



EUROPEAN ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI
OF THE
INSTITUTE OF AIR AND SPACE LAW OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY (MONTREAL)

European Alumnae and Alumni (IASL-McGill)
c/o P. N. Ehlers, Widenmayerstr. 29, D-80538 Munich, Germany

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Peter Marn, Ljubljana (2002)
Philip Chrystal, Zurich (2004)
Dumitra Popescu, Bucharest (2006)
Cristina Galhardo Vilão, Lisbon (2008)

10 May 2010

REPORT OF THE 12TH BIENNIAL MEETING IN PRAGUE, 22 – 24 APRIL 2010

Dear Co-Alumnae and Co-Alumni:

After a very successful, most informative and highly enjoyable meeting in Prague it was difficult to get back to “normal” for the participants as we had seen and done so much thanks to the perfect organisation and warm hospitality of Jiri Hornik, '00. This is well reflected in the attached meeting report written by Stefanie Fröhling (née Hörstke), '02. Her report gives a very good idea of the wonderful time we had together. This included Professor Paul Dempsey, '90 who once again had made the effort to join us for our reunion. Unfortunately, our Honorary President, Dr. Nicolas Mateesco Matte had to cancel his participation, mainly because of the uncertainties resulting from the terrible ash cloud that had such a disastrous effect on aviation in Europe. This also prevented some other friends to travel to Prague, including our outgoing President Cristina Galhardo Vilão, '90.

In Stefanie's meeting report you will find a few pictures taken in the course of the reunion. At the Alumnae/i section of the IASL-Website you will find links to further pictures.

In the report you will also find a reference to possible future sponsorship and support for the Institute and its students by the European Alumnae and Alumni. Philip Chrystal, '83, who has advocated this project for many years will be in charge as our “fundraiser”, closely cooperating with Jean-Michel Fobe, '86 and others. You will hear about this project again shortly.

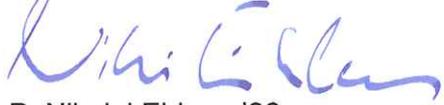
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The last item in Prague was the election of our new President-Elect, Stephan Eriksson, '03. He had extended an invitation to hold our next reunion in 2012 in Stockholm, which was gratefully accepted during the General Meeting.

Therefore, with great thanks to Jiri for a golden meeting in the Golden City we look forward to the first meeting of our Association in Scandinavia in two years' time.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Nikolai Ehlers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

P. Nikolai Ehlers, '86
Secretary

Report of the 12th Meeting of European Alumnae and Alumni of the Institute of Air and Space Law of McGill University (Montreal) Prague 2010

By: Stefanie Fröhling (née Hörstke); Class of 2002/2003

There was suspense until the last moment about who would make it to the 12th Meeting of European Alumnae and Alumni of the Institute of Air and Space Law of McGill in Prague. Aviation – the enabler of our biennial meetings and the common interest and fascination of the participants – had been disabled due to the Icelandic volcano “Eyjafjallajökull” until the very last moment and unfortunately prevented some alumnae and alumni to join. But those who actually made it to Prague – this included Professor Dempsey, who came all the way from Montreal! – were rewarded by a fabulous meeting, perfectly organized with utmost devotion, effort and patience by our host, President Jiri Hornik. Blue sky and sunshine added to the wonderful atmosphere of this meeting in the Golden City.

Thursday, 22 April 2010

The 12th Biennial Meeting in Prague was opened by a warm welcome by our President, Jiri Hornik, at Červená Tabulka, a small and very exquisite restaurant off the tourist track. The delicious dinner was sponsored by Kocián Šolc Balaštík, Jiri’s Law Firm. This gathering in the friendly and personal atmosphere of the restaurant gave us the opportunity for a first reunion (in some cases the first one in many years), to exchange latest news, to establish new contacts as well as to get to know new members of the McGill IASL-family.

This dinner was a perfect prelude to a wonderful meeting. We thank Jiri for his excellent choice and Kocián Šolc Balaštík for making this event possible!

Friday, 23 April 2010

On Friday morning we visited the Czech Airlines Training Centre at Prague Airport, providing pilot and cabin crew training to Czech Airlines personnel but also to third party customers. We were welcomed by Drahomir Krenek (Training Administration Manager) and Richard Kubelka (Security Instructor), who made a presentation of the training centre followed by a very vivid guided tour through the premises. We visited various flight training devices, starting from simple computer simulations to real life flight simulators. A highlight for us was certainly experiencing an emergency situation in an Airbus 320 Cabin Emergency Evacuation Trainer, where we were first confronted with fire in the cabin and then underwent an emergency landing on water with cabin evacuation. Impressively realistic!

Thereafter, we were received by ABS Jets, a leading executive jet operator based at Prague Airport. During a visit of the maintenance and engineering area of ABS Jets we were given the opportunity to admire almost new and very high standard business jets. The visit was accompanied by very interesting explanations given by ABS representatives, Eva Lecnarova (General Counsel), Radek Sanak (Commercial Director) and Daniel Holda (Technical Director), e.g. with respect to maintenance of aircraft as well as to business jet market issues.

This very fulfilling morning was concluded by an excellent lunch kindly offered by ABS Jets. Yet another example of delicious Czech cuisine! Děkuji to ABS Jets!

During our traditional air and space law workshop, each participant made a few-minutes presentation on a topic on his/her choice. The workshop gave the occasion to the alumnae and alumni to exchange on their current professional activities, while delivering the latest news in their field of competence.

The workshop was followed by a visit of a real-situation tower simulator recently put into operation by the Air Navigation Services of the Czech Republic. During a 360 degree tower simulation we experienced coping with different weather conditions and, unfortunately, we lost one airplane that went up in flames after take off... Thank God it was only a simulation!



Děkuji to Czech Airlines, ABS Jets and ANS of the Czech Republic for these most interesting presentations!

In the evening we were hosted by the Canadian Embassy for a Cocktail Reception in the Canadian Ambassador's Residence, an impressive mansion surrounded by beautiful gardens. We were warmly welcomed by Martina Taxova (Trade Commissioner) and Sameena Qureshi (Commercial Counsellor), who outlined the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service's involvement in the aerospace and defence sector. In a very relaxed atmosphere we reminisced about our valuable Canadian experience and, once again, enjoyed Canada's great hospitality! We thank the Canadian Embassy for this very special event!



Saturday, 24 April 2010

Saturday was dedicated to Sightseeing in Pilsen, which is particularly famous for its Pilsener Urquell Brewery.

During a brewery tour in the morning, we visited this birthplace of the most famous beer in the world and did not only learn about the brewery's history and technology used to produce the beer (120,000 bottles per day!), but also had the chance to taste the beer from wooden barrels directly in the cellars.



After an excellent lunch with traditional Bohemian cuisine in the Brewery Restaurant, we completed our air and space law workshop started the day before, sitting outside in the sun on the beautiful Brewery premises.

In the afternoon we had some time to stroll around the historical city centre of Pilsen and to climb up the tower of the Gothic St. Bartholomew Cathedral (the tower is the highest church spire in the Czech Republic).

Back in Prague, there was some time left for sightseeing in the Golden City and for getting prepared for the Farewell Dinner, where we would gather and enjoy each other's company for the last time before 2012.

The Farewell Dinner, including the General Meeting of the IASL European Association, took place at the traditional Czech Restaurant U Medvídků. One of the main issues addressed at the General Meeting was the creation of a fund in order to support one or several McGill IASL students per year (e.g. by sponsoring the air fare to Montreal or books). It was decided that a more tangible proposal will be elaborated and submitted for approval by the IASL European Association. The General Meeting was closed with the election of the next European meeting in 2012: Stockholm! We thank our new President-elect, Stephan Eriksson, for extending such a promising invitation!

Dancing to traditional Czech music we concluded this unforgettable 12th Meeting of European Alumnae and Alumni of the Institute of Air and Space Law of McGill University in Prague.

Thank you, Jiri!