



7th ECCL Symposium

**DIRECT CLAIMS OF SHAREHOLDERS AND THIRD PARTIES
AGAINST DIRECTORS**

Friday May 16, 2025

Mykolas Romeris University, Law School | Vilnius (Lithuania)

Friend of the Symposium:



Welcome to Vilnius!



The *European Company Case Law (ECCL)* is pleased to welcome you to its seventh Symposium, taking place in the historic city of Vilnius (Lithuania)!



The topic of this conference is:

DIRECT CLAIMS OF SHAREHOLDERS AND THIRD PARTIES AGAINST DIRECTORS

This international conference will explore the evolving landscape of director liability in corporate governance, with a focus on claims of shareholders and third parties across various jurisdictions.

Topics will include director's personal liability trends in English caselaw, reflexive versus direct loss in shareholder claims, and comparative perspectives from Lithuania, France, Japan, Austria, and Germany.

Attendees will engage with debates on the implications of directors' duties and liability towards shareholders and external parties, including the context of sustainability, as well as the role of oversight liability. This conference promises to provide valuable insights for legal scholars and practitioners navigating the complexities of directors' liability.

This time the Symposium will be hosted by the Law School of **Mykolas Romeris University**. The conference will be held in English in a hybrid format, but we invite those who have the opportunity to come live and explore Vilnius – the European Green Capital for 2025 with its old town included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

We are extremely grateful to our **friends of this Symposium**. The 7th ECCL Symposium was made possible thanks to the generous support of: [Law firm Sorainen and Partners](#) and [Go Vilnius](#).

ECCL is an English-language journal that provides a comprehensive overview of the main case law and legislation on Corporate, Financial, and Insolvency Law across the EU.

We hope that the 7th ECCL Symposium will give a valuable contribution to the debate on directors' liability issues.

Prof. Virginijus Bitė
On behalf of ECCL Management Board

7th ECCL Symposium

Friday May 16, 2025

Venue: I-414 Conference Hall (Mykolas Romeris University, School of Law)
Ateities st. 20, 08303 Vilnius, Lithuania

DIRECT CLAIMS OF SHAREHOLDERS AND THIRD PARTIES AGAINST DIRECTORS

8:30 **Departure by Bus to the Conference Venue**
Meeting point: in front of the hotel Novotel Vilnius Centre

Morning session

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-9:40 Welcome Address
Lyra Jakulevičienė, Dean of the Law School, Mykolas Romeris University

Chair: Virginijus Bitė, Mykolas Romeris University

9:40-10:05 **Brenda M. Hannigan**, University of Southampton (The United Kingdom)
Personal liability and the company director - contrasting trends in recent English caselaw

10:05-10:30 **José Ferreira Gomes**, University of Lisbon (Portugal)
Reflexive or direct loss? Shareholders' claims against directors for breach of protective rules and for wilful infliction of damages against good morals

10:30-10:50 Discussion

Chair: Agnė Tikniūtė, Supreme Court of Lithuania

10:50-11:15 **Virginijus Bitė**, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
Direct claims of shareholders and third parties against directors. Lithuanian approach

11:15-11:40 **Iris Barsan**, Université Paris-Est Créteil (France)
Director liability towards shareholders and third parties: the French example

11:40-12:00 Discussion

12:00-13:00 Lunch

Afternoon session

Chair: **Lina Mikalonienė**, Mykolas Romeris University

13:00-13:25 **Lucie Joskova**, Charles University (Czech Republic)
Does the right of third-party to claim mean opening Pandora's box or is it a necessary step towards sustainability?

13:25-13:50 **Hans De Wulf**, University of Ghent (Belgium)
Oversight liability: liability of company directors towards third parties for negligent oversight of the company's duties

13:50-14:15 **Hiroyuki Watanabe**, Waseda University (Japan)
Article 429 of the Japanese Companies Act on direct third party claims against directors and the "third party status of shareholders"

14:15-14:40 Discussion

14:40-15:15 Coffee Break
Chair: **Sigita Rudėnaitė**, Supreme Court of Lithuania

15:15-15:40 **Alessio Bartolacelli**, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy)
Company's commitment towards external constituencies and claims of shareholders and third parties against the directors: the case of benefit companies

15:40-16:05 **Julia Told**, Innsbruck University (Austria)
Direct claims of shareholders and third parties against directors in Austria and Germany

16:05-16:25 Discussion

16:25-16:40 **Alexander Schall**, University of Lüneburg
Concluding Remarks

Around 17:00 **Transfer to Vilnius city center**
The bus will stop at the hotel Novotel Vilnius Centre

Practical information

Please register before 30 April 2025 in the [registration form](#)

- Friday 16 May 2025, registration from 9:00 a.m., the conference starts from 9:30 a.m.
- I-414 Conference Hall (Mykolas Romeris University), Ateities st. 20, 08303 Vilnius, Lithuania
- Participation is possible in person or through MS Teams (link will be sent to those who have marked remote participation on the registration form, about a week before the conference)
- Participation is free of charge

Transport

The city center is only ~15-20 minutes ride from VNO Airport by bus or taxi. See more [here](#). E.g. by public transport, the recommended hotels are most conveniently reached from VNO Airport by bus No. 88, getting off at the bus stop "Vinco Kudirkos aikštė".

We have arranged buses that will bring the participants who indicate such a need on the registration form from Vilnius city centre (meeting point: hotel *Novotel Vilnius Centre*) to the conference venue and vice versa. The departure times of the buses are included in the conference program. Please make sure to arrive ~10 minutes before the time, as we have a tight schedule, and the buses will leave at the indicated times.

If you would like to arrange your own transport, you can take bus no. 10 from MRU to the city centre (or vice versa). The bus departs from the bus stop "Mykolo Romerio universitetas" to the bus stop "Arkikatedra". From there, it is less than 10-minute walk to reach the *Novotel Vilnius Centre*.

All information about public transport in Vilnius can be found [here](#). E-tickets can be purchased and topped up to the "Vilniečio" or "JUDU" card or by phone using the "m.Ticket" app or "Trafi" app. You can also purchase a ticket on public transport using contactless bank cards such as "Mastercard," "Maestro," "Visa," or "Visa Electron" in the ticket validation machines (see for more information [here](#)). E-tickets are valid on all buses and trolleybuses throughout the specified time. Alternatively, you can purchase single-use paper tickets from the bus driver. When buying a ticket on the bus, payment can only be made in cash and not in large coupons. It is therefore recommended to have an equivalent amount available. Prices can be found [here](#).

Accommodation

Recommended 4* hotels (close to the meeting point):

- [Congress Avenue Hotel](#)
- [Novotel Vilnius Centre](#)
- [Neringa Hotel](#)
- [Holiday Inn Vilnius by IHG](#)

The special offer code for these hotels will be provided after the registration.

The number of rooms is limited.



More information about what to see and do in Vilnius can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact virginijus.bite@mruni.eu.