

**Date of the seminar:**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 from 12h45 to 13h45  
(sandwich included during the conference)

**Location of the seminar:**

Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance  
BRC 2.01 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
148, avenue de la Faïencerie  
L-2511 Luxembourg

**Language:**

English

**Registrations:**

- Free seminar
- Maximum number of registrations: 40
- **Registrations** by email:  
[fdef-colloques@uni.lu](mailto:fdef-colloques@uni.lu) (Last name, first name, institution)

**Information:**

Tel: +352 46 66 44 6619  
Contact person: Mrs Armelle Arnould

Lunchtime Seminar

Work in Progress

Challenges for  
Labour Law  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

By *Prof. Dr. Manfred Weiss*,  
*Professor Emeritus from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-  
University in Frankfurt*

## “Challenges for Labour Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

“Labour is not a commodity” (ILO Philadelphia Declaration). Therefore, the labour market is different from the market of goods, services and capital. The insight already gained in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that competition between individual employees is a destructive concept, still is a valid assumption. Labour law (understood as collective and individual labour law) is supposed to compensate the asymmetric power relationship between employers and employees. In so far the purpose of labour law has not changed since its origins.

Traditional labour law is based on the Fordist model which does no longer exist. Technological innovations, changes in society and economic globalization have led to its erosion. Therefore, labour law – the concept, the instruments and the institutional arrangements – as a protective tool is to be adapted to the new realities. The participants of the seminar are supposed to discuss possible strategies which may be needed to achieve this ambitious goal.

## Prof. Dr. Manfred Weiss

Born 1940 in Germany. Graduated in Law at the University of Freiburg (Germany) in 1964. Research fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Society of the California University in Berkeley (California/USA) from 1965 to 1966. From 1970 to 1972 assistant professor and from 1972 to 1974 associate professor at the Law School of the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt. Since 1974 full professor for labour law and civil law, first (from 1974 to 1977) at the Law School of the University in Hamburg and then (from 1977 to 2008) at the Law School of the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt. Professor emeritus since October 2008. Married, two children, five grandchildren.

- **Visiting professor in residence** since 1984.  
During the last decade: University Paris-Nanterre, France ; of the University Montesquieu Bordeaux, France ; of the New York University ; of the University in Ghent, Belgium ; of the Universities of Cape Town, Western Cape and Stellenbosch/South Africa
- **Co-editor** of the International Labour Law reports.
- Consultant to the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**
- Consultant to the **EEC Commission** since 1986
- Consultant to different **Governments abroad** (especially in Eastern Europe and Africa)
- He is the author of many publications. His 3 most recent books are:
  - Arbeitsrecht für Führungskräfte in ausgewählten Rechtsordnungen / Labour Law of executive staff in selected countries, Baden-Baden **2010** (together with A. Seifert et alii)
  - Labour Law and Industrial Relations in Germany, Deventer/Holland 4. Aufl. **2008** (together with M. Schmidt)
  - Social Embedding and the Integration of Markets – An Opportunity for Transnational Trade Union Action or an Impossible Task? (together with O. Jacobi, M. Jepsen und B. Keller), Düsseldorf **2007**