

Welcome, Family and Friends

INSOL Europe's new President, Steffen Koch, launches his plans for the forthcoming year... and beyond



STEFFEN KOCH
INSOL Europe President

“

**I HAVE CHOSEN
A HEADLINE FOR
MY PRESIDENCY
WHICH I HAVE
ALREADY
LAUNCHED IN
CASCAIS AT THE
END OF THE
TECHNICAL
PROGRAMME:
“FAMILY AND
FRIENDS”**

”

**When you read
this column,
already four
months of my presidency
have elapsed and another
eight months are to go.**

I thoroughly enjoy serving this wonderful organization and look forward to continuing my efforts to make our INSOL Europe family even more attractive for its members.

“Family and Friends”

For me, INSOL Europe has always been “the place to be” when it comes to European restructuring and networking. There is no other European association that delivers both: excellent knowledge throughout the whole range of different professions acting in the field of restructuring and insolvency and a wonderful familiar and friendly spirit.

With this in mind, I have chosen a headline for my presidency which I have already launched in Cascais at the end of the technical programme: **“Family and Friends”**.

This slogan describes in a very simple way what INSOL Europe is for its members: a family of open minded professionals ready and willing to exchange techniques and approaches to help businesses in trouble throughout Europe.

If you, as a member, give some time, enthusiasm and dedication to INSOL Europe, you will receive the same back from the INSOL Europe family. You will take advantage not only business-wise but also very personally by getting to know

other members of this wonderful family called INSOL Europe!

Get involved in one of our working groups!

Bearing this in mind, our various working groups are key to the further enhancement of our INSOL Europe family.

Our Academic Forum, Anti-Fraud Forum, Eastern European Countries' Committee, EU Study Group, Insolvency Office Holders Forum, Judicial Wing, Financial Institutions Group, Turnaround Wing and Young Members Group are working constantly throughout the year and offer to every family member, and also to our friends, the unique opportunity to work jointly on new projects and get involved constantly.

Be a member of one of our many wings, forums and groups and participate actively in their continuous work and, even more importantly, in between our Annual Congresses. So, get involved.

You will then experience how rewarding it is to be part of the INSOL Europe Family!

Executive and Council

The Executive and the Council of INSOL Europe are working hard to keep our family in good shape.

I have initiated that Council and Executive not only interact twice a year but every two months via a conference call.

The council, with its 22 members representing many jurisdictions and professions, is the “powerhouse” and the “think-tank” of INSOL Europe together

with the Executive. Our discussions on how to develop INSOL Europe in the future are always inspiring and fruitful. By intensifying the collaboration between the Executive and the Council we will be able to speed up the decision-making process in order to make INSOL Europe even better and more valuable for its members – you.

If you have any ideas to share with us, please contact either the Council member representing your country or any other member of the Council. *Please make use of our INSOL Europe Council!*

INSOL International and other friends

I would also like to reach out to our friends: associations, especially INSOL International, and not-yet-members, also being active in the area of restructuring. INSOL Europe is grateful for their support and their involvement.

Together with the president of INSOL International, my dear friend Mark Robinson, I initiated to organize the first joint seminar of INSOL Europe and INSOL International for many years, to be held in fascinating Tel Aviv on 27 June 2017, preceded by a welcome reception and dinner on 26 June. Save the date!

The partnership with our friends from INSOL International offers our family members access to the international restructuring community beyond Europe, especially in the US, Asia and beyond. I am very determined to make this very important relation

Share your views!



between our two organizations even stronger because we and our members are both taking advantage from it.

But I would also like to reach out to other organizations and associations working in the field of cross-border restructuring and insolvency. INSOL Europe respects and acknowledges what they are striving for: finding (cross-border) solutions for businesses in trouble.

Wherever cooperation makes sense I am the first to support it. It is not a question of they *or* we but of they *and* we!

Taskforce 2025

Of course, my main goal is always to make INSOL Europe constantly better in serving its members, so that it continues to grow like it has done successfully over the last decade.

INSOL Europe is “the” pan-European organisation for restructuring and insolvency matters throughout the whole range of professions involved. With this in mind I proposed to the Executive to implement a Taskforce 2025 to examine the whole range of our activities in order to find out if it meets the expectations of our members and where we have space for improvement in the future. The executive unanimously approved this proposal and so the taskforce will be installed this Spring. *This task is very important: it will involve all our members from whom we expect feedback to help to make INSOL Europe even better.*

Brexit and the UK family members

It is still not clear when the negotiations of the UK government with the EU will start, seeking to reach an amicable settlement of the UK leaving the European Union. Without any doubt this surprising vote of the British people has led to a high level of uncertainty both for the EU and the UK.

What is obvious to me is the fact that *our UK members will remain a vital part of the INSOL*

Europe family. We need their input in the future as we did in the past, when it was so important to develop the insolvency regimes throughout Europe to the level we have reached today. In this context it is a strong signal to our UK members that with Alastair Beveridge we have chosen a UK Vice-President who will take over the Presidency of INSOL Europe following our 2018 Annual Congress in Athens. As President of INSOL Europe I am determined to preserve as strong and vital links with the UK membership as in the past.

EU and UNCITRAL

INSOL Europe has been also very active within the EU and UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law). We were involved in several hearings of the EU Commission and regularly sent a delegation, headed by the President, to the UNCITRAL sessions taking place twice a year. We will continue this important task and will do even more.

For next year, we are planning a one-day-seminar in Brussels on the possible impact of Brexit on the EIR (European Insolvency Regulation) and the insolvency/restructuring community.

INSOL Europe is the European voice of the whole range of professions acting in the field of restructuring and insolvency and is duly recognized by the European Union and the United Nations.

INSOL Europe High Level Course on Insolvency Law in Eastern European Jurisdictions

I am proud to report that in 2017 INSOL Europe will establish the first “INSOL Europe High Level Course on Insolvency Law in Eastern European Jurisdictions” starting in February in Bucharest. Three modules (each three days long) between February and November 2017 will offer the participants an efficient training



Steffen Koch taking over the presidency of INSOL Europe at the Annual Congress

course on modern approaches in insolvency. International experts from INSOL Europe and local experts will combine their knowledge in an interactive and rewarding course for high level lawyers and IPs, judges and state officials of the relevant insolvency agency. We are already planning the next course in a different eastern European country to be held in 2018.

With this High Level Course, INSOL Europe underlines its leadership in the field of education too, as it has already taken leadership in many other areas before, e.g. by publishing the INSOL Europe Turnaround Wing Guidelines this year.

Our INSOL Europe family is in better shape than ever and is looking proudly to a bright future. *So let us make 2017 a very special year, dear family and dear friends!* ■

“

INSOL EUROPE IS THE EUROPEAN VOICE OF THE WHOLE RANGE OF PROFESSIONS ACTING IN THE FIELD OF RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY AND IS DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED NATIONS

”