

## Preface

In the context of their cooperation agreement, the Sino-European Private Law Forum (Yantai University, China), the Institute for European Tort Law (ETL, Vienna) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Graz as well as the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL, Vienna) organised a conference on the topic of ‘The Aims of Tort Law’ in Vienna on 16 and 17 October 2015. After their first joint conference on the ‘Legal Protection of Personality Rights’ in 2013, which will also be published in the form of a conference book, it was agreed to choose a more abstract topic for this second project in order to present some fundamental differences between the various legal systems and to identify possible common grounds. The aim of this research was to examine the divergent focuses and aims of tort law within the Chinese, continental European and common law. At the conference, presentations on five different topics were given by Chinese and European lecturers. With regard to their respective legal background, the speakers explained the relevant aspects of the topics discussed. These presentations, together with a conclusion, are now published in an elaborated form in this conference book. The organisers of the conference hope to have further improved the comprehensive understanding of the different ways of thinking of Chinese and European legal scholars with this research. In particular, comparative lawyers will profit from a deeper knowledge and understanding of the aims of tort law when interpreting legal provisions, filling gaps by analogy and drawing the borderline to neighbouring areas of tort law.

At this point I would like to thank all lecturers for their enthusiasm in participating in this project and their great cooperation. Furthermore, I would like to express my special thanks to the Executive Director of the Sino-European Tort Law Institute of Yantai University, Associate Professor Zhang Yudong for his valuable and active support in the organisation of the conference, as well as the staff of ETL and ECTIL, in particular Johannes Angyan, Simona Buss, Kathrin Karner-Strobach, Eva Ondreasova, Donna Stockenhuber and Lisa Zeiler for their strong commitment.

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