



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

21–23 May 2025
Barcelona, Spain

ACC Association of
Corporate Counsel
EUROPE

Future-Focussed Legal: Embracing Tomorrow's Opportunities

Tracks

The conference programme is divided into two tracks, **Strategic Leadership** and **Next Gen Legal**.

Strategic Leadership

This track is for in-house counsel driving strategic change, effectively anticipating risks, and shaping the future of legal leadership inside their organizations and beyond.

Next Gen Legal

This track is for in-house counsel adapting to new, dynamic risk areas and staying ahead of regulatory changes and societal expectations.

This programme subject to changes and will be frequently updated on the [conference website](#).



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Next Gen Leaders

1. Diving into the Wormhole: Demystifying Open Source

Open source software (OSS) underpins much of the tech we use today, while other types of 'open,' like open hardware and data, are gaining traction. These 'opens' may already be part of your business. How can we leverage them to drive innovation? In this session, we'll explore open tech, its legal implications, and key considerations for legal counsel.

2. Debating the Balance: In-House Counsel's Role in ESG Reporting With Integrity

As businesses face mounting pressure to achieve sustainability goals, in-house lawyers are uniquely positioned to guide their companies through evolving legal and regulatory landscapes, especially with the impending Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) requirements. In-house counsel's proximity to the business and access to senior leadership uniquely position them to drive responsible corporate strategies that meet CSRD standards. We'll examine the risks of prioritizing environmental goals at the expense of social and governance issues, such as labour practices and supply chain ethics, and address ESG-washing litigation risk while balancing transparency and confidentiality considerations.

3. Accessibility and Fairness: Protecting Vulnerable Customers in the Digital Age

How can businesses ensure fair access by all consumers (including those who are vulnerable) for services many take for granted? This session will explore strategies companies have developed and implemented and key topics will include consumer duty, digital accessibility, and the impact of recent legislation such as the European Accessibility Act. Attendees will gain insights into practical governance solutions to enhance consumer fairness, meet evolving legal requirements and provide a credible basis for competitive differentiation.

4. Thriving In-House: Maximising Career Opportunities

In-house legal departments offer exciting opportunities and unique challenges but it can be daunting to navigate them effectively while also supporting your commercial colleagues. Gain invaluable insights from senior legal executives and peers as they share their experiences on cultivating cross-functional relationships, effective mentoring, and adapting to ever-evolving business landscapes. Discover actionable approaches to supercharge your career and develop the business acumen, leadership skills, and strategic vision needed to thrive as in-house counsel. Join the conversation, exchange fresh perspectives, and discover actionable approaches to supercharge your career and achieve lasting professional fulfilment in today's fast-paced legal arena.

5. Just Get it Done! What Tools Can Help you Stay on Top of Legal Workloads?

As workloads increase, legal departments need effective solutions to stay efficient and deliver for their commercial colleagues. This session examines how to balance demands by integrating external advisers, agile resources, technology systems, and AI tools. Learn practical methods and successful use cases for streamlining operations, optimizing team

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capabilities, and choosing the right resources, ensuring your department is equipped to handle the workload while maintaining quality and effectiveness.

6. Leveraging GenAI to Revolutionise In-House Legal's Challenges

Explore the transformative power of GenAI on legal teams with practical insights from in-house counsel at the forefront of the revolution. Discover how to leverage GenAI to streamline processes, enhance compliance, and support strategic decision-making within legal departments from people who are already using it to achieve measurable benefits. Engage with peers to challenge traditional practices and learn practical strategies for effectively integrating GenAI into your legal operations. Equip yourself with the knowledge to drive innovation and elevate your in-house legal practice in today's rapidly evolving environment.

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Strategic Leadership

1. Decoding AI and Tech Governance: Strategies for Success

GenAI burst into public consciousness recently and is here to stay (like it or not). This transformative technology certainly brings significant challenges to organizations. Our expert panel will explore in-house counsel's pivotal role in leading organisations through the evolving GenAI landscape and will focus on how to protect your organisation's information. We will discuss advising executive leadership, crafting robust governance frameworks for GenAI requests, managing regulatory risks, and showcase real-world use cases.

2. Regulation: Innovation's Nemesis?

As European regulations evolve become more complex and far-reaching, in-house legal teams are increasingly tasked with the challenge of balancing compliance with supporting robust innovation. How can senior counsel rise to their role as enablers? This session will share insights and delve into how you can shape business strategies that mitigate risk without compromising the competitive edge. Industry leaders will share real-world insights on how legal teams can not only navigate—but also influence—the evolving regulatory landscape to create opportunities for innovation, rather than obstacles.

3. Are Legal, Compliance and Risk Surfing the Same Wave?

This session delves into the growing synergies between legal, compliance and risk management teams and how this collaboration drives efficiency and resilience within organizations. Through real-world success stories, the session will highlight best practices for fostering alignment between both functions. It will also explore future trends, including the emerging skills legal and compliance professionals need to navigate an evolving regulatory landscape. Additionally, the session will address the distinct roles and responsibilities of each function in cases of non-compliance and examine how legal and compliance frameworks vary across different jurisdictions. Attendees will gain valuable insights into optimizing these critical functions for future success.

4. Cultural Intelligence: Legal Leadership in a Global Community

Effective advice in our interconnected world demands more than just legal expertise—it calls for a deep understanding of cultural nuances and the art of relationship-building. This session explores the unique challenges of advising across borders, adapting to diverse market needs, and fostering cross-cultural collaboration. Whether you're aligning business goals with local regulations, uniting multinational teams under a cohesive legal strategy, or seizing opportunities in new markets, join us to gain key strategies for becoming a transformative leader in a global environment.

5. The Strategic Play: Negotiating Complex Agreements That Work for the Business

Negotiating complex long-term agreements demands a bold, strategic mindset and the ability to drive collaboration among the parties. This session will explore how to tackle the hurdles head-on, offering actionable insights on goal-setting, relationship-building, and

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crafting win-win outcomes to help your teams move from confrontation to collaboration that support long-term success.

6. Defending Against Industrialised Threats: Strengthening Your Cybersecurity

In an era of increasingly organized cyber threats, protecting the integrity of your company's data is more critical than ever. Is IT security still achievable, or have we lost ground against sophisticated attackers? In this session, we'll explore effective strategies to safeguard your organization, covering IT security frameworks, incident response, insurance considerations, and contracting practices, all framed around a use case of a major ransomware attack. Learn how to prepare, respond, and communicate effectively to enhance your cybersecurity posture.

7. Strategic Legal Leadership in Uncertain Times: Preparing for the Black Swans

In an era of geopolitical turmoil and economic upheaval, legal departments find themselves on the frontline supporting organisations through a maze of uncertainty. This session delves into the critical role of in-house legal counsel in shaping crisis response plans and influencing strategic decisions that can define their company's future.

We'll explore how to identify and monitor emerging risks, craft effective crisis strategies, and engage stakeholders with clarity and confidence. As the EMEA landscape (and beyond) grows increasingly complex we'll challenge you to rethink your approach to navigating risks in a fast-changing world. Join us for a dynamic discussion that will equip you with key insights and essential tactics to protect your organization and thrive amid uncertainty.

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Other sessions

ACC Bitesizes (2x)

A format that features five 15-minute presentations, exploring a range of compelling topics. Join us for this rapid-fire and immersive experience where thought-provoking ideas meet actionable insights. Register now to be part of ACC Bitesize where the best ideas worth spreading come to life!

Keynotes Sessions

Stay tuned to hear about the #ACCE2025 keynote talks!

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