

Check against delivery

Address by President Antonio Tajani delivered at ERA's Jubilee Reception at the European Parliament, Strasbourg, 15 March 2017

"Dear honourable guests,

In September 1991, the European Parliament asked for the creation of the Academy of European Law. Immediately after in 1992 the Academy was established.

One can therefore rightly say: the Academy of European Law is a child of Parliament. As President of the European Parliament, I feel like ERA's father today.

But why was Parliament so eager to have the Academy established? Europe has a common culture and history, a single market and a single currency. But overall, the European Union is a community of law.

The EU has a sophisticated legal order, which is a source of effectiveness, transparency and of democratic legitimacy. In a changing environment and in an increasingly diverse Union, the application and enforcement of Union law is key for our success. Without these rules, there would be no legal security, no legal protection and less fair play. Delays or errors in the application of Union law weaken the EU and deprive the citizens and businesses of its benefits.

This is why the Parliament already in 1991 outlined the major tasks of the ERA: judges, lawyers, prosecutors and civil servants need to have a better understanding of the law of the European Union.

What was true 25 years ago is also true today. And the work of the Academy of European Law is more important than ever to foster and consolidate our Union of law for the benefit of our citizens. The Parliament will continue to support this work, and the President will be your friend in the next two and a half years.

Today we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of high-quality training for legal practitioners and the Academy's important contribution to a European area of justice. Happy birthday!

Thank you very much for your attention."