in the digital markets.
10. The day was rounded off with a cosy Rooftop Reception at Djøf Lawyers. We got to exchange our views with other participants, not only confining to the topics discussed in the Conference. The committee members of EYBA and Djøf Lawyers also shared with

us their experience in hosting the Conference.



11. On 22 June, we were invited to attend EYBA's Annual General Meeting. We were amazed by how much the outgoing committee had achieved in the past year, and congratulated the incoming committee and wished them every success in the coming year.
12. After lunch, we enjoyed a set of the traditional Danish King's Game led by committee members of EYBA and Djøf Lawyers.



13. The day was concluded by the Gala Dinner where the participants, organisers and volunteers all celebrated the success of the Conference.



14. On 23 June, we enjoyed the final farewell brunch with our new friends. We expressed our gratitude to be invited to the Conference and to EYBA, Djøf Lawyers, and the Danish Bar and Law Society for organising all these truly memorable events. We look forward to the many more opportunities to cooperate between young barristers in Hong Kong and in Europe in the coming future.
15. It is an inspiring experience to participate in the Conference and we thank the Bar Association and YBC for their generous support. We were encouraged by how our European counterparts took such interest in Hong Kong and its legal system, and look forward to welcoming some of them in the upcoming YBC Conference in October 2024. We are also grateful to have met and learnt from practitioners practising in other jurisdictions in Europe.

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Felix T.L. Tang

Candice Lau

Chris Fong