The Professional Vita of Werner Meng

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This Volume of ZEuS is dedicated to Werner Meng, Director of the Europa-Institute, Law Department, of Saarland University, from 1999 to 2013. It comprises the contributions of his colleagues, friends and companions presented at a symposium held in his memory on 20 April 2018 at the Institute.

Werner Meng was born on 22 February, 1948 in Mainz. I mention his place of birth because it is important for two reasons. First: The University of Mainz was his *alma mater*. He studied there from 1969 to 1973, save for an exchange spent in Lausanne (Switzerland). He took both State Exams in law there in 1974 and 1978. Thereafter he obtained his doctorate from the Law Faculty of Mainz in 1979 with a dissertation on 'The Law of International Organizations – A Step in the Development of Public International Law', as well as his Habilitation in 1993 with a thesis on 'Extraterritorial Jurisdiction in Public Economic Law'; both books were often cited after publication for their innovative ideas.

Second: Every year, at more or less the same time, he did not accept any other obligation but disappeared for two or three days… to the Mainz carnival.

I first met Werner Meng when he joined the Max-Planck-Institute of Comparative Public and Public International Law in 1980 for nine years as a research fellow. I had been there for 10 years already, since right after my first State Exam. According to the then organization of the Institute, we both had our topical and geographical areas of responsibility. When I obtained, in addition to my research responsibilities the rather conservative task of being responsible for the Institute's publications, an international law journal and a series of monographs, Werner Meng opened the door to a new era and became 'Mr Computer', responsible for beginning the digitalization of the Institute. No wonder that he later on always had the newest mobile phone, computer or tablet, and that he was not an easy client for IT People.

After a brief period as a practicing lawyer in Munich from 1990 to 1993, (he had gained previous practical experience in the German Federal Ministry of Economics in 1978 and as a national expert in the European Commission in Brussels in 1982/83) Meng obtained the Chair for Public Law, Public International Law, European Law and International Economic Law at the University of Halle-Wittenberg in 1993 and also became the Director of the Institute for Economic Law. In 1998 and 1999 he served as the Dean of the Law Faculty there, in our system a *nobile officium*, not necessarily a position one would campaign for.

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In 1999 the then Faculty of Law and Economics of the University of Saarland (today known as the Law Faculty) offered Werner Meng the Chair for Public, Public International and European Law, and the Co-Directorship of the Europa-Institute's Law Department (as successor to Prof. Georg Ress). In the Faculty it was a smooth process to put him as number one on the list but at that time sending out the offer needed the approval of the State Government (nowadays it is for the University alone) and a running mate for the Chair with good relations to the Government apparently tried, and for some time succeeded, in blocking that approval. We began to become a bit nervous because we knew that at the same time the Universities of Göttingen and Mainz were also very interested in getting Werner Meng, and if they had been faster we might have lost him or at least a lot of time. It required the intervention of Arno Krause, the founder and chairman of the ASKO EUROPA FOUNDATION, a good friend and strong supporter of the Europa-Institute, and with equal or even better relations to the then State Government, and in the end we won the race and Werner Meng and I became colleagues -and friends- again.

During his years as Co-Director of the Europa-Institute Werner Meng very successfully installed and developed a new focus in our curriculum on international economic law. This was in line with his main areas of research, inter alia, the law of the World Trade Organization (WTO), international finance law, the law of international investments and related topics, a focus that generated new groups of students and in the end was one reason for offering most of the classes in International Economic Law in English.

At the same time, Meng duly participated in the program for graduate students in our Faculty, teaching European Union and General Public International Law and repeatedly held offices in the Faculty.

He amply published in his fields of expertise, public national and public international law, European law and, in particular, international economic law.[1] Meng was a Co-Editor of a number of law journals.[2] Meng was very active in maintaining international contacts worldwide. He was Honorary Professor at the Yunnan University (China) and Guest Professor at a great number of other universities: Hong Kong City University, Beijing University, Wuhan University, Academy of Social Sciences Beijing (all China), Chicago Kent University, Tulane Law School, Louisiana State University, Georgetown University (all USA), World Trade Institute Bern (Switzerland), Amsterdam Law School (Netherlands), Rijeka University (Croatia), University of Grenoble (France) and Panteion-University Athens (Greece). This was not only on paper, he spent time at these universities quite regularly and thus made the Europa-Institute, its program and potential, well-known in many countries of the world.

Werner Meng retired on 31 March 2013 and started working as a practicing lawyer in a law firm in Frankfurt. At this time, he had already been bravely fighting against a serious malady for many years.

He passed away on 1 July 2016; much too early.

1 See only *Meng/Magnus/Schlemmer-Schulte/Cottier/Stoll/Epiney*, Das Internationale Recht im Nord-Süd-Verhältnis, Berichte der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Völkerrecht, 2005.

2 *Inter alia* Archiv des Völkerrechts and Journal of International Economic Law.

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