



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

21–23 May 2025
Barcelona, Spain

ACC Association of
Corporate Counsel
EUROPE

PROGRAMME

Future-Focussed Legal: Embracing Tomorrow's Opportunities

Tracks

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

Strategic Leadership (SL)

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 (NG)

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

Session Formats

Roundtable:

An interactive legal learning session with practical exercises, expert presentations, and dynamic discussions to enhance your skills and build connections.

Pro – Con Debate:

The Pro-Con Debate, led by the Session Chair, features speakers who introduce their views and then debate contrasting perspectives. The Chair asks questions, and speakers share opinions, data, and best practices while responding to audience questions. The goal is to provide a thought-provoking discussion from multiple angles.

Fishbowl:

Experts discuss a topic in the center, surrounded by the audience. They start with brief presentations, then engage in open conversation. The Fishbowl format allows audience members to join the discussion and ask questions.



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Registration & Cloakroom Opening Times

- **Wednesday 21 May:** from 16:00 to 20:00
- **Thursday 22 May:** from 07:00 to 18:00
- **Friday 23 May:** from 08:00 to 16:00

Exhibition Area Opening Times

- **Wednesday 21 May:** from 16:30 to 20:00
- **Thursday 22 May:** from 09:00 to 17:45
- **Friday 23 May:** from 09:00 to 14:30

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Tracks:

Next Gen Legal (NG) | Strategic Leadership (SL)

Wednesday 21 May

16:00 – 17:00
Exhibition Hall

- **Speed Networking**
Accelerate your networking process with **Speed Networking**: Engage in swift, structured interactions for rapid connections and endless opportunities! Join us for efficient, timed sessions designed to facilitate meaningful exchanges with a diverse array of professionals. Don't miss out on this dynamic networking experience!

17:00 – 18:00
Room H3+J

Sponsored by
Cuatrecasas

- **Joint Keynote Session with CLO Summit - Regulation in the Crossfire: The Global Legal War Over Tech and More**
The race to regulate AI and emerging technologies is accelerating—but with the U.S., EU, and China taking sharply different approaches, leading to significant legal conflicts. This high-impact program unpacks for you the most pressing legal conflicts shaping the future of global business. Using real-world case studies and expert insights, this program will equip legal leaders with the strategies to navigate global regulatory chaos, mitigate risk, and stay ahead of a potential cross-border legal showdown. Get ready to lead your organization through the next regulatory storm!
 - **Anu Bradford, Henry L. Moses Professor of International Law and Organizations, Columbia Law School**
 - **Javier Fontcuberta, Managing Partner, Cuatrecasas**

18:00 – 20:00
Exhibition Hall

- **Welcome Reception**
We are delighted to invite all participants of the ACC Europe Annual Conference and ACC CLO Global Summit to the Palau de Congressos de Catalunya for the opening of the 2025 Europe Annual Conference, featuring a distinguished keynote speaker at 17:00. After the keynote, we will gather for a delightful welcome reception in the Exhibition Hall.

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Tracks:

Next Gen Legal (NG) | Strategic Leadership (SL)

Thursday 22 May

07:30 – 08:00
Room H2

- **ACC Europe General Assembly**

08:00 – 09:00
Exhibition Hall

- **Meet your Country Representatives Breakfast**

Interested in learning more about local ACC Europe initiatives and how to get involved? Join the **ACC Europe Country Representatives** for a **breakfast session** at this year's ACC Europe Annual Conference in Barcelona.

Our Country Representatives play a crucial role in connecting in-house professionals across Europe, offering a platform for educational and networking opportunities. This is your opportunity to get to know them and discover all the ways you can engage with the ACC Europe community in your country.

There is no need to register in advance, all ACC Europe members attending the conference are welcome to attend.

09:00 – 10:00
Room H3+J

- **ACCE Opening Keynote**

In her inspiring keynote, Professor Suzie Imber, an astronaut with unparalleled experience in managing complexity and preparing for the unknown, will share insights on navigating uncertainty with purpose and clarity. She will address the importance of preparation and adaptability in high-stakes environments, and the value of trust, communication, and teamwork under pressure. Her unique perspective, shaped by space exploration, will resonate strongly with in-house counsel facing rapid advances in technology, evolving regulatory landscapes, and global operational challenges. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable strategies for embracing change and leading through it.

- **Suzie Imber, Associate Professor & Space Scientist, University of Leicester**

10:00 – 10:45
Exhibition Hall

- **Coffee Break & Exhibition**

10:00 – 10:45
Exhibition Stage

- **Lawyers Who Lead: Why Visibility is the Key to Your Next Career Move**

In this fast-paced session, we'll explore how in-house lawyers can strategically build visibility, position themselves for leadership roles, and leverage online networking to create new career opportunities. Join us to discover:

- How top in-house lawyers use LinkedIn to elevate their professional brand
- Practical steps to expand your network and influence—without endless scrolling
- The key to making sure the right opportunities come to you, not the other way around

Your expertise deserves to be seen. Learn how to network smarter, showcase your value, and take control of your career trajectory.

- **Scott Brown, Founder & Chief Visionary Officer, Heriot Brown**

10:45 – 12:00
Room H2

Sponsored by
Osborne Clarke

● **Accessibility and Fairness: Protecting Vulnerable Customers in the Digital Age | NG - Roundtable**

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.

- **Benedikt Meyer, Director and Counsel, American Express**
- **Laura Woodfine-Jones, Senior Managing Counsel, Booking.com**
- **Daniel Winterfeldt, General Counsel EMEA and Asia, Jefferies**
- **Roger Segarra, Partner, Osborne Clark**

10:45 – 12:00
Room H1

● **Thriving In-House: Maximising Career Opportunities | NG Fishbowl**

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.

- **Elizabeth Wilks-Wood, VP, Chief Compliance Officer, Haleon**
- **Dan Fitz, Emeritus Director, The Francis Crick Institute**
- **Daniel Ventín, Chief Legal Officer, Albertis Infrastructures**
- **Sarah Nelson Smith, Senior Director, Legal, Booking.com**

10:45 – 12:00
Room H3+J

Sponsored by
Squire Patton Boggs

● **Regulation: Innovation's Nemesis? | SL Pro-Con Debate**

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.

- **Lola Willemsen, Head of Legal EMEA, Mitsubishi**
- **Claudio Elia, Group Vice President, STMicroelectronics**
- **Wolfgang Maschek, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs**
- **Katerina Mangana, Chief Legal Officer, ION SA**

12:00 – 13:15
Room H2

Sponsored by
vLex

● **Leveraging GenAI to Revolutionise In-House Legal's Challenges | NG Roundtable**

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.

- **Miriam-Elisabeth Bosse, Head of Commercial Legal Europe, Cognizant**
- **Angeline Woods, Senior Director, Uber**
- **Asier Crespo, Legal Director, Microsoft Ibérica**
- **Ana Seoane, Director, Senior Corporate Counsel Iberia & Israel, Salesforce.com**
- **Dan Hoadley, Head of R&D, vLex**

12:00 – 13:15
Room H1

Sponsored by
Forcyd

● **Are Legal, Compliance and Risk Surfing the Same Wave? | SL Fishbowl**

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.

- **Victor Buqueras, Legal Manager, Menarini Spain**

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- Takehiro Sanai, General Manager/Head of Legal, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries EMEA
- Rosa Vivar, Chief Compliance Officer, Zurich Spain
- Fernando Morales, Vice President Ethics & Compliance EMEA and LATAM, BD

12:00 – 13:15
Room H3+J

Sponsored by
Lawvu

● **Strategic Legal Leadership in Uncertain Times: Preparing for the Black Swans | SL**

In a world marked by geopolitical uncertainty and rapid change, legal teams play a pivotal role in guiding organizations through turbulent waters. This session focuses on how in-house counsel can adapt to a landscape of constant flux, anticipate the impact of global events, and proactively manage uncertainty. Explore strategies to identify and respond to emerging risks, provide strategic counsel during periods of upheaval, and lead with agility in complex situations. Drawing on real-world examples, we'll discuss how legal departments can become trusted advisors in shaping resilient organizations that can not only survive but thrive amidst change. Join us for actionable insights into preparing your team for the unexpected and influencing organizational strategy during volatile times.

- Teresa Minguez, Legal/Compliance Director, Porsche Ibérica S.A.
- Piret Loone, General Counsel, Altruist Corp
- Sujin Chan-Allen, Chief Legal Adviser, NATO Communications & Information Agency
- David Lancelot, CLO, Lawvu

13:15 – 14:45
Exhibition Hall

● **Lunch Break & Exhibition**

14:45 – 16:00
Room H2

Sponsored by
Advant

● **The Strategic Play: Negotiating Complex Agreements That Work for the Business | SL Roundtable**

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

- Mateusz Wrzesinski, Vice President, Head of International Legal Affairs, Barilla International B.V.
- Melina Cedron De Loor, Associate Group General Counsel, Amadeus IT Group SA
- Rachida Achour, Technology Lawyer, SAP
- Paolo Gallarati, Partner, Advant

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14:45 – 16:00
Room H1

Sponsored by
Eversheds
Sutherland

- **Decoding AI and Tech Governance: Strategies for Success | SL Fishbowl**
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.

- **Maarten Stassen, Partner – Data, Privacy & Cyber Team, Eversheds Sutherland**
- **Lydia Faltas, Global Privacy and AI Governance Lead, Cognizant**
- **Philipp Klarmann, Chief Legal Counsel – Integrated Regulatory Office, SAP**
- **Carlos Pereira, Global Chief Privacy Officer, WTW**

14:45 – 16:00
Room H3+J

- **ACC Bitesize 1**
Welcome to ACC Bitesize, a revamped format that features four 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!

1. Daring to Disagree: Building a Culture of Constructive Conflict
 - **Janneke van der Kroon, Sr. Director Legal (Trips), Booking.com**
2. The Wisdom of Listening: How Silence Can Make You a Better Leader
 - **Cristina Alexandrescu, Assistant General Counsel, GSK**
3. Rehumanising the Workplace - the Serious Case for Wellbeing in the Legal Profession
 - **Richard Martin, CEO, Mindful Business Charter**
4. Unlocking the Power of Personal Reinvention
 - **Elisabet Rojano, Head of Legal Spain & Latin America, Laboratorios Menarini**

16:00 – 16:30
Exhibition Hall

- **Coffee Break & Exhibition**

16:30 – 17:45
Room H2

Sponsored by
Axiom Law

- **Just Get It Done! Tools for Legal Impact and Strategic Success | NG Roundtable**
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 capabilities, and choosing the right resources, ensuring your department is equipped to handle the workload while maintaining quality and effectiveness.

- **Antonello Gargano, Head of Legal Operations and Strategy, ASML**
- **Jose Luis Barcelo, Ilunion**
- **Catherine Kemnitz, Chief Strategy and Development Officer, Axiom Law**

16:30 – 17:45
Room H1

Sponsored by
ADR

● **Data Revolution: Unlocking the EU Data Act and Global Strategies | NG Fishbowl**

Explore the transformative implications of the EU Data Act, effective September 2025, on cloud contracts, data access, and portability requirements. This session will analyse how European companies must adapt to these regulations while proactively addressing data privacy obligations in other key jurisdictions such as the United States, China, and Brazil, ensuring global compliance in an increasingly interconnected regulatory landscape. Practical strategies for aligning with evolving cross-border data legislation will also be discussed.

- **José Izquierdo, Legal Counsel, Rio Tinto**
- **Simon White, General Counsel EMEA APAC, IQVIA**
- **Janet Lane, Director, Senior Counsel, Privacy, AI and Data Responsibility, Mastercard**
- **Natacha Podymski Ribeiro, Head of Legal, Saba Group**

16:30 – 17:45
Room H3+J

● **Legal Teams dealing with Crisis: Building Resilience and Ethical Leadership | SL**

In the face of crises, from corporate scandals to reputational threats, legal teams are at the center of navigating the fallout. This session examines how in-house legal departments can prepare for and respond to crises, focusing on building resilience and taking a leadership role during critical moments. Learn how to develop robust crisis management frameworks, align legal strategies with broader organizational priorities, and ensure governance structures withstand scrutiny. We'll also explore lessons from recent crises and delve into the ethical dimensions of legal decision-making under pressure. Equip your team to manage crises effectively, uphold ethical standards, and contribute to rebuilding trust when it matters most.

- **Amy Barcroft, Strategic Legal Consultant, Flora Food Group**
- **Luke Ainger, Head of Competition, Royal Mail**
- **Robert Gallmann, General Counsel, Bachem AG**
- **Sheryl Jermyn, General Counsel, Utility Warehouse**

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19:00 – 00:30

● **Gala Dinner by BDO Legal**

Location: Can Magí - Av. de Can Magí, 5, 08173 Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain

Dress Code: *Elegant evening wear*

Get ready for the highlight of the 2025 ACC Europe Annual Conference! Dive into an evening of Catalan elegance at the breathtaking country house, Can Magí. Kick off the night with a welcome drink in the Masia's enchanting gardens, then indulge in a sit-down dinner crafted by a top Catalan chef, featuring only the finest local ingredients. The celebration doesn't stop there! Join us for an exclusive after-party in the Masia's atmospheric wine cellar, complete with live entertainment and drinks. This is your perfect chance to connect and network with fellow conference attendees, all while enjoying the relaxed and beautiful ambiance of this traditional local estate. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience, organised by our **Premier Sponsor BDO Legal**.

Transfers: Buses starting from 18:45 from Palau de Congressos de Catalunya

Transfers return: Bus 1 at 23:00, bus 2 at 23:30, bus 3 at 00:00 and bus 4 at 00:30 to Torre Melina, a Gran Meliá Hotel

Tracks:

Next Gen Legal (NG) | Strategic Leadership (SL)

Friday 23 May

09:00 – 10:15
Room H3+J

● **Debating the Balance: In-House Counsel's Role in ESG Reporting With Integrity | NG Pro-Con Debate**

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.

- **Nicole Olsman, Chief Legal Officer & Head of Sustainability, Linxon**
- **Pedro Serret Salvat, President EMEA & General Counsel EMEA, PPG**
- **Melanie de Andrade, Senior Legal Counsel Sustainability, ABB**
- **Ana Bayó, Head of Legal Patents & Compliance, Bayer**

09:00 – 10:15
Room H1

● **DORA the Risk Explorer: Safeguarding Legal and Operational Resilience for In-House Legal Teams | NG Fishbowl**

As businesses increasingly rely on digital infrastructure, ensuring operational resilience against cyber threats and disruptions has become paramount. DORA sets out comprehensive requirements. This session will provide in-house lawyers with a thorough understanding of DORA and the critical risk management steps necessary for achieving compliance.

- **Alex Newson, Senior Lawyer, BT**
- **James Bowling, Principal Lawyer, Data Legal – Security, BT**
- **Elina Girne, Head of Legal, Governance & Compliance, Noventiq**
- **Mónica Valladares Martínez, General Counsel, CaixaBank Asset Management SGIC**

09:00 – 10:15
Room H2

● **Cultural Intelligence: Legal Leadership in a Global Community | SL Roundtable**

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.

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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.

- **Nan Sato, Partner, Co-chair: International Practice Group, Fisher Phillips**
- **Stefan Halter, Regional General Counsel EMEA, ABB**
- **Milou Meijer, VP EMEA Counsel, Nike**
- **Tim Clelland, Senior Legal Consultant, Man Grou**

10:15 – 11:00
Exhibition Hall

● **Coffee Break & Exhibition**

11:00 – 12:15
Room H2

● **Partnering for Business Impact | SL Roundtable**

This session explores how in-house counsel can build impactful relationships that align legal expertise with commercial priorities. Learn to stay ahead of the curve, ensuring you're involved when it matters most. Discover how to propose innovative solutions, unlock potential, and optimize business outcomes. Reimagine your role as a proactive partner, delivering value that drives success and empowers decision-making.

- **Aleksandra Schellenberg, Head Sustainable Finance Legal, UBS**
- **Alexandre Verrien, Legal Director**
- **Mathieu Savaris, General Counsel, NEOM-Magna**
- **José Izquierdo, Legal Counsel, Rio Tinto**

11:00 – 12:15
Room H1

● **Defending Against Industrialised Threats: Strengthening Your Cybersecurity | SL Fishbowl**

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.

- **Mariëlle Reints, VP Legal, Elastic N.V.**
- **Daphné Holly, Senior Cybersecurity Counsel, SAP France**
- **Thomas Doyle, Corporate Counsel, Cognizant**
- **Nick Holland, Partner, Shoosmiths**

Sponsored by
Shoosmiths

11:00 – 12:15
Room H3+J

● **ACC Bitesize 2**

Welcome to ACC Bitesize, a revamped format that features four 15-minute presentations, exploring a range of compelling topics.

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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!

1. Embracing Uncertainty: The Skill That Will Define Your Future
 - **Rustum Rau, Legal Director, BT**
2. The Digital Detox Dilemma: Should We Unplug to Excel?
 - **Tarik Gause, Associate General Counsel (EMEA), Roku Inc.**
3. The Confidence Conundrum: Balancing Self-Assurance and Humility
 - **Xavier Schops, Chief Legal Officer, Medmix Group AG**
4. Networking for Lawyers Who Hate Networking
 - **Elisa de Rocca Serra, EMEA General Counsel and Global Head of CLRM, Cognizant**

12:30 – 13:30
Room H3+J

- **Closing Keynote | The New WOW Effect: Purpose-Driven Innovation in a Dynamic Legal Landscape**

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Simmons & Simmons

- **Carlos Grau, Innovation, Technology and Business Strategy Expert**

13:30 – 13:50
Exhibition Stage

- **Go-To Platform For The World's Premier Vetted Legal Talent**
Trusted, flexible & highly-verticalized marketplace connecting companies with highly-vetted, independent top legal talent while helping them focus on what they love.

13:30 – 14:30
Exhibition Hall

- **Farewell Lunch & Exhibition**
For departing guests, a Grab & Go lunch will be conveniently available by the main entrance. Alternatively, for those with time to spare, we cordially invite you to indulge in our warm lunch buffet served in the Exhibition Hall.