

**AN APPRECIATION OF THE LIFE OF THE
LATE LORD SLYNN
DELIVERED AT THE ISEL/UKAEL CONFERENCE
ON CURRENT ISSUES IN EU PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
AND STATE AID LAW**

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BY

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I have been asked to contribute a brief appreciation of the life of Lord Slynn at this conference organised by the UKAEL together with the ISEL. Lord Slynn's contribution to the work of the UKAEL was continuous and tireless.

My original meeting with Lord Slynn was when, as Gordon Slynn, a young barrister, he came down to Trinity College, Cambridge at weekends to supervise us law undergraduates in contract law. Earlier undergraduates taught by him included Leon Brittan and Anthony Lester. It was a wonderful experience for me for it led to his organising my subsequent pupillage with Patrick Neill (now Lord Neill QC of Bladen) in his Chambers and my joining as a tenant Brick Court Chambers, where he himself had previously been a pupil.

Gordon was a colossus in the world law field. Indeed, if there was ever a Nobel Prize for Law he would inevitably have been the front runner for appointment to that prestigious post. His influence was felt not only in UK national law, but in the common law throughout the world, and also in EU law and in international law. He was at home in almost every country in the world. He made a massive contribution to the development of law, the humanity of law and the rule of law.

In the UK his career was stratospheric. First as barrister, then as Treasury Junior, then as Treasury Leader, Judge, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal and eventually in the House of Lords. In the EU he was not only Advocate General (in which role he was to play a great influence on the development of community law) but also subsequently as Judge.

He was unstinting in the time he gave to others: to practitioners, to young lawyers and to students, not only in the European Community but also in countries which were in the process of acceding to the EU.

The Slynn Foundation was set up to support his tireless work. To get some idea of the work that he did for the Foundation (and this was only a part of the work he did) you should look at the website of that Foundation. There was never a country either in the EU or which aspired to join the EU in which he did not extend his influence. And that influence was not merely at dry conferences, but also in active participation in the life and role of Judges, practitioners and students.

In the last six years of his life he devoted enormous time and effort to supporting the People's Mujahidin of Iran (PMOI), who had been wrongly categorised by the UK and the EU as terrorists. In that field I had the honour to act, together with my colleague from France Me. Jean-Pierre Spitzer of the Paris Bar, as Counsel before the CFI. It was particularly fitting that he was able to live to see the whole series of cases in the UK and the CFI leading eventually to total success and the PMOI being removed from the list of terrorist organisations. You can read more about that case in the Autumn edition of The Bar European Group's European Advocate of 2009 (as well as an appreciation by David Anderson QC).

It was a great privilege to have been taught and influenced by such a great man and such a great lawyer and I suspect everyone here today has been influenced to some extent more or less by Lord Slynn or certainly by the fruits of his extensive work and remarkable personality.