



In Memory of Professor Roger Blanpain

Frank Hendrickx¹

Professor Roger Blanpain died on 11 October 2016

Dear colleagues,

I have the sad duty to inform you about the passing away of professor Roger Blanpain (emeritus professor KU Leuven, Belgium). Professor Blanpain suffered from health problems since quite a while and he ultimately had to give up the struggle. He died in the hospital in Leuven on 11 October 2016. He would have become 84 years old within a couple of weeks.

Roger Blanpain (born in Belgium, Geeraardsbergen, 5 November 1932) studied law at the University of Leuven, Belgium. In Leuven, he obtained his doctoraal degree in law in 1956. In 1957 he obtained a Master of Arts degree at Columbia University, New York.

In 1961, Blanpain became assistant and later professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Leuven where he held the chair in labour law until 1998. His academic work covered Belgian, European, international and comparative labour law.

Besides his teaching, Roger Blanpain took up various functions. He was dean of the law faculty, member of the Board of Directors of the University of Leuven, member of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, and president of the Leuven law alumni-society. He was a Belgian senator between 1987 and 1989.

Roger Blanpain was one of the founding fathers and later president of the International Society for Labour Law and Social Security Law and the International Industrial Relations Association (now ILERA). He was visiting professor at various prestigious universities around the world.

With the passing away of Professor Roger Blanpain the academic community loses one of the founding fathers of international and comparative labour law. Blanpain believed very strongly in studying labour law in comparative perspective and in close connection with broader industrial relations. His publication and contributors list is endless. He is famous for his worldwide scope and reach.

Among his well-known publications can be mentioned the International Encyclopaedia of Laws, a worldwide series of monographs that started with 'Labour Law and Industrial Relations'. Another reference work is his 'Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations in Industrialized Market Economies'.

¹ We thank Professor Hendrickx for allowing us to share the message he sent to the members of the LLRN.

I had the privilege to work with him as a student, an assistant and later as a colleague. Above all, he was a true friend and, even more, my intellectual father. His eternal enthusiasm and energy, his capability of bringing people together, and his personal warmth, are now great memories. Let us keep them in our hart forever.

Frank Hendrickx
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