

**Professor Adrian Sterling**

Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute, University of London

Title: Copyright Law in Europe and the USA: can the divergences converge?

Abstract: Copyright and related rights laws of European Community States coincide at many points with the copyright law of the United States, but there are some points of fundamental difference. In the global environment of the Internet, common international rules are essential for effective protection of the rights of authors and of performers (and other owners of related rights). In this paper the convergences and divergences in the laws of European EC States and the USA are analysed, and consideration is given to the question whether, and if so how, the major obstacles to harmonisation between the laws of the European States and the USA can be removed. The extent to which the lack of convergence is a problem will also be addressed.