



Reunion of Members of the Oxford and Cambridge University Alumni in the Benelux and Rhineland, 6-8 May 2022

Conference on European Union Institutions based in Luxembourg, Cercle Cité, 7 May, 2022 09:30 -12:00

Chair: Catherine Léglu, Vice-rector for academic affairs of the University of Luxembourg

European Court of Justice: *“Tales of the European Courts of Justice – told by the last Scottish Judge”*, Ian Forrester, QC, former Judge in the General Court

European Court of Auditors: *“European Court of Auditors – maybe the most interesting EU institution you have never heard of”*, Geoffrey Simpson, Director of Audit Quality and Audit Methodology

European Investment Bank/European Investment Fund: *“The European Investment Bank in a Wider World”*, Francis Carpenter, former Secretary General of the EIB and CEO of the EIF

Each speaker will talk for 25 minutes, after which there will be time for questions.

Sponsored by

**C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E**



Our Speakers

Ian Forrester, QC

Ian Forrester learned his trade in Scotland then Louisiana and New York, where he worked on among other matters the status of the hijacking by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of a PanAm 747: war risk or all risk? After being called to the bar in Scotland he specialised in European law in Brussels where he set up Forrester & Norall in 1981. His litigations before the European courts included acting for UEFA as to football transfers, Microsoft as to computer design, Pfizer as to the precautionary principle, as well as cases about journalists' sources, pharmaceuticals, whether blood transfusions can be "defective products", and the status of Gibraltar. He was nominated by the UK to be the UK judge on the General Court of the European Union, where he sat with judges from 27 countries in a court with 24 official languages handling appeals against EU actions. His mandate ended sadly with Brexit in 2020.

Geoffrey Simpson

Being a slightly unusual teenager, Geoffrey decided to become an accountant at the age of 16. He studied the subject at Exeter - the whole university rather than a mere college - where he decided he definitely wasn't interested in a career in the public sector. After training with a big four firm in London, he moved to their Luxembourg office and realised auditing investment funds was not as interesting as it sounded. A competition to become a European civil servant came up (organised by a certain J Speed - whatever happened to him?) which Geoffrey decided to give a try. Thirty years later he is still working at the European Court of Auditors. He has largely managed to avoid working on audits during 28 of these years, but has variously been responsible for communication, interinstitutional and external relations, and more lately audit methodology and quality. He leads the ECA's role as vice chair of the committee responsible for global public auditing standards. This is more interesting than it sounds. Geoffrey is now the most senior British staff member at the ECA, and more unexpectedly - not least to him - the most senior Portuguese too.

Francis Carpenter

Offered a place in Mathematics at Wadham College Oxford, but opted instead for Modern Languages (Italian & German), before going up. After Oxford he graduated from Sciences Po, Paris, in Economics & Finance, and acquired extra polish in New York at the New School & Citibank internships.

After travels in Australia, the Andes & the Amazon basin, he went into European finance, later joining EIB, and lead the teams funding most of the privatized UK infrastructure & North Sea projects and later on refinancing Canary Wharf. The 30+ years at EIB included 6 as Secretary General, the top non-political appointment, & 5 as CEO European Investment Fund, leader in EU Venture & Tech equity, also introducing European microfinance to very substantial EU funds & to securitization for refinancing.

"Several years ago, I set up my own Luxembourg business, based on my non-exec. directorships of several PE funds, + 2 quoted companies (on LSE & SDax); in my spare time, I do my best to help other people solve their problems."

He was awarded the European Order of Merit - Gold Medal.

**C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E**

Sponsored by