

FIRST WORKING SESSION OF PROJECT GROUP “RESTATEMENT OF EUROPEAN INSURANCE CONTRACT LAW” ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1999 IN INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

On 10 September 1999 the newly established Project Group “Restatement of European Insurance Contract Law” met in Innsbruck to hold its first working session. The chairman of the meeting was Professor Reichert-Facilides from the University of Innsbruck. The group agreed a model law as the main target of its work.

If the group is unable to reach unanimous agreement on a particular rule, it was agreed that it would be preferable if all views could be integrated in the text. This will be done either by giving alternative rules or by referring to differing viewpoints in the accompanying comments and notes.

Another research project currently under way at the Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg also deals with European insurance contract law. This project is part of a larger enterprise to draft a “European Civil Code”, led by a Steering Committee headed by Professor von Bar from Osnabrück. In addition to the project group at Hamburg there are two more groups located in Tilburg/Utrecht and Osnabrück working on harmonised European General Contract Law and Law of Torts and Restitution. Under the “European Civil Code” project, each of the three working groups are to have an advisory council consisting of law professors to help formulate statute-like regulations in the respective field of law. The Innsbruck Project Group has accepted an invitation to act as the advisory council to the Hamburg group, as regards insurance contracts.

Participants at the Innsbruck meeting were Jürgen Basesow, Hamburg; Juan Bataller Grau, Valencia; Malcolm Clarke, Cambridge; Herman Cousy, Leuven; Bill Dufwa, Stockholm; Till Henning Fock, Hamburg; Helmut Heiss, Greifswald; Jérôme Kullmann, Paris; Fritz Reichert-Facilides, Innsbruck; Anton Schnyder, Basel; and Manfred Wandt, Frankfurt, as well as senior members of the Abteilung für Privatrechtsvergleichung und Internationales Privatrecht, Innsbruck. It is hoped that at future meetings of the groups there will be participants from other countries, notably the Netherlands and Italy.