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 VAT,
- 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 adresses.
In the overwhelming stream of information, don’t forget:

- Books
- Reviews
- Judgements