

Danish Judges' EC Network

The Hague September 2012

Denmark!

- Very small country (5.6 mio)
- Very few judges (around 380)
- That makes:
- Very busy judges

Danish Judiciary!

- Supreme Court (18 judges)
- 2 High Courts (110 judges)
- 24 tribunals (ca. 240 judges)

- + ca. 400 deputy judges

- All Danish judges sit in both criminal and civil/administrative cases

How do we survive?

- Answer:
- Because we have a system with lots of "boards"...

Specialized boards, for instance

- -of public procurement
- -of equal treatment,
- -of tax and wat,
- -of consumers' rights,
- -of environmental protection,

- Etc., etc...

Boards have specialized staff,

- with a deep knowledge of EC Law in exactly their area.
- Judges are presiding or co-presiding all boards.
- The boards' decisions can (of course) be challenged before the ordinary courts.

Network Organisation

- 1 judge from each of the 24 tribunals,
- 2 judges from each of the 2 high courts

- The network is divided into two(eastern and western part)
- Meetings in each part and meetings together.

We do not worry so much!

- We cannot all be specialized. The boards are.
- Instead:
- We must try to get a fine general understanding of EC Law
- We must be able to identify EC-problems
- We must be able to seek relevant information.

How?

- 1) All net work judges get weekly, regular information from The Ministry of Justice on pending cases of Danish interest.
- 2) We examine Danish requests for preliminary rulings, comparing, discussing. Likewise when the court has decided NOT to make a request!
- 3) We discuss special items of general interest, such as expulsion of EC citizens.

How, II

- 4) We have meetings with detailed demonstration of how to find information (EurLex, Curia)
- 5) We have talks by professors, headhunted.
- 6) We paid a visit to the EC Court. (Special arrangement 2½ days in March 2012.)
- And of course we have each others' e-mail addresses.

In the overwhelming stream of information, don't forget:

- Books
- Reviews
- Judgements