

The Marco Biagi Award for 2011

In July 2010, pursuant to a decision of the International Association of Labour Law Journals at its annual meeting in Herstmonceux Castle, U.K., a **CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE MARCO BIAGI AWARD** was published.

By the deadline of March 30, six papers had been submitted, from the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Turkey, The Netherlands, Hungary, studying and comparing labour and social law in international dimension, in China, Nigeria and Togo. An academic jury composed of Professors Manfred Weiss, Matthew Finkin and Gian Guido Balandi evaluated the papers and decided as follows:

The winners of the Marco Biagi Award for 2011 are: Beryl Ter Haar, Attila Kun, and Manuel Antonio Garcia-Muñoz Alhambra, for their paper *Soft On The Inside; Hard For The Outside. An Analysis Of The Legal Nature Of New Forms Of International Labour Law*.

A very well written documented and structured analysis of the lawfulness, substance and structure of international labour law, codes of conduct and international framework agreements. Their legal structure is taken into consideration with accuracy and references to a wide literature; the outcome is a clear and comprehensive representation of the role these instruments can play in international industrial relations even if it is completely lacking any empirical component. The authors' conclusion that the parties lack formal competence may be misleading. It might have been better to say that they lack the capacity to enter upon a legally binding instrument. The paper shows that the difference between hard and soft law is by no means black and white, but much more complex. And it also shows that in comparison IFA are much more effective than COC.

Runner-up in this year's competition is Mimi Zou, for the paper *Labour Relations With 'Chinese Characteristics'? Chinese Labour Law At A Historic Crossroads*. This is an excellent assessment of the development of employment and labour law in China as well as a clear reflection about present problems and perspectives.

Beryl Ter Haar, Attila Kun, Manuel Antonio Garcia-Muñoz Alhambra and Mimi Zou will be contacted soon to be invited to present their work at the Association's 2011 meeting in Seville (Spain).

With the congratulations of the Association,

Bologna, Ferrara

June 24th 2011

Gian Guido Balandi
President