

TOPIC I: Mutual Trust, Mutual Recognition and the Rule of Law

Mutual trust, mutual recognition and the rule of law have evolved to become cornerstones of the European legal order. This topic aims to shift the debate from focusing on events in certain Member States to wider conceptual and constitutional questions. It thus has the overarching aim of examining these principles, which form the backbone of EU constitutional law, with regard to the full spectrum of EU law.

The topic is of particular relevance at national level. National jurisdictions have recently experienced particular difficulties in relying on mutual trust and mutual recognition in situations where the issuing Member State's respect for the rule of law was in doubt or where the level of protection of the Charter-sanctioned fundamental rights was deemed to be insufficient in various areas of law, ranging from asylum and immigration, criminal law to custody disputes, etc. The topic will thus examine how the principles of mutual trust, mutual recognition

and the rule of law have been applied by national jurisdictions in the Member States. It will facilitate a critical reflection of these principles and the delicate issues that arise where the courts of one Member State are obliged to assess compliance with the rule of law and the Charter in another Member State.

New developments might also be discussed, such as the mechanism of tying EU funding to rule of law requirements; the risk that rule of law deficiencies at national level might lead to rule of law deficiencies at the EU level (through elections to the European parliament; national nominations for EU institutions, etc.); the effectiveness of remedies at EU level; the implications of mutual trust and mutual recognition between EU Member States in international law.

General rapporteur



Miguel Poiares
MADURO

Miguel Poiares Maduro is Professor at Católica University, Lisbon and the School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute, Florence. From 2013 to 2015, he was Minister Deputy to the Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development in Portugal. From 2003-2009 he served as Advocate General at the European Court of Justice.

TOPIC II: The new geopolitical dimension of the EU competition and trade policies

This topic will focus on the new industrial policy of the European Union. Under that strategy, all industrial value chains must play a critical role in achieving the European Union's objectives to become climate neutral by 2050 and to develop a digitalised economy.

The topic will examine the European Union's new trade policy of seeking to promote its open strategic autonomy. Through the next direction in trade policy, the European Commission envisages that the European Union will become more assertive in defending its trade interests, reacting to unfair trade practices, enforcing a level playing field, and becoming more resilient in strategic sectors. The new approach is exemplified in notably the EU Green Deal and the EU Digital Strategy, focusing on the green and digital transition of the European Union's economy. It is also visible in specific proposals seeking to introduce responses to distortions caused by foreign subsidies as well as foreign direct investment creating risks to security or public order in the European Union. Moreover, the European Union is taking a more assertive role in seeking to gain a competitive advantage by setting global standards and enforcing existing commitments.

The topic will also consider how supply shortages, vulnerabilities in supply chains and crisis-related State aid measures in 2020 redefined the European Union's competition policy. That policy now serves to support a green and digital recovery and promote investments in key sectors. Main initiatives include the proposal for a Digital Market Act and new rules for preventing the distorting effects of foreign subsidies on the EU internal market. The European Commission is also developing a "green" competition policy, affecting merger control review, enforcement of competition law and State aid. At the same time, questions are being raised as to whether, in certain cases, EU industrial policy considerations should prevail over technical European competition policy concerns in order to allow for the creation of "European champions" able to compete with powerful non-European companies in international markets.

This topic will assess whether and how EU Member States support these new directions in the European Union's trade and competition policies and what challenges they perceive in implementing those policies.

General Rapporteurs



Jean-François BELLIS

Jean-François Bellis teaches EU competition law at the Institute of European Studies of the University of Brussels (ULB), the University of Liège and the Brussels School of Competition. He is a founding partner of Van Bael & Bellis. Jean-François Bellis has written numerous books and articles on competition and trade law and regularly speaks on both of these subjects at international conferences and seminars.



Isabelle VAN DAMME

Isabelle Van Damme lectures on WTO Jurisprudence and Legal Advocacy at the Academy of International Economic Law and Policy (Greece). She was also a lecturer at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) (Belgium). At the end of 2020, she was elected Executive Vice-President of the Society of International Economic Law. She is a partner at Van Bael & Bellis. Before joining Van Bael & Bellis, Isabelle worked as a référendaire in the cabinet of Advocate General Eleanor Sharpston.

TOPIC III: European Social Union

This topic will discuss the development and strengthening of a true and meaningful EU social dimension. It is often thought that while European economic integration leads the way in European affairs, social cohesion and integration often lag behind. Thus, the topic aims at conceptualizing the idea of a European Social Union as a way of bringing the EU closer to its citizens. This topic also has the advantage of having an interdisciplinary potential, which makes it particularly suitable for inclusion in FIDE forums.

Subjects to be discussed under this topic include, amongst others:

- *The acquis on social rights, workers' rights and Chapter V of the Charter against the background of possible concerns relating to benefit tourism and social dumping;*
 - *Ways to tackle, both legally and economically, the brain drain phenomenon and demographic imbalances in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe;*
 - *The tensions between economic principles and free movement, on the one hand, and the scope of domestic social regulation, on the other;*
 - *A first assessment and further developments concerning the "Mobility package"*
 - *The role of taxation and social security divergences between the Member States*
 - *The need to establish an EU-wide demographic policy*
 - *Protection and promotion of workers' rights and social rights in the EU's international relations*
 - *European Pillar of Social Rights and the political debate.*

General rapporteur



Sophie Robin
OLIVIER

Sophie Robin Olivier is a Professor of Law at the Sorbonne school of Law, since 2011. Before joining the Sorbonne, she taught at other Law schools, in France and abroad (US, Japan, Argentina, Italy).

Her research focuses, mostly, on EU Social Law and Free movement of persons. She is regularly invited to contribute to conferences around the world on European and International Social Law.

Sophie Robin-Olivier is a member of the board of several Law Journals in France and in Belgium, including the "Revue trimestrielle de droit européen", "Droit Social" (Daloz), and the "European Labour Law Journal" (Intersentia).