

THE PARLEX GROUP

The Parlex Group was established in 1971 by three founder Law Firms, bringing together practices specialising in commercial law, as a result of a strong trend towards internationalisation of business. It now has members in most European countries and affiliate members in the United States of America, China and Israel. It was the first European Economic Interest Group registered in England. Its secretariat is based in London.

The main purpose of The Parlex Group is to ensure that the clients of each member have instant access to specialist legal advice concerning their business affairs throughout the European Economic Area and beyond. From its inception, The Parlex Group has been both a personal and a professional association and strong ties of friendship and trust have developed over many years. As a result, members and their clients can be sure of the professionalism of service by all members.

Full members of The Parlex Group must comply with specific membership criteria including having significant expertise in fundamental practice areas, the ability to provide advice in good English whenever necessary and modern business systems and of being of at least medium size in their jurisdiction. Members are reviewed every 5 years in order to ensure that the membership criteria are maintained and to offer assistance in their development and that of The Parlex Group over all.

The Parlex Group holds two meetings each year (in May and November), each hosted by a member firm in a different city. These meetings allow the network's management and business matters to be discussed and strategic development of the Group to be agreed and progressed.

The management of the day-to-day activities of The Parlex Group is entrusted to a Management Committee, made up of representatives from five member firms, assisted by a Development Manager whose main purpose is to follow-up the affairs of the network and to guide progress between the two annual meetings. The Management Committee "meets" virtually bi-monthly and physically bi-annually.

The cooperation among members in academic activities and the continuous education of practitioners is encouraged and promoted within The Parlex Group for the purpose of exchanging common knowledge on areas of practice, establishing special interest groups, organising law conferences at the May meeting and supporting short term exchanges of young lawyers among member firms.