

**AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF THE VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION**

**BROUGHT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASCOLA**

**IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE**

Now has come the most valuable moment of the evening - a moment in which we pay tribute to one another for the wise discussions and friendly moments we share together, one also in which we celebrate some who, among us, can be named, with particular emotion, in consideration of their particular accomplishments in the field of antitrust.

Tonight, I am happy to name, to that effect, Prof. Tadeusz Skoczny, from the University of Warsaw.

As you all know, Tadeusz has been a Professor of Competition Law in the Faculty of Management at the University of Warsaw. In that capacity, he has been the Director of CARS – the Centre for Antitrust and Regulatory Studies – for 12 years now. He has been the one organizing the 2014 Ascola Conference in that beautiful country of Poland. After that event, he was elected by our General Assembly to sit in the Board of the association where he has remained until he resigned for health related reasons.

In his accomplished life, Tadeusz studied law in Poland and spent significant research stays abroad, particularly in Germany. From 1989 onwards, he has been a prominent counsel to Governments for the transformation of former soviet societies to market based economies. It is in that context that he created CARS, advised the Polish competition authority, created the Yearbook of Antitrust and Regulatory Studies (17 volumes) and provided a number of scholarships to young scholars willing to learn more about competition.

As the time has come to acknowledge the contribution of Tadeusz to our society, I would like to share with you two images that come to my mind whenever I think – always very highly – of him.

The first dates back to the Ascola conference held in Lecce, Italy, in 2013. It was the first time we met. Tadeusz arrived in Lecce, accompanied by an impressive team of scholars demonstrating his commitment, on the one hand, to the association and, on the other hand, to help scholars grow with and around him in their knowledge of that field of the law and the establishment of a rich network of contacts throughout Europe and the world.

During that conference, I was particularly touched by the trust Tadeusz placed in me. At that time, Josef was resigning from his position of chairman of Ascola and the General Assembly had decided that I would take over. This was no easy task, as you can imagine. I was, at the same time, thrilled and scared. Tadeusz helped me, with generosity, take up my position, and exercise it, during the three years that would follow, with the energy that was needed.

The second image I have of him is Tadeusz discussing with colleagues the organization of the conference to be held in Warsaw. As we were in the middle of these discussions, I realized that Tadeusz was always thinking in terms of commitment. Commitment to the development of people around him, particularly young scholars. Commitment, also, to the development of scholarship, in the field of antitrust and economic regulation, in Central Europe. No doubt Tadeusz helped the Polish nation to play, at that occasion, the role that belongs to it in the new world created after the fall of the iron curtain.

Dear Tadeusz, with this award acknowledging the incredible contribution you have made to Ascola and the field of antitrust in Europe and worldwide, I would like to give you, today, words – the words that come to my mind whenever I think about you : "responsibility, generosity, energy, friendship, fairness, positiveness, taste for excellence, determination, trust, dedication, commitment, contribution".

For all this, dear Tadeusz, please receive this award in the name of Ascola.

Paul Nihoul, Ascola Chairman 2013-2016