

## IN MEMORIAM:

### **PROFESSOR OLEKSANDR K. VYSHNYAKOV**

Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov – a distinguished academic, Doctor of Law, an outstanding teacher and mentor, a dear and kind person, Chair of the Department of European Union Law and Comparative Legal Studies at the National University “Odessa Law Academy” – died on June 1, 2015.

Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov was born in Odessa on May 5, 1947. His place of birth harmoniously impacted on his life journey. Prof. O. Vyshnyakov received his professional training at the Law Department of the Odessa I.I.Mechnikov National University, from which he graduated in 1971. Starting from 1973, upon completion of the active military service, he began his academic career at the Odessa University, where he rose from an assistant and Senior Lecturer to an Assistant Professor at the Department of Labor Law, Land and Environmental Law. In 1997–1998 Oleksandr Vyshnyakov served as Professor at the Department of Special Legal Disciplines at the Odessa Institute of Entrepreneurship and Law. From 1998 and until his last days he served at the National University “Odessa Law Academy” as Assistant Professor at the Department of Business and Commercial Law and Assistant Professor at the Department of European Union Law and Comparative Legal Studies, a Chair of which he was elected to be in 2009.

Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov had a wide range of academic interests, namely: labor and business law; commercial law and law of the WTO; European Union law and international economic law; international private law and comparative legal studies; contract law and integration law. His PhD thesis, which he defended at the Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1983, dealt with a subject, that was quite unique for its time, namely – labor contracts with work-from-home employees. In 2008 he earned the Doctor of Science degree upon defending his dissertation “Approximation of Enforceability of Civil Property Relations in Ukraine to the Terms of the Internal Market of the European Union”. He had vast academic experience under his belt and was known to be a polymath. At different times Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov underwent training at the Law Faculty of the Moscow State University (Russia), at the American University Washington College of Law (USA), at the Kennan Institute (USA) and at the Department of Legal Studies of the Central European University (Hungary).

Prof. O. Vyshnyakov is one of the first developers of both the concept and the draft of the Law of Ukraine “On Establishment and Operation of the Free-Trade Zone in the City of Odessa”. Later on he conducted fundamental research of theoretical problematic of functioning of the Ukrainian State within one common legal framework with other countries. It was he who substantiated the concept of the external economic relations being part of International Private Law and International Commercial Law. He was convinced that the norms regulating these external economic relations are aimed at securing fair competition between subjects of private law and protection of their interests on international product markets.

Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov suggested an immaculate theoretical concept of supranational public legal enforcement of private property relations, which he named “universal” (“universal and regional”) business law. Prof. O. Vyshnyakov was the moving spirit of the establishment of the Electronic academic journal “European Studies and Law”.

Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov was a lecturer of great depth and appeal; his lectures on the European Union Law, Law of the WTO/GATT, International Trade Law were both interesting and substantial. Academic advice of Prof. Vyshnyakov was wise and practical because he was both a scholar and visionary. It was always a pleasure to converse and consult with him, and it was a delight to listen to his reasoning and comments on complex legal and economic matters. A born mentor and academic of great learning he left an impact on a whole generation of young scholars, whom he helped to educate. Under his academic advising a wide range of PhD and Doctor of Science theses have been defended.

Prof. O. Vyshnyakov wrote and published over 130 academic and teaching works, among which are such monographs as: “Legal Groundwork for Foreign Economic Integration of Ukraine”, “The Problematic of Ukraine Entering the European Legal Area” (co-authored); textbooks: “Manual on Labor Law”; “Foreign Trade Legislation” (co-authored); “Regulation of Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine”, “Trade Law of the European Union”, “Legal Basis of Investment Activity”, “Organizational and Legal Groundwork of

Foreign Economic Activity”, “Foreign Trade Law”, “International Business and Trade Law”, “Investment Law and Foreign Trade Law / Commercial Law of Ukraine”, “Secondary Law of the European Union” (co-authored), “Enforcement of Customer’s Rights (co-authored) / Law of the European Union”, “EU Common Trade Policy / Law of the European Union”, “Law of Integration / Introduction to Ukrainian Law”, “Law of Integration”, “International Business Law: Working program for the course of lectures”, “EU Economic Law” (co-authored), “Law of the European Union” (under the editorship of Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov). The Textbook “The Law of the European Union”, published under the editorship of Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov, is a fundamental work that explains the legal system of the EU and aims at Ukraine’s entering the EU in the future.

Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov was a great person, combining professionalism and democratic character, easiness and fundamental nature, sincerity and intelligence, patience and enthusiasm. His decency and open-heartedness, professional excellence and deep knowledge will remain an example for his students and colleagues.

With the death of Prof. O. Vyshnyakov the academic community suffered a tremendous loss. His friends, colleagues and students are deeply saddened by the premature passing of Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov and express their deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. We shall forever cherish the memory of Professor Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov.

**Colleagues and students of Prof. Oleksandr K. Vyshnyakov**