



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 2015

Dear members of PLPR

in a few weeks, the 9th Annual Conference of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights will commence in Volos. We are grateful to Konstantinos 'Kostas' Lalenis and the Department of Planning and Regional Development at the University of Thessaly for hosting this event.

For the past few months, I have more than once started to prepare a newsletter (as I have done before), but never got it right. I apologize to every member whom I have disappointed with my tardiness. Still, there are some news I want to share with the PLPR community, and that's why you are receiving this President's Letter.

Did you also enjoy enormously the 8th Annual PLPR Conference, hosted by Rachelle Alterman and her wonderful team at the Technion in Haifa (Israel)? Read now the conference report by Michael Kolocek ([Town Planning Review 85 \[5\] 671-676 \[2014\]](#))!

The General Assembly of the Haifa conference elected a new Executive Committee (ExCo) for two years. The new members are Richard 'Dick' Norton as Vice President, Michael Kolocek as Secretary General, and Cygal Pellach as PhD Coordinator. I have been re-elected for a second term as PLPR's President. The next elections are due at the 10th Annual Conference in 2016. Where's that going to happen?



PLPR Executive Committee (2014–2016)

left to right: Ben Davy, Cygal Pellach, Michael Kolocek, Dick Norton (c) 2014 Ulrike Davy



Bern, Switzerland – host of the 2016 PLPR Annual Conference

(c) Bern Tourismus

The new ExCo quickly made its decision to endorse the Bern proposal as the venue of the 10th Annual Conference of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights in 2016. The **2016 PLPR conference** will be organized by the Research Group in Urban & Regional Planning at **Bern University**, in particular by Jean-David Gerber and Andreas Hengstermann, and will be complemented by representatives from the Universities of Bern, Fribourg and Neuchâtel. The theme for the 2016 PLPR Annual Conference is **Land as a scarce resource**, a topic that is regarded with great passion not only in Switzerland, but worldwide. Jean-David and Andreas will present their invitation to the 2016 PLPR Annual Conference in Volos.

Meeting with friends – the motto of all PLPR conferences – is also a good motto for PLPR activities outside the annual conferences. At the **AESOP** congress in Utrecht in 2014 (co-organized by former PLPR Secretary General, Thomas Hartmann), the law track was highly popular. Chaired by Rachelle Alterman and Willem Korthals Altes, the law track attracted about 60 papers from AESOP—PLPR *aficionados*. Leonie Janssen-Jansen chaired an AESOP thematic group meeting, emphasizing the strong relationship between AESOP and PLPR. The next law track and thematic group meeting will occur at the 2015 AESOP congress in Prague (<http://www.aesop2015.eu/>).

For everyone particularly interested in property law, I recommend the 6th Annual Meeting of the **Association for Law, Property & Society (ALPS)**, hosted by the University of Georgia School of Law, from 30 April through 2 May 2015. The 2015 meeting's website is <http://law.uga.edu/association-law-property-society-alps>.

PLPR explicitly encourages regional and local groups to organize events in the spirit of the PLPR community: *Planning matters! Law matters! Property rights matter!* Accordingly, I am very happy that, in August 2014, Spike Boydell, John Sheehan, and others organized a Pacific Regional Symposium *Land and Property Rights in the South Pacific*. Also, all PLPR members have received a message by Sony Pellissery (sony.pellissery@gmail.com) regarding the **First South Asian Regional Conference** of the International As-

sociation on Planning, Law, and Property Rights (1st SARC-PLPR) with the theme *Land Policies in South Asia: Promises and Practices* (1–3 September 2015) at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru (India). A great event!



Reflecting on our mission – the PLPR group photo from the magnificent 2014 Haifa conference (detail)
(c) 2014 Ben Davy

The PLPR community, I am convinced, grows from the extraordinary experiences of meeting with friends. Reflecting on our mission, I would like to conclude with an expression of gratitude: I am grateful for the many things PLPR has taught me—and I surely wish that you also find most gratifying your encounters with the PLPR community!

Kind regards

Ben Davy
PLPR President 2012—2016