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KATARZYNA GROMEK-BROC

In Loving Memory of Professor Christopher H. Bovis A Remarkable Legacy in Law and a Profoundly Generous Spirit

It is with hearts weighed by an immense sense of loss that we mark the passing of Christopher H. Bovis (JD, MPhil, LL.M, FRSA), Professor of Law at the University of Hull. Professor Bovis passed away unexpectedly in late August 2025 at the age of 59. For those who had the privilege of knowing him, his absence is deeply personal; for the global community of law and governance, it represents a profound intellectual loss.

Professor Bovis was a distinguished scholar of European Business Law and competition policy, with expertise in public sector management and public procurement. His advice to national governments and his key role in shaping public-private partnerships in both the UK and the EU made him a central figure in his field.

His academic journey began in Belgium and the Netherlands before he joined Hull Law School in 1991. He later moved to the University of Central Lancashire in 1997, where he was appointed Professor of Law and Jean Monnet Chair in European Business Law. After 15 years, he returned to the University of Hull, where he remained until his passing. Those who worked alongside him will remember his cheerful personality, warm friendship, and boundless generosity.

As a teacher and researcher, Professor Bovis shaped generations of students, supervised numerous doctoral candidates, and was a sought-after speaker at international conferences. His scholarship defined the field of EU public procurement law. Professor Bovis' work has left a lasting imprint on European legal scholarship. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the *European Procurement and Public-Private Partnerships Law Review*, published by

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Lexxion, guiding academic debate and advancing knowledge in the discipline.

His influential publications include monographs: *The Law of EU Public Procurement* (OUP), *Public Procurement: Case Law and Regulation* (OUP), *The Research Handbook on EU Public Procurement Law* (Edward Elgar); *Public-Private Partnerships in the EU* (Routledge). These works are considered foundational texts, translated into several languages, and widely consulted by academics, practitioners, and policymakers alike.

Beyond academia, he was admired for bridging theory and practice, ensuring that the law served both the functioning of institutions and the principles of fairness. He advised national governments on public sector reforms and contributed to the design of major public-private partnership initiatives across Europe and beyond.

Yet those who knew him best will remember not only the distinguished scholar but also the person: humble, gracious, and endlessly kind.

Chris has been described by both his students and colleagues as the kind of person who seamlessly blended his legal intellect, a deep curiosity about the world, and a genuine interest in people. His students have often shared how his humour, charm, and positive energy complemented his sharp mind, making him an inspiring teacher for generations. Colleagues have echoed similar sentiments, noting that his presence created an atmosphere of collaboration that was not only intellectually enriching but also motivational. His ability to make learning feel engaging and his dedication to fostering connections left a lasting impact on everyone around him.

A colleague at a 2025 conference in Trier remarked: “He was not just a friend—the best one could hope for. He combined a sharp mind with a very big heart, a combination as rare as it is precious.” A former student recalled how he readily offered help with a master’s thesis, a small but telling reflection of his generosity. He was a precious colleague, a friend, always willing to give a hand and support colleagues, young researchers and students.

His passing leaves a deep void in the legal and the procurement community. Yet his intellectual legacy, mentorship, warm collegiality, and impactful contributions in shaping public procurement law will endure.

The legal community has lost a respected scholar, and we have all lost a truly good and kind man. While we mourn the silence left in the wake of his voice, we take solace in knowing that his intellectual legacy will endure

in law and policy, and that his warmth and collegiality will remain forever engraved in the hearts of those who knew him.