



LAUNCH OF THE WORLD'S FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL AND EU PORT LAW CENTRE

News Release – Sunday, 13 December 2009

Portius, a brand-new law centre with focus on international and EU port law, was launched today.

Portius is the world's first institution to specialise in the study of the law of both maritime and inland ports. Port law is essential to the functioning of ports, traditional gateways to global trade. In a fascinating way, port law combines port-related aspects of maritime and transport law, international law of the sea, public law, economic law, labour law, environmental law and various other branches of the law.

Portius is based on a genuinely international and EU-inspired network. All educational, research and consultancy institutions, as well as port law practitioners, academics and end users, are warmly invited to join.

Portius will offer a specialised top-level course in port law for lawyers and experienced port managers, host an annual port law conference, publish a port law yearbook and organise events on topical port law issues. It will use English as its main language.

Portius is chaired by Prof Dr Eric Van Hooydonk, an internationally renowned expert on port law who is currently also heading a project for the reform of Belgian maritime law on behalf of the Belgian Government.

Portius is currently developing cooperation agreements with various partners and individual members, details of which will be published soon.

To subscribe to the monthly *Portius* newsletter, send an email to secr@portius.org.

The attached *Portius* logo may be used for media purposes.

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