

The 24th FIDE Congress in Madrid was a fantastic experience that I will never forget. It started even before I arrived in the beautiful city of Madrid as all the attendees were asked to read the national reports on the selected debate topic they had chosen. I chose the topic named the judicial application of competition law because I thought the subject matter might be useful in the future as it is an avenue of law I'd like to pursue.

I was lucky enough to stay in the centre of Madrid where the vibrancy of the city could be felt the most. Furthermore the architecture of the metropolis is breath-taking. Madrid has successfully fused a modern infrastructure with the preserved look and feel of many of its historic neighbourhoods and streets.

The Congress itself was somewhat intimidating because of the attendees, I found myself among professors, judges, référendaires and top barristers and solicitors. Needless to say I felt a little out of my depth, however being around some of the 'top brass' of Europe was undoubtedly inspiring and I was able to broach topics such as the constitutional effects of the Lisbon Treaty without being met with a blank face. I soon became more comfortable at the congress, and later made the acquaintance of some delightful academics and professionals.

The debate on the judicial application of competition law was excellent with the president of the first day, Mr, Keon Lenaerts and attendee, Judge Cooke from the Irish High Court, being particularly noteworthy. I was able to learn a lot during the congress, inside and outside the chamber of debate regarding the judicial application of competition law around Europe. The varied effect of the Regulation 1/2003 around the European Union was interesting. Depending on the current national legislation the Regulation may or may not have had a big effect.

Overall I had a marvelous time and would like to thank the United Kingdom Association of European Law for sponsoring such an experience. My only regret is that I may not be able to attend the next congress in Tallinn, Estonia in 2012 as now I know what I will be missing.

David Mooney