

BNotK international



ENGLISH VERSION

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05 Institutional Meetings of the UINL and 30th International Congress of Notaries in Cancún:

The Institutional Meetings of the UINL and the 30th International Congress of Notaries took place in Cancún, Mexico, from 27 November to 3 December 2022. The new UINL President from 2023 to 2025 will be the French notary and current UINL Vice-President for Europe, Lionel Galliez. Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann was elected his successor as Vice-President Europe. The latter was also the international coordinator at the International Congress.

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LATEST NEWS



Dr. Peter Stelmaszczyk, Maître en Droit (Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne), President of CNUE 2023 / Photo: Alain Bienenstock, Brussels

DR. PETER STELMASZCZYK ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CNUE

Dr. Peter Stelmaszczyk, notary in Burscheid, has been elected new President of the CNUE for 2023 at the General Assembly on 9 December 2022. The CNUE is the umbrella organisation of all Latin type notariats in the EU. It represents the interests of its 22 members at European level vis-à-vis the European institutions and other relevant decision-makers. The CNUE is involved in European legislative projects and has established a forum for exchange and cooperation among its member notariats.

Under the CNUE's rotation scheme, the Latvian Chamber of Notaries has the right to present a presidential candidate for the year 2023. The Latvian Chamber of Notaries decided to cooperate with the German Federal Chamber of Notaries (BNotK) and thus nominated Dr. Peter Stelmaszczyk as its candidate. On 9 December 2022, the CNUE's General Assembly elected Dr. Stelmaszczyk as CNUE president in Brussels. The election is a great sign of sympathy towards and trust in the BNotK.

Dr. Stelmaszczyk worked for several years at the Brussels Office of the BNotK, where he was also Managing Director until 2021. Therefore, he is well-known within the CNUE and valued as a friend among many of his European colleagues. During his time in Brussels, Dr. Stelmaszczyk shaped numerous important legislative projects, for instance the Company Law Package, which has brought about the new online notarial procedures and the new regulations for cross-border company transformations. He is perfectly familiar with the political work on European level and thus an ideal CNUE President.

In his new role, Dr. Stelmaszczyk aims to put a greater focus on the political work of the CNUE and will promote the positions of the European notariat vis-à-vis the European institutions. This objective is particularly important in 2023, when work on a large number of legislative procedures will be concluded at European level. These include, for instance, the current EU Anti-Money Laundering Package and the initiative on digital company law announced for the 1st quarter of 2023. In his candidature speech, Dr. Stelmaszczyk urged small and medium-sized notariats to

cooperate closely in order to make sure that the voice of all notaries is heard at European level. He went on to emphasize that the European notariats are not only stronger together but that members must also be able to rely on each other's support.

The team of the BNotK in Brussels is very much looking forward to working with Dr. Stelmaszczyk in 2023, a year of great importance for the European notariat. **✓**

>> **About the author**

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NOTARIES WORLD WIDE



Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann, LL.M. (Harvard) / Photos UINL Munich: Marc Müller, Munich

THE UINL IN 2022

The year 2022 was a significant one for the German Federal Chamber of Notaries' engagement within the International Union of Notaries (UINL). Firstly, in May, all delegates were finally able to meet again for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic for the UINL Institutional Meetings. The latter were hosted with great pride by the German notariat in Munich. This event was followed by the UINL Institutional Meetings and the World Congress of Notaries in Cancún, which took place later this year in November and December. In Cancún, the UINL member notariats elected Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann as Vice-President Europe.

BNOTK WELCOMES NOTARIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

The German Federal Chamber of Notaries hosted the Institutional Meetings of the UINL in Munich from 25 until 28 May 2022. It had been more than a decade since Germany last hosted

these. Over 100 notaries from 35 countries followed the invitation to Munich. The UINL is the international association of Latin-type notarial professional organisations. With 91 member notariats on four continents, the UINL promotes cooperation between notaries worldwide and notarial activity at international level. It is also the voice of the Latin-type notariat towards international organisations such as the OECD, the World Bank or the United Nations and its sub-organisations.

Current issues

For the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the institutional meetings in Munich could take place in presence again. They were characterised by personal and professional exchange, but above all by the pleasure of meeting each other again. The participants dealt with the entire spectrum of the UINL's multifaceted engagement. The main topics included digitalisation, the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, the cooperation with international organisations as well as equality issues. A significant example of this work is the guidebook for the

“Responsible governance of tenure and preventive justice” developed by the UINL in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The guidebook shows how the system of preventive justice helps protect property rights and social interests, and thereby also ensures food security. The contribution of notaries is crucial in this respect. The guidebook is a showcase project at international level on the importance of the notarial profession. It was developed with the substantial contribution of Dr. Lovro Tomasic, notary in Erlangen and representative of the BNotK for international affairs.

Address of the President of the Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries

Volodymyr Marchenko, President of the Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries, was there especially for the occasion. In a stirring address, he reported on the war in Ukraine and its effects on the Ukrainian colleagues and their families. Out of more than 6,000 notaries in Ukraine, only about 2,500 could still do their work – and this only with great effort.



Dr. Cristina N. Armella

The UINL assured the Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries and the Ukrainian notaries of all possible support. For more information on the possibilities of providing (financial) support for notaries in Ukraine, please visit the chamber's website "Help Notaries of Ukraine" at <https://help.npu.ua>.

Social programme

The meetings included a rich social programme. Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann, President of the BNotK, welcomed the guests by opening the event in the BMW World. He honoured the achievements of the current President of the UINL, Dr. Cristina N. Armella, and highlighted the pioneering role of German notaries in the process of digitalisation. He presented an overview of the current and prospective technological innovations in the German notariat, ranging from the Electronic Archive of Authentic Acts to the new online procedures and a blockchain-based validity register for notarial powers of attorney and certificates of inheritance. Jens Kirchner, President of the Bavarian Chamber of Notaries, and Dr. Cristina N. Armella also welcomed the guests. Dr. Marco Buschmann, German Federal Minister of Justice, addressed the audience in a pre-recorded video. He thanked the notaries for their pioneering role at national and international level in the modernisation of the rule of law, especially in the field of digitalisation. He also acknowledged their importance in combating money laundering and implementing the sanctions against Russia and Belarus. Minister Dr. Buschmann further emphasised that the international networking and cooperation of notaries within the framework of the UINL served as a source of inspiration for the continuous development of national legal systems.

The festive highlight of the institutional meetings of the UINL was the gala dinner at Nymphenburg Palace. Dr. Hans-Joachim Heßler, President of the Bavarian Constitutional Court and the Munich Higher Regional Court, focused on the digitalisation projects of the Bavarian judiciary in his welcome address. In doing so, he affirmed that digital technology can only support a human decision but never replace it. Svenja Schulze, the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, expressed her appreciation for UINL's contribution in the field of development aid and identified common interests and potential for cooperation in a video statement. She particularly pointed out the guidebook on the "Responsible governance of tenure and preventive justice" developed with FAO and GIZ, and stressed that there can be no food security without legal security.

INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS AND 30TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NOTARIES IN CANCÚN

In November, this year's last UINL Institutional Meetings and the 30th International Congress of Notaries took place in Cancún.

Last sessions of the legislature

The meetings in Cancún also marked the end of the three-year legislative term of President Dr. Cristina N. Armella from Argentina. The individual commissions and working groups of the UINL used this opportunity to present the results of their work over the last three years.

Working Group Partnership with International Organisations

The working group "Partnership with International Organisations", in which Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann is participating as well as the previous Vice-President Europe, Lionel Galliez, reported on their intensive work on the PMR indicators of the OECD and the new project of the World Bank, the Business Enabling Environment project (BEE). The UINL engages in close exchange with the OECD and the World Bank and advocates for a fair and objective assessment of the continental European system of preventive administration of justice by these international organisations. With a methodology that relies solely on quantitative indicators, the above-mentioned

studies cannot adequately assess the actual added value of notarial participation in important transactions and procedures. They therefore draw a highly distorted picture of the system of preventive administration of justice.

CCNI

The "Commission for International Notarial Cooperation" (CCNI) under its President, Judicial Counsel Richard Bock, notary (ret.), is currently working closely with the UINL candidate notariats in Burundi and Congo (RDC). The admission procedure of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan was successfully completed and both chambers were ceremoniously admitted to the circle of UINL members in Cancún.

Elections for the new legislature

In accordance with the UINL's tradition, the elections for the President as well as the Vice-Presidents, Members of the Steering Committee, General Councilors and Presidents of the Commissions took place during the last session of the General Assembly of the current legislature. The members elected the Parisian notary and previous UINL Vice-President Europe Lionel Galliez as the new President of the UINL on 30 November 2022. Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann was elected as his successor in Europe. He will hold the office of Vice-President Europe starting from January 2023 for the following three years.

Prof. Dr. Bormann new Vice President for Europe

"The election is a great honour for me," says Bormann. "In an increasingly globalised world, the notariat can only be successful if we work well together internationally. This is what I will strive for." Bormann regards digitalisation as a focus of his term of office.



Lionel Galliez, Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann, Dr. Cristina N. Armella (l.r.f.)



The current UINL President and her predecessors congratulate the newly elected President Lionel Galliez. Daniel-Sédar Senghor, Jean-Paul Decors, Lionel Galliez, Dr. Cristina N. Armella, Dr. José Marqueño de Llano, Dr. Helmut Fessler (l.r.)

“The notariat must be a pioneer of digitalisation,” he explained during his speech at the General Assembly. “In doing so, we preserve the central principles of our profession.” Bormann cited the role of the notariat in combating money laundering as another important topic. In addition, the advantages of preventive administration of justice must be presented more clearly, especially to international organisations such as the OECD.


“The notariat must be a pioneer of digitalisation.”

The President of the CCNI, Richard Bock, was also confirmed in office. As a new delegate, Dr. Lovro Tomasic will represent the BNotK in the Steering Committee in the future. Dr. Helmut Fessler, President of the Consultative Commission (CC) for many years, had decided to hand over this office to his successor José Marqueño de Llano from Spain. Dr. Helmut Fessler will continue to be available as an ordinary member of the CC offering his much-appreciated advice and assistance. With this team, the BNotK will continue to play a key role in the UINL in the coming legislative term.

International Congress of Notaries

Every three years, the UINL organises the International Congress of Notaries. This Congress also took place in Cancún, Mexico, after the Institutional Meetings. The topics of the Congress included combating money laundering and the World Notarial University. This year, Philip Bender, LL.M. (Yale Law School) and Iris Stocker, candidate notaries of the Bavarian Chamber of Notaries, took part in the World University for the BNotK and presented the work of the past months in Cancún.

This year’s Congress focused on two current international topics: The Italian notary Carlo Alberto Marcoz presented the topic “The exercise of the notarial profession in the virtual world”. Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann and Dr. Peter Stelmaszczyk, as international coordinators, presented the topic “The exercise of the notarial public function linked to the recovery of national economies in the post-pandemic period”. Speakers from more than 20 member notariats were invited to report on successes and challenges from their respective home countries and to discuss current solutions. Especially for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, which have little legal expertise, notarial involvement in the formation and restructuring of companies is of great importance. Comprehensive and objective legal advice is paramount to protect the

rights of entrepreneurs. This advice, just like secure identification of the parties involved, must also be ensured in the digital world. If notaries can offer viable and convincing solutions here, they cannot only secure their existing competences, but even gain new ones. 

>> About the author

Veronika Kormann, LL.M. is a fully qualified lawyer and works as the coordinator of the German Federal Chamber of Notaries for international affairs in the Brussels office.



Lionel Galliez



Lionel Galliez

A cup of coffee with Lionel Galliez,
President of the International Union of Notaries (UINL)

Interview: Veronika Kormann LL.M.

You have been active in the UINL for many years. What motivated you to get involved in the notaries' union back then?

I have been a General Councillor of the Union and chaired the working group on partnership with international organisations for nine years. This involvement was sparked by the response to the Doing Business report. The aim of this working group, created under the presidency of Jean-Paul Decorps, was to coordinate the reaction of all the member notariats to the World Bank. What we all experienced as an attack was a trigger. This is how I became aware of the need to make the specificity of our profession and continental law known and recognised by international organisations. Because in fact, the real mission of the international organisation of notaries that we form is to represent our profession to other international organisations. We are the only audible voice at this level, because unity gives us the strength and legitimacy to speak on behalf of 91 countries.

On 30 November 2022 you have been elected UINL President for the 2023-2025 legislature. What is your agenda for the next three years?

The three priorities for the coming legislature will be, first of all, to continue our work with international organisations. I am counting heavily on the German notariat, whose contribution to our past successes has been decisive. In particular, the cooperation with GIZ and FAO in the Balkans is an example of the work I intend to continue in order to demonstrate the usefulness of the notariat in the service of development and legal security. Secondly, I will focus on the political role of the President, who must meet relentlessly with the authorities of our members to convince them to strengthen the role of the notariat and to extend its areas of competence. Of course, it will also be necessary to work to further expand our organisation by admitting new members. This is a way of demonstrating to our national authorities that the notariat is an expanding model and not a shrinking one, as some people would like to think. Finally, and this is perhaps the innovative

part of my programme, although it is a very classic idea for us civil lawyers, I will engage the Union in a work of codification of the principles recognised by all our members. I want every president of a notariat to be able to say to his or her minister: this is what the international notariat thinks about this issue.

Your commitment to UINL involves a lot of travel. As future UINL President, you will certainly travel even more. What do you look forward to most when you return to your family in Paris after a long trip?

The recent past has shown that it is difficult to predict whether travel will be possible. One of the lessons of the pandemic is that it is now possible to increase the number of meetings through video conferencing. However, this method is only useful for regular meetings with people you already know well. For decisive and political meetings, it is better to be face-to-face. And of course there are our institutional meetings and the meetings that mark the life of our union every year. I am also delighted to be going to Berlin for the handover of the Presidency of the Council of Notaries of the European Union. This is the kind of moment that allows us to focus on our discussions, exchange points of view and make progress in the common good of the profession. These trips are not a strain for me because each time I have the impression of being received in a family, both by the common spirit that I feel and by the warmth of the welcome. Above all, they allow me to appreciate that it is necessary to go on the spot to dispel the false or inaccurate ideas that one may have about a country before having been there. These stays, which are usually very short, also give me the opportunity each time I return to Paris to marvel at the beauty of our old city with fresh eyes. ✓

>> Introducing Lionel Galliez

Lionel Galliez is a notary based in Paris and has been elected UINL-President for the three-year legislative term beginning in the year 2023.

WORKSHOP REPORT EUROPE



Photo: Vector | istockphoto.com

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

In view of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, notaries have taken measures on a European and international level to express their solidarity with the Ukrainian colleagues, their families and the entire population in Ukraine.

UINL suspends Russia and Belarus

Already on 4 March 2022, a few days after the Russian attack, the world umbrella organisation UINL suspended the exercise of the rights of the Chambers of Notaries of Russia and Belarus. In addition, the UINL has set up a fundraising account to finance humanitarian aid and reconstruction in Ukraine.

CNUE provides legal information

The CNUE is also campaigning on behalf of its Ukrainian colleagues. For example, it has granted observer status to the Ukrainian Chamber, which officially allows the chamber to attend all CNUE meetings. A special task force also deals with legal issues resulting from the war and regularly publishes notices on the CNUE website. The on-

line publications include, for example, information on Ukrainian law regarding the topics of succession law, matrimonial property regimes, protection of vulnerable adults and real estate law. Moreover, the DNotI has published answers to the most frequent legal questions in connection with Ukrainian citizens in everyday notarial work on the CNUE homepage. The corresponding documents are available at <https://www.notariesofeurope.eu/en/legal-information/>.

Multilingual forms simplify procedures

Furthermore, multilingual forms can be downloaded via the ENN (European Notarial Network), which for example simplify cross-border journeys of minors. We sincerely thank Dr. Vladimir Primaczenko, notary in Plauen, and Judicial Counsel Richard Bock, notary (ret.), for their leading role in this project.

The notariat's responsibility to implement the sanctions

As a result of Russia's war of aggression, the EU has introduced a series of

sanctions. Notaries have a great responsibility in monitoring the actual implementation of these sanctions. The CNUE is therefore in close contact with the EU institutions and regularly informs its members about the current developments in order to support notaries in this important mission. ✓

>> About the author

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HIGHLIGHTS



Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann, Sabrina Sybiga, Volodymir Marchenko, Dr. Cristina N. Armella, JR Richard Bock (l.t.r.)

INTERVIEW WITH VOLODYMYR MARCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF THE UKRAINIAN CHAMBER OF NOTARIES

The Russian war of aggression is causing inconceivable suffering to your country and to the Ukrainian people. Our thoughts are all with you. How are the Ukrainian citizens and Ukrainian colleagues doing?

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the global notary community and to all democratic countries that are actively supporting Ukraine politically, financially and morally. It is very important to have solidarity and understanding. The brutal war in Ukraine is continuing, civilians are dying every day, Russian missiles are destroying cities and public facilities, killing our children, wiping out crops and demolishing infrastructure. But I know that the spirit of the Ukrainians cannot be defeated. With every missile attack, our strength and confidence of victory only grows. We all know that Ukraine is a protective shield for Europe and the whole world. That is why we believe in the continued active support of other countries, the

imposition of sanctions against Russia, the supply of heavy weapons to Ukraine, and so on. It is not easy to describe in words what it is like to be constantly under the threat of death (there are no safe places in Ukraine, a missile can strike anywhere, from the East to the Carpathians, from the South to Kiev) and yet still continue to work, take care of your loved ones and live in faith of a better life in the future. Of course, there are areas where shelling and battles do not cease, where entire towns and villages have already been reduced to rubble, where many victims of the Putin regime have been tortured to death. These are the conditions under which all Ukrainians, and therefore also notaries, live in Ukraine. In addition to the dangers to life and limb, economic problems also have a major impact on the work of notaries. The profession of notaries is self-employed and thus not financed by the state and significantly depends on the current state of the economy. High-quality notarial services are only possible in an environment that offers security and economic sustainability. Just what exactly is happening right now? Hundreds of notaries, as

well as many other people, have been forced to leave their homes and offices in areas where active fighting is taking place. The private residences and offices of many notaries have already been destroyed. However, dozens of notaries stay in the occupied areas and, despite the threat, are the closest advisors to citizens in legal matters. Ukrainian notaries and the Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries continue to work against all odds.

What are you currently most concerned with as President of the Chamber of Notaries of Ukraine?

The Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries is doing its utmost to enable notaries to conduct their work in these difficult times. We are advocating for necessary legislative changes, participating in the development of normative legal acts and providing methodological and analytical support to notaries. We are operating hotlines to advise the notaries. The Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries is also keeping a register of notaries who have suffered financial and health damage as a result of the war and records the relevant facts. So far, we have



Volodymyr Marchenko, President of the Ukrainian Chamber

received over 1,000 corresponding applications. As NKU President, my colleagues and I, members of the NKU Council and NKU Committees are working on all previously mentioned issues, and particularly on international cooperation, since the Ukrainian notariat urgently needs the help of international partners and colleagues. Ukrainian notaries need financial support. This is why the NKU has set up the relief fund "Save the Notaries and their Families" to collect voluntary donations from colleagues around the world to provide targeted financial assistance to the affected Ukrainian notaries. We would like to thank the CNUE and all the presidents of the national chambers of notaries for responding to our appeal and helping us.

Despite the difficult situation in your country, you and your colleagues are striving to continue providing notarial services to the state. What difficulties are you facing and how many of your colleagues are still able to maintain ongoing work?

The legal status of the notary in Ukraine stipulates that the notary acts on behalf of the state, specifically the latter authorises notaries to perform certain acts and also assigns them responsibility for the proper keeping of the archive, which is state property. Of the 6,600 notaries in Ukraine, about 2,500 currently perform notarial tasks. This is partly due to the fact that 80 % of Ukrainian notaries are women who were forced to flee with their children. Notaries are legally prohibited from practicing their profession in combination with other employment in Ukraine. Without their offices, they are not able to work, make a living and provide for their families. There are, of course, notaries who look for new offices and even change location and

eventually start afresh. Such a new beginning though requires considerable financial resources. The number of notarial authentications in Ukraine is currently very low, which implies that notaries are struggling to make a living. Considering the economic situation, things are only going to get worse.

This war has not only brought about incredible suffering and destruction to the country but it has also substantially disrupted economic activities. Which notarial activities are still requested?

The most requested notarial activities are currently in the area of certifying signatures on exit applications for children going abroad, certifying powers of attorney and numerous authentications in succession matters. After the access to the public registers was re-opened for a limited number of notaries, it has again become possible to perform certain acts in relation to real estate and land, which, however, is currently not particularly required.

Are there official notarial acts that can no longer be performed?

In the first months of the war, the powers of notaries were more restricted than they are today. After all, it was necessary to protect citizens' property rights and personal data, which is why the state registers were shut down – and consequently a number of notarial acts could not be performed. But at the moment, the notaries' powers have been optimised. The following is an example of what was prohibited and is now allowed again: citizens (including those abroad) can already sell or give away their own property by issuing a power of attorney in the name of their representative resident in Ukraine. There are also certain prohibitions on notarial acts involving persons connected with the aggressor state, i.e. Russian citizens (except those legally residing in Ukraine) and legal entities established and registered under Russian law. Moreover, the issuance of enforcement orders for loan agreements that have not been authenticated by a notary public is prohibited. In addition, only notaries included in a special list approved by the Ministry of Justice are allowed to perform notarial acts involving valuable assets (especially real estate). Notaries operating in areas where acts of war are taking place or which are occupied or which are facing other similar situations, cannot be included in this

list. There are of course certain restrictions, and these must also apply during this time of war. However, in general, citizens can exercise their rights to a great extent without any problems with the help of notaries. The economy and all state institutions must aim at our victory and the rebirth of Ukraine!

This is, of course, a severe economic strain on notaries. Things were looking very good for the Ukrainian notariat before the war. A comprehensive notarial reform was planned, which would provide the notariat with additional competences and promote digitalisation, isn't that right? Can you tell us more about that?

Yes, the war has put on hold the reform of the Ukrainian notariat, which was already successfully underway. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted, as a basis, a draft law amending certain laws of Ukraine to improve the regulation of notarial activities in February 2022. The draft law provides for the transition to a unified notariat, expanding the list of notaries' powers (in particular, registration of marriages and their dissolution, preservation of evidence, establishment of legally significant facts, introduction of a unified notarial certification cycle and registration of alienation of corporate rights), introduction of the e-notariat, ensuring the performance of notarial acts in each notarial district, transferring a number of notarial powers from the central authority to notaries, performing professional self-governance. We have been actively preparing for the adoption of this law and the implementation of the reform. In the lead-up, the law on mediation was also adopted, which gives notaries the right to act as mediators.



Prof. Dr. Jens Bormann, Volodymyr Marchenko (l.t.r.)

The Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries acquired premises in a new building, the construction of which was already in the final stages, renovations and relocation were planned. The Ukrainian notarial profession was actively developing, the notarial community was growing stronger, there were many plans and good prospects ... until 24 February.

What contribution can digitalisation make to the preservation of the notarial profession and the accessibility of notarial services in Ukraine? Will a reform be possible at all under the current conditions?

We have faith in victory, in our forces and in a bright future for Ukraine and the Ukrainian notariat. We are already getting back to the active implementation of the notariat's reform and hope that the corresponding act will be adopted soon. It also provides for digitalisation – the gradual introduction of some elements of the e-notariat. As a member of the UINL, Ukraine supports the development of information technologies for notaries in the countries of the Latin-type notariat. Digitalisation is a modern trend, but one should keep a close eye on the security criteria, the ability to identify the client and certain nuances in the proper use of the digital signature. As Cristina Armella, the UINL President, has pointed out, “the notariat must not lose its essence while innovating its work”. I agree with this statement. A notary's work cannot be replaced by digital algorithms, and particularly not the ability to ascertain the voluntariness and awareness in the actions of the involved parties. The key is to keep the balance: The digitalisation of the notariat makes civil transactions more convenient, opens up new possibilities for notaries and citizens, but it is the notary's participation in physical form that actually guarantees the authenticity and irrefutability of authentic acts.

What are the post-war plans of the Ukrainian notariat? What do notaries mostly lack at the present time in order to provide the population with notarial services?

We are waiting for the war to end, but we are already working. The war has taught us to value every day and not to put things off until later. We dream of a renewal of the Ukrainian notariat following the caused damages and certainly of an improvement compared to

the pre-war situation, as we aspire to the highest values of the Latin-type notariat and European standards. What are the notaries lacking? The wording should be slightly different: The country and its citizens lack notaries. For the reasons I have already explained. The Ukrainian notariat should be saved and the notaries affected should be assisted to resume their work and re-establish their offices.

What are the notaries lacking as civilians?

There is a lack of peace, of security, of confidence in the future. Notaries, still exercising their duties, close their offices in the evening knowing that by tomorrow they may find rubble from the impact of a Russian missile.

CNUE has granted observer status to the Ukrainian notariat. What does this step mean for you?

On behalf of the entire notarial community, I thank CNUE for granting observer member status to the Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries. This will enable the NKU to represent the Ukrainian notarial profession even better in the European notarial family and also to promote the exchange of experience between notaries, the improvement and the appropriate standardisation of notarial procedures.

What further kind of support do you hope to receive from the international community?

The UINL reacted quickly to the appeal of the Ukrainian Chamber of Notaries and suspended the rights of Russian and Belarusian notaries within the UINL. However, I would like to emphasize that the suspension of rights is not enough – the notariats of these countries must be excluded from such a prestigious organisation as UINL in order not to discredit the honour of the notariat. All the more so, since the whole world imposes sanctions on Russia, excludes it from various organisations and refusing to have anything to do with the aggressor. Financial assistance for the Ukrainian notaries as members of the world wide notariat of continental law is very important. Help us to preserve the notariat in Ukraine! Human support, political support, every single word, every initiative and especially their implementation are very important to us. We would be very grateful for any financial support to the account of the NKU Relief Fund. I appeal to all colleagues in general: Please continue

to be strong advocates to your governments and speak on all possible platforms about supporting Ukraine and imposing effective sanctions on Russia.

Given this narrative, I'm sure many of our readers will want to help. How can you donate if you want to help Ukrainian notaries?

You can find the bank details of the NKU Relief Fund at <https://help.npu.ua/> Thank you for not being indifferent to our problems. There are no wars of others. ✍

>> About the authors

Dr. Vladimir Primaczenko is a notary in Plauen. On an honorary basis, he is engaged in the international work of the German Federal Chamber of Notaries, especially in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

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AGENDA

The following overview presents a small selection of important future events. It is subject to changes on short notice.



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CNUE HANDOVER OF POWER
BERLIN | GERMANY
20.01.2023

JOINT MEETING OF THE OLD AND THE NEW
UINL STEERING COMMITTEE
PARIS | FRANCE
24.02.2023

EJN ANNUAL MEETING
BRUSSELS | BELGIUM
30. - 31.01.2023

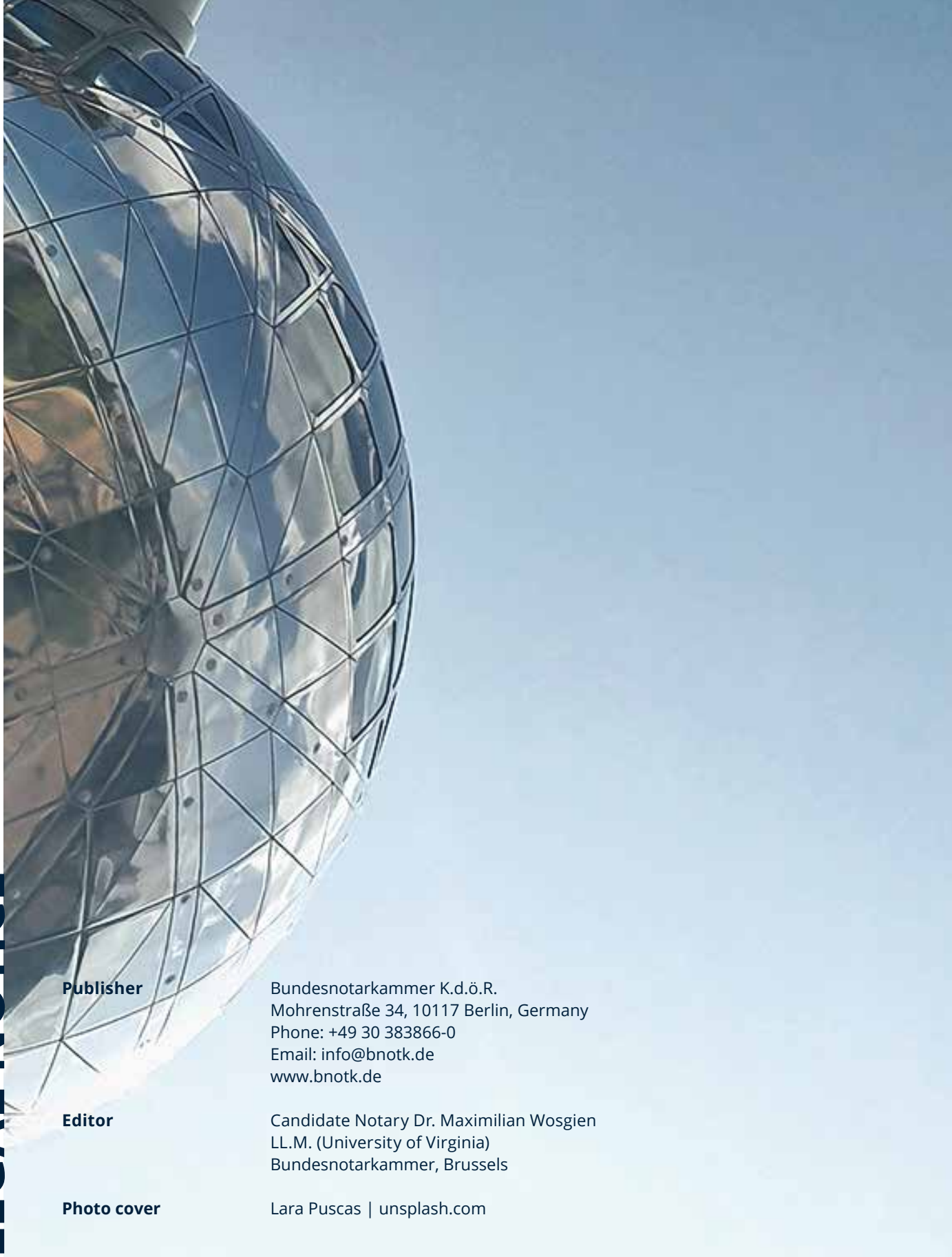
DELEGATION VISIT OF THE NOTARIAL
CHAMBER OF MONTENEGRO
BERLIN | GERMANY
02. - 03.03.2023

DELEGATION TRIP TO GEORGIA
TIBLISI | GEORGIA
01. - 03.02.2023

ROUND TABLE SOUTHEAST EUROPE
BERLIN | GERMANY
23. - 24.03.2023

UNCITRAL WORKING GROUP I, MSME
NEW YORK | USA
13. - 17.02.2023

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