



Highlights 2024 & 2025



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Message from the Director

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the 2024 & 2025 *Highlights* of the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL). The LCEL was established as an interdisciplinary centre of the University of Luxembourg in January 2024, succeeding the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law. Its mission is to engage in cutting edge scholarly research, foster the study of European law, and contribute to its development. It aspires to be one of the leading transnational hubs for the study of European law.

In the first two years, we have laid the foundations for the development of the Centre as a focal point of academic excellence. In the first half 2024, the transition from the Max Planck Institute was completed under the capable leadership of Professor Pierre-Henri Conac as interim Director. Since then, we have established a strategy for the development of the Centre. We have celebrated the appointment of new professors, post-doctoral and doctoral researchers, the publication of

some outstanding scholarship, and the organization of many events. Our conferences have attracted politicians, members of the judiciary, representatives of international organisations, and scholars. We have also welcomed many visiting professors and researchers from Europe and beyond. As the 2024 & 2025 *Highlights* testify, the first two years have been intense.

We approach the task of building the Centre with enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment, being aware of the many challenges arising in pursuing scholarly excellence at the global level. We are an open community focusing on advancing the frontiers of knowledge in the wider field of European law and serving the community.



Prof. Takis Tridimas ●



The Luxembourg Centre for European Law: Mission and Positioning

The Luxembourg Centre for European Law's mission is to engage in cutting edge scholarly research which addresses contemporary societal problems, foster the study of European law, and contribute to its development. It pursues research excellence and aspires to be one of the leading transnational hubs for the study of European law in the world.

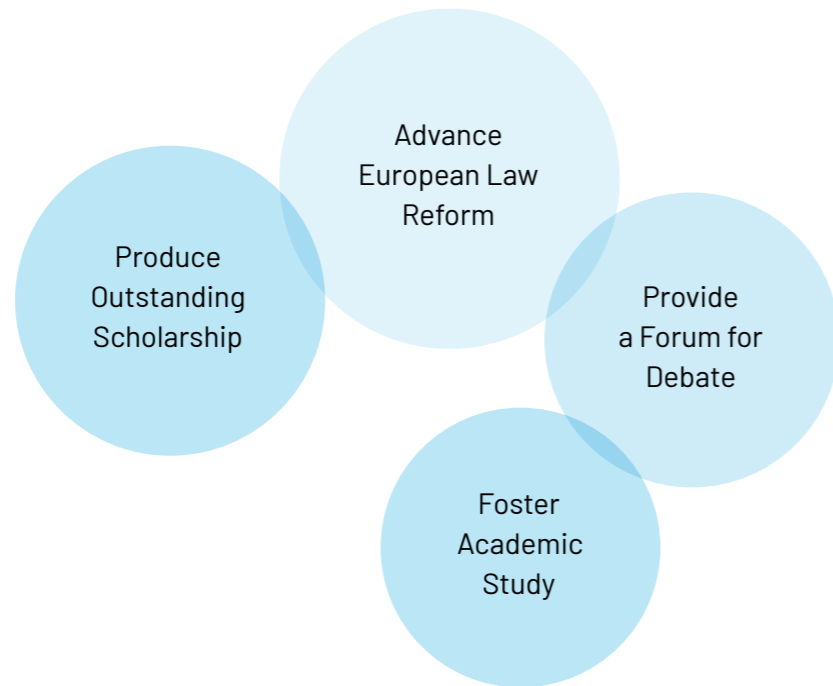
The Centre aims at positioning itself as a leading global hub for the academic study of European law. Its mission is to carry out both theoretical and applied research. It is driven by academic curiosity and it is independent. It aims at promoting debate with a view to enhancing the understanding of contemporary problems faced by society and contributing to their resolution.

Our main priority is to produce outstanding and original scholarship.

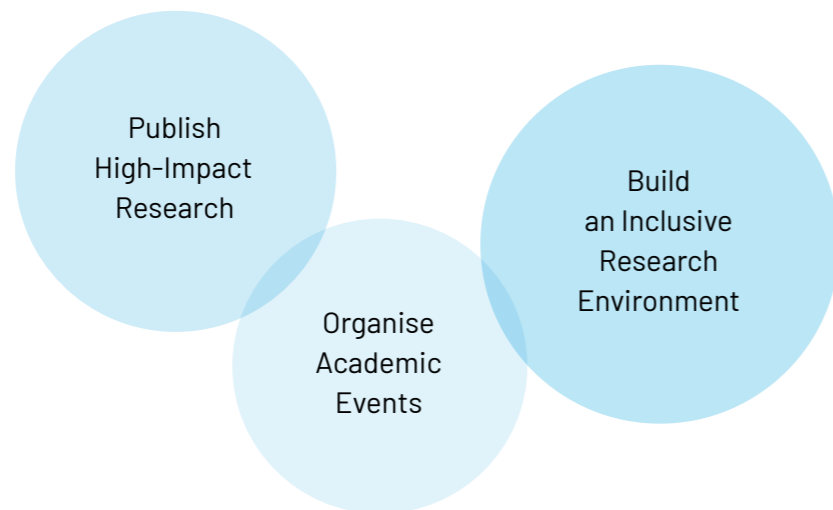
The Centre aspires to appeal to broad constituencies including the scholarly community, policy makers, courts and the civil society. It serves Luxembourg by contributing to its development as a centre of academic excellence. It contributes to European society by engaging with the major issues of European law and policy. It has global resonance by producing impactful, cutting-edge research.

The Centre works closely with the Department of Law of the University of Luxembourg, including in collaborative research projects, event organizations, and doctoral supervision. Also, Centre Faculty fulfil their teaching obligations through participation in the educational programmes offered by the Department of Law.

Objectives



Main means



The Centre has a global outlook and a broad reach. Its targeted audience are academic scholars, policy makers, courts, legal practitioners, and the civil society.

It takes advantage of its location in Luxembourg, a global financial centre, which hosts the Court of Justice of the European Union and many other European institutions.

Scope of research

The primary focus of the Centre is the law of the European Union.

In addition to EU law, there are other areas that may come under the umbrella of European law. These include the European Convention of Human Rights, comparative law, international law-related aspects, and the history of European laws. The Centre's remit is a broad one. We are an inclusive scholarly community open to embracing and fostering high quality cutting edge research.

The remit of the Centre encompasses all areas of European law, including:

- EU constitutional law and the governance of the EU;
- Fundamental rights, the EU Charter, and judicial protection;
- The external relations of the EU, including trade, foreign policy and defence, and related international law aspects;
- Internal market law;
- Competition, commercial, and consumer law;
- Migration policy;
- Environmental protection and sustainability;
- The regulation of digital markets and artificial intelligence;
- The European Monetary Union (EMU) and the regulation of financial markets;
- Private international law;
- The European Convention of Human Rights;
- Comparative law.



Core and priority areas

- EU constitutional law, judicial protection, and EU governance
- Geopolitics, external relations of the EU; including CFSP, trade and external aspects of internal market
- Nature and sustainability
- The regulation of digital markets and artificial intelligence
- EMU and financial regulation

Our goals are to advance in all of them and to build a substantial body of original research in at least two of them by 2029.

Transversal projects

The Centre encourages the study of transversal themes, i.e. topics that transcend specific areas of regulation and can contribute to the development of scholarship in various fields.

By way of example, the pool of potential projects includes, but it is not limited to, the following:

- Rights and constitutionalism
- Judicial balancing
- Methods of interpretation
- The principle of effectiveness and the effectiveness of laws
- EU Governance
- Sustainability and the European Green deal
- Automated decision making and artificial intelligence



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LCEL

At the Heart of Europe's Legal Landscape

Located in the Kirchberg district in Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Centre for European Law benefits from its position in the heart of Europe's judicial capital. The Centre is situated in close proximity to several key EU institutions. This unique environment places the LCEL within one of the most vibrant hubs for European law and governance. The proximity to these institutions facilitates academic exchange, engagement with practitioners, and opportunities for dialogue between scholarship and practice. It also provides an exceptional setting for research, teaching, and events dedicated to the development and understanding of European law.

200 m



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- 1** Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL)
- 2** Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
- 3** European Court of Auditors (ECA)
- 4** European Investment Bank (EIB)
- 5** European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)
- 6** European Stability Mechanism (ESM)
- 7** EFTA Court
- 8** European Commission Representation in Luxembourg
- 9** Secretariat of the European Parliament

Scholarship Highlights

In 2024 and 2025, LCEL researchers published and defended work reflecting the Centre's intellectual ambition, methodological diversity, and global outlook. The following contributions by the Director, Professor Takis Tridimas, postdoctoral – and doctoral researchers illustrate the breadth of LCEL's scholarship.



Professors

The Foundations of European Union Law, Ninth edition

by Trevor Hartley and Prof. Takis Tridimas

Since its first edition in 1981, this book has followed the evolution of the EU legal system, mapping its salient features, processes, and institutions. The development of EU law has been far from linear. There is no grand plan of European integration. The integration journey has been marked by progress, regression, and transformation.

The last edition of this book was done by Professor Hartley in 2014. Since then, European Union law has undergone extensive and, in some respects, fundamental changes. Its scope has expanded, legislation has been adopted in many new areas, and successive, unpredictable, crises have called for bold initiatives. The Charter of Fundamental Rights has become a focal point of reference. Most importantly, the Court of Justice has mapped a new frontier developing a significant body of case law in relation to the values of the EU, especially, the rule of law and judicial independence. In another front, Brexit marked a turning point in post-war Europe, resisting the

gravitational force of European integration and shattering the irreversibility dynamic of the 'ever closer Union' model.

This book takes on board these developments. It focuses on the institutions of the Union, especially the Court of Justice, the sources of EU law, its distinct principles, the external relations of the Union, its law-making procedures and instruments, and the EU system of judicial protection and remedies. It seeks to present law in its economic and political context. In line with the evolution of the EU legal order, the structure of the book has changed significantly. There is more emphasis on aspects of constitutional law, a more extensive treatment of the relationship between EU and international law, and more discussion of the competence of the Union. The legal aspects of Brexit and its aftermath are also treated. In line with the previous editions and the objectives of the book, there is a strong bias towards the legal framework of the EU and the system of judicial protection. EU law disturbs



the international law – domestic law dichotomy. Its institutional set up does not fit comfortably within established models of separation of powers. It has its own decision-making processes and a distinct methodology. An experiment like no other, the European the Union is powered by law that runs through its political veins.

In an era where comprehensive treatises on EU law become more elusive and difficult to write, the book attempts to strike a balance between detailed scholarly analysis, which is necessary for understanding the law, and emphasis on the distinct elements of the EU legal system. ●

Postdoctoral Researchers

The Legal Framework for Managers' Transactions in the European Capital Markets Code

by Dr Jacek Dybinski

In his chapter "The Legal Framework for Managers' Transactions in the European Capital Markets Code", published in *Regulating EU Capital Markets Union: Volume II: Market Conduct and Corporate Disclosure in a European Code* (Oxford University Press, 2025), Jacek Dybiński examines one of the most sensitive areas of European capital markets law: the regulation of transactions carried out by corporate managers in their own company's securities. The chapter addresses managers' transactions, often referred to as "directors' dealings", as a legal phenomenon situated at the crossroads of company law, market abuse regulation, and investor protection.

The chapter starts from the observation that managers' transactions are neither purely private nor inherently suspect. While they raise classic agency concerns and risks of insider dealing, they may also convey valuable information to the market by signalling management's assessment of a company's prospects. This dual character makes them particularly difficult to regulate. Against this backdrop, the chapter analyses the EU regime under Article 19 of the Market Abuse Regulation (MAR), focusing on its two main pillars: ex post disclosure of managers' transactions and the prohibition on trading during closed

periods preceding the publication of financial reports.

Rather than offering a purely doctrinal account, the chapter critically examines the underlying rationales of this regime, deterrence of insider dealing, facilitation of supervisory enforcement, signaling to investors, and the strengthening of market integrity, and asks which of these objectives should be prioritised in a future European Capital Markets Code. A central argument is that excessive disclosure may undermine, rather than enhance, market efficiency by generating informational "noise" and imposing disproportionate compliance burdens, while offering limited value to investors.

The analysis engages closely with recent reforms introduced by the EU Listing Act, which raise disclosure thresholds and relax certain aspects of the closed-period regime. These changes are assessed positively as steps towards a more proportionate framework. A comparative perspective on U.S. law, in particular the short-swing profit rule under Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act, is used to highlight alternative regulatory techniques and to question whether European law relies too heavily on formal prohibitions rather than carefully calibrated incentives. ●



The challenge is not to eliminate managers' transactions, but to regulate them in a way that enhances trust without drowning the market in irrelevant information. Transparency should illuminate – not obscure – how European capital markets function.

Dr Jacek Dybinski

Intra-EU Investment Contract Arbitration after Achmea

by Dr Mark Konstantinidis

In 2025, Dr Mark Konstantinidis published his article titled 'Intra-EU Investment Contract Arbitration after Achmea' at the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*.

The article critically engages with rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning the future of international arbitration in Europe. The topic concerns the intersection of EU law with international dispute settlement, raising issues of EU constitutional and external relations law, as well as international law. In addition to its academic relevance, it is of great practical importance for courts and businesses across the EU and beyond.

In a series of high-profile judgments, the Court drastically restricted the possibility of an investor from one EU Member State to bring claims against another EU Member State before an arbitration panel if they believe that they have been treated

unfairly ('intra-EU investor-State arbitration'). This enhanced the role of national and EU courts in resolving such disputes.

In his article, Dr Konstantinidis argued against expanding such rationale to all forms of investor-State arbitration, signs of which have already been emerging. The article analysed the distinction between treaty-based and contract-based forms of arbitration under EU law, which lied at the heart of examined caselaw. The article explained that EU law still permits intra-EU arbitration under investor-State contracts, rather than international treaties.

Defending this model of arbitration, Dr Konstantinidis argued that investment contracts in Europe can offer protections for investors who can no longer benefit from investment treaties, while also enabling EU Member States to better weigh their commitments to them. ●



In the article, I essentially try to caution against the development of an anti-arbitration reflex in EU law. While the EU legal order must be able to defend its constitutional interests, this should be pursued with moderation – without unnecessarily rendering arbitration in Europe unworkable.

Dr Mark Konstantinidis

Research Handbook on Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) Chapter Title: Sovereign Debt

by Dr Harrison Otieno Mbori, co-authored with James Thuo Gathii

The chapter argues that sovereign debt is generated by a global financial and debt architecture that subordinates Global South countries for profit. The recurrent debt crisis that the Global South, especially in African countries, experience from time to time is not an aberration but a systemic feature of the global financial and debt architecture. Similarly, the many different approaches designed to address the chronic indebtedness of Global South countries are not incidental but are integral features of a global financial and debt architecture dominated by the interests of private capital.

Dr Mbori together with Prof. Gathii trace how countries of the Global South have sought to counter their subordination within the global financial and debt architecture. For example, retracing Mohammed Bedjaoui's vision and, in particular, his work as an International Law Commission (ILC) Rapporteur on state succession. Also traced is the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) proposals on sovereign debt justice in the 19th and 20th centuries. Dr Mbori and Prof. Gathii contrast the radical approach represented in Bedjaoui's work with two alternatives. First, it contrasts the 'soft' law proposals to address the Global South's indebtedness through 'soft' law principles. Second, it addresses ad hoc, temporary, and contract-based approaches favoured by the Bretton Woods institutions and private creditors. In tracing these options for addressing the

Global South's subordination in the global financial and debt architecture, the goal is to show how Global North states, together with the Bretton Woods institutions and owners of capital, have, over the years, sought to deradicalise or defeat any efforts to transform the global debt and financial architecture.

The authors argue that only the radical proposals, such as those from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), inspired by the aspirations of the Global South, offer a viable, comprehensive, fair, just, sustainable, reparative, transparent, and stable external debt restructuring system. Under such a system, lenders and borrower countries would share the economic risks associated with a sovereign debt crisis. Such a system would predictably constitute binding agreements on renegotiation, moratoriums, rescheduling, forgiveness, and cancellation of colonial and odious debt. In other words, such a system would not merely result in debt relief or debt restructuring as a means of addressing recurrent debt crises. It would go further in addressing the systemic and structural reasons underpinning the sovereign debt crises of countries of the Global South.

Dr Mbori and Prof. Gathii were inspired to write this work because many countries in the Global South cannot currently finance their social welfare commitments, like education and healthcare, due to over-indebtedness. ●



The entry of climate finance amidst the continuing sovereign debt distress especially for developing countries has ensured entrenchment of the existing system rather than a fundamental overhaul of an already broken global financial industry. Climate finance has therefore become an amplifier of sovereign debt vulnerabilities in the Global South. Developing countries are thus borrowing more to avoid or address the devastating impact of climate change and sinking deeper into the sovereign debt crises.

Dr Harrison Otieno Mbori

The Transformation of International Investment Law and Its Principles: Indirect Expropriation and Fair and Equitable Treatment

by Dr Güneş Ünüvar

This book, explores how one of the most rapidly developing areas of international law has grown, changed, and occasionally struggled to define itself. The book begins with a simple but powerful idea: international investment law resembles a young discipline searching for its identity. It has expanded quickly, attracted both enthusiasm and criticism, and is now undergoing a period of transformation as states and international organisations rethink how it should function.

At the heart of the book lies a straightforward question: How do the rules used to resolve disputes between foreign investors and states influence the treaties that states negotiate—and how do those treaties shape future disputes in return? To answer this, Dr Ünüvar focuses on two concepts that sit at the centre of most investment disputes: indirect expropriation (when a state measure affects an investment so strongly that it resembles a taking of property) and fair and equitable treatment (a broad promise that investors will be treated fairly). These notions may sound abstract, but they have real consequences for states, companies, and the public. They affect issues such as environmental protection, public health, and economic policy.

The book traces how these concepts developed historically, how arbitrators have interpreted them in practice, and how states

have reacted by redesigning their treaties to bring more clarity and balance into the system. In doing so, Dr Ünüvar shows that investment law reflects deeper questions about fairness, sovereignty, and the balance between public interests and private rights.

A distinctive feature of the book is its use of interviews with government officials, policy-makers, counsel, and arbitrators from around the world. These conversations provide an insider perspective on how decisions are made, what concerns states face when negotiating treaties, and how the system is changing in response to global political and economic pressures. This practical dimension complements the historical and legal analysis, offering readers a clearer understanding of how the field operates in reality.

Ultimately, the book argues that international investment law is undergoing a significant shift. States are learning from past disputes, refining their treaties, and engaging in major reform efforts through organisations such as the United Nations and the OECD. Dr Ünüvar's work helps explain why this transformation is happening, what its implications may be, and how key legal concepts are evolving as part of this broader change. It offers an accessible and engaging roadmap for understanding a complex system at a pivotal moment in its development. ●



This field often appears technical from the outside – and in some ways it certainly is. But at its core it revisits a simple question that has eluded a convincing answer for decades despite immense scholarly attention: how do we balance private interests with public interests with fairness in a field that operates on vague principles? This book explores how that balance has shifted and where it may be heading.

Dr Güneş Ünüvar

Doctoral Researchers and Alumni

Navigating Peace through Dialogue: A Legal Analysis of the African Union's Mediation Framework and Strategic Peace Efforts

by Dr Habiba Abubaker

Dr Habiba Abubaker's doctoral research examines how the African Union (AU) conducts mediation as a legal and procedural mechanism for resolving disputes and maintaining peace across Africa. The study investigates how effective the AU's mediation mechanisms are in resolving disputes and promoting conflict prevention across the continent, and what factors contribute to or hinder the success of these mechanisms. By tracing the AU's legal, institutional, and political foundations, the research unpacks how mediation operates in practice and how procedural design influences outcomes.

The motivation for this research grew from Dr Abubaker's own experience during the 2019 Sudanese revolution, a moment when the AU played a pivotal yet contested role in guiding Sudan's fragile transition. Witnessing the tension between law, legitimacy, and power inspired her to explore whether AU mediation follows a coherent legal framework or depends on political improvisation. In the middle of her doctoral journey, she was invited by the African Union for a research stay, where she gained rare access to internal archives, official records, and senior AU officials. Through in-depth interviews with mediators and staff, she was able to observe first-hand how the AU designs and implements its mediation processes.

At the heart of the dissertation lies an original theoretical contribution:

the coerced-consent model of mediation. This model challenges the traditional view of mediation as a purely voluntary exercise. It argues that by ratifying the AU Constitutive Act (2000) and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC Protocol), Member States have provided advance consent to AU-led mediation. In this way, mediation under the AU is both a legal right and an institutional duty. It balances the principle of sovereignty with a collective obligation to maintain peace and security, positioning dialogue as an inherent function of membership in the continental order.

Drawing on extensive institutional analysis, archival research, and field interviews, the study explores three major case studies that reveal how AU mediation functions in practice: the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) dispute, the dual coups in Mali in 2020 and 2021, and Sudan's 2023 civil war. These cases illustrate how law, procedure, and politics converge in the AU's mediation practice.

The findings reveal that the AU's mediation framework is legally coherent and normatively ambitious but often limited by overlapping institutional mandates, external interference, and opportunities for forum shopping by Member States. These challenges weaken the predictability and authority of the AU's mediation procedures, exposing gaps between its legal mandate and political realities.



The thesis concludes with strategic recommendations to strengthen the AU's mediation system and safeguard its credibility. It calls for clearer coordination frameworks between the AU, RECs, and the UN to prevent duplication and competition, to close opportunities for forum shopping, and to reduce external interference that undermines the AU's authority. It also recommends, among others, improving procedural consistency within the Peace and Security Council and reinforcing financial independence through a stronger AU Peace Fund to ensure that mediation efforts are led and owned by the continent itself.

By positioning mediation as both a legal obligation and a collective expression of African solidarity, Dr Abubaker's work reframes the idea of "African solutions for African problems" as a tangible legal and moral commitment. It presents the AU as a continental laboratory where law, dialogue, and shared responsibility intersect to transform conflict into cooperation and aspiration into enduring peace. ●

Private Dispute Resolution and the Right to an Effective Remedy in Transnational Business and Human Rights

by Gustavo Becker

The collapse of the Fundão Dam in Brazil is widely regarded as the worst environmental catastrophe in the country's history. When the tailings dam failed, toxic mud affected hundreds of kilometres, destroying villages, contaminating rivers, and severely disrupting the lives and livelihoods of thousands of people. In response, the companies involved established a large scale mediation programme, providing affected individuals with compensation through privately administered processes rather than through ordinary courts.

Gustavo's doctoral research explores the legal effects arising when transnational companies use their own private governance power to provide access to remedy through private dispute resolution methods, namely conciliation mediation and arbitration. Companies increasingly administer such processes as a means of remedy for affected individuals of human rights abuses. These processes are often presented as quicker and more accessible than courts, but it is not clear whether they support the realisation of what international human rights law envisages as an "effective remedy." This concern motivates his central research question: "How may private dispute resolution processes contribute to and/or impair the realisation of the right to an effective remedy for transnational business-related human rights abuses?"

To answer this question, the thesis combines legal analysis, assessments of twenty different practices, and detailed case studies of three prominent mechanisms in Papua New Guinea, Brazil and Bangladesh. Gustavo first reconstructs, from international human rights law, a baseline of what an effective remedy requires in procedural and substantive terms, for example, fair processes, access to information and legal support, timely decisions, and remedies that respond to the type and seriousness of the harm. He then uses this baseline to examine company linked mechanisms in practice. The research indicates that private dispute resolution can contribute to the realisation of right to an effective remedy, particularly where courts are distant, slow or practically inaccessible. These mechanisms can provide a forum to raise complaints, a route to financial compensation and, in some cases, pressure for improvements in corporate practices. At the same time, the thesis identifies recurring impairments, including limited opportunities for meaningful participation by victims, highly standardised compensation packages that ignore individual circumstances, opaque decision making and, crucially, legal waivers that restrict access to courts. In these situations, private dispute resolution risks diverting people away from public justice systems while delivering only partial forms of redress.



To be defended on 19 January 2026 at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) for completion of Gustavo's joint doctorate between UvA and the University of Luxembourg, the thesis' is quite relevant for current developments in EU law. Instruments such as the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive require companies to establish complaints procedures in their value chains and present these as tools to improve access to remedy. Gustavo's thesis offers a clear, human rights based framework for considering when such mechanisms support that goal and when they instead impair access to remedy. It argues that private dispute resolution can work in a rights compatible way only if it preserves access to independent courts, avoids coercive waivers and is subject to meaningful public oversight. In doing so, the project speaks directly to societal debates about corporate accountability and the role of the EU in shaping fairer outcomes in global value chains. ●

Marginalization in the Making of International Law: The International Law Commission and the Origins of Power, Knowledge and Subalternity in Global Governance

by Bruno Biazatti

The International Law Commission (ILC or Commission) is the body of experts created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1947 to promote the progressive development and codification of international law. Whereas the Commission's legal proposals have received significant academic scrutiny, much less has been written about the inner functioning and impact of this institution as such. In his thesis "Marginalization in the Making of International Law: The International Law Commission and the Origins of Power, Knowledge and Subalternity in Global Governance", Bruno Biazatti turns precisely to these less explored aspects. By drawing on critical scholarship on expert-rule and politics of knowledge, the research explores the dynamics of exclusion and inequality in the work of the Commission and how these dynamics ensure that, instead of neutral and objective, the ILC's legal output cements patterns of subalternity in global governance.

A central goal of the thesis is to deconstruct the mainstream narrative of expertise surrounding the ILC, which insists on portraying this body as an ideologically neutral and politically detached institution. Bruno attacks this orthodox account, arguing that it conceals or renders immaterial the power-laden foundations and the ideologically constitutive force of the Commission's expert

work. He claims that recognizing the fundamental co-substantial interplay between knowledge and politics – and its performative role in informing the ILC's authority – not only describes the law-making process more convincingly but also opens space for a more reflexive, inclusive, and transparent practice of international legal development by the Commission.

Bruno's theoretical claims are demonstrated by empirical evidence. In addition to interviews with diplomats and ILC members, the research is based on a comprehensive quantitative study covering the nineteen topics that the Commission completed in the past two decades, including diplomatic protection, crimes against humanity, and protection of the atmosphere. This study aims at mapping patterns of marginalization in two aspects of the ILC's work: (i) the formal engagement by states with the Commission and (ii) the referencing patterns in the reports of the ILC Special Rapporteurs. The gathered data disclosed that institutional and personal biases within the Commission inform its legal work, often at the detriment of the Global South. This finding offers empirical foothold for the deconstruction of any claim of objective neutrality in the ILC's expert output.

Crucially, the present research has not only a theoretical value, but it



also entails concrete real-world and societal relevance. At least two aspects are pertinent here. First, by grounding the discussion in empirical evidence, the research has the potential to move beyond speculative or theoretical critique and provide a practical foothold for concretely strengthening the ILC. Second, the thesis's sophisticated theoretical framework and innovative empirical findings may give new meaning to the long-lasting calls for greater diversity in international law-making in general and in the ILC's work in specific. Diversity should transcend pure formalistic, methodological, or instrumental inclusiveness whose main goal is simply to make institutions "work better" and, ultimately, to further legitimize them. Recognizing the power-laden and biased implications of the Commission's output means that diversity should operate on a much deeper level, towards enhancing the critical sensibilities of the ILC as an institution and of its members as individual international lawyers. ●

Recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in economic matters within the eurasian economic union: current legal framework and future prospects for development

by Dr Anastasia Trubacheva

Anastasia's thesis is devoted to the theoretical and practical aspects of the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in economic matters in the Eurasian region in comparison with the European and international approaches.

The main aim was to identify and analyze the peculiarities, trends, problems, and perspectives of the regulation and practical application in the given area.

The author concludes that being objectively inherent in any modern legal system, the analyzed recognition and enforcement regimes reflect global processes of legal development with distinctive regional features. The study demonstrates how the existing rules and practices adapt to the challenges of our time and how they are transformed in search of a new balance between economic development and protection of national interests.

Anastasia has conducted an empirical analysis of over 800 domestic proceedings on a wide range of practical issues that courts and parties encounter at

different stages of the recognition and enforcement proceedings, from frequently missing documents at the application stage and typical delays in proceedings to the prevailing grounds for refusal and their changing interpretation.

The analysis has shown that modern systems of cross-border circulation of foreign judgments oriented towards the efficient organization of the proceedings broadly apply high-tech methods to achieve the best results based on the previous experience and primary aims of a particular regime and the organizations behind it.

There is also a growing trend towards case-specific solutions to achieve justice and avoid abuse of rights by experienced economic actors in particular recognition and enforcement proceedings, which, in the author's opinion, will only increase in the long term.

Such research has not been conducted before and may be interesting and thought-provoking for both European and Eurasian scholars and practitioners. ●



Scholarly Engagement and Outreach

Academic Events and Knowledge Transfer



The Centre regularly organises conferences, workshops and seminars that bring together leading scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss key developments in European law.

These larger-scale events are complemented by guest lectures, which form a central component of the Centre's intellectual life. Invited scholars from across Europe and beyond contribute to ongoing debates and offer insights into emerging legal and policy challenges.

In addition, the LCEL Exchange Forum provides an internal yet open platform where researchers present their ongoing work to peers. This format encourages critical discussion at an early stage of research and strengthens collaboration within the Centre.

Across 2024 and 2025, the LCEL hosted a wide range of academic events, attracting participants from Luxembourg, across Europe, and internationally. These activities reflect the Centre's commitment to knowledge transfer, interdisciplinary dialogue, and engagement with both academic and professional communities. ●

Experts convene at University of Luxembourg to enhance administrative sanctions in EU financial markets law



On 20 and 21 June 2024, the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) hosted an international conference on "Harmonisation of administrative sanctions and procedures in European Union financial markets law: towards a European model". This conference brought together world-renown academics, experts, judges and financial market supervisors from Europe and North America. This research project analyses the administrative sanctions in several European States and beyond for misrepresentation by listed companies and whether the regime ensures credible deterrence and protection of investors. Such misrepresentations inflict serious damages to investors. They do not contribute to building a large and vibrant European single financial market, as recently advocated by the Letta Report, comparable to the United States. Efficient and consistent enforcement is key to strong capital markets. The event underlined the importance of sanctions for integrity and societal accountability.

This research was started by Professor Pierre-Henri Conac when he joined the Max Planck Institute for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law Luxembourg as Max Planck Fellow. From January 2024 to September 2024, Professor Pierre-Henri Conac served as Interim Director of the LCEL, while also holding the position of Max Planck Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. Following this period, he joined the LCEL as Professor. Dr Jacek Dybinski (Assistant Professor, University of Krakow) coordinated this international project, which also involved doctoral researchers Enrico Sartori and Milena Mitrovic.

The following issues were examined during the two day conference:

1. **Supervisory convergence, supervision and enforcement of the EU capital markets law**
(Ms Amandine Zelenko and Prof. (em.) Eddy Wymeersch)
2. **Evolution and effectiveness of administrative sanctions in European capital markets law**
(Dr Jacek Dybinski, Prof. Tobias Tröger)
3. **Administrative sanctions for misrepresentation from national perspective (UK, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Spain and France)**
(Prof. Eilis Ferran, Dr Julia von Buttlar, Prof. Jesper Lau Hansen, Prof. Niamh Moloney, Prof. Silvia Allegranza, Prof. Matteo Gargantini, Prof. Isabel Fernandez-Torres, Prof. Pierre-Henri Conac)
4. **Transatlantic and global view on securities enforcement**
(Prof. Marc Steinberg for the United States perspective, Prof. Stephane Rousseau for the Canadian approach and Ms Jessica Heyse, who discussed recent update to the credible deterrence report of the International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO)
5. **Comparative practice and experiences**
(Prof. Michele Siri, Prof. Kern Alexander for the enforcement of Sustainability disclosure, Ass. Prof. Roy Gava, Adj. Prof. Urs Zulauf)
6. **Public/Private enforcement and the courts**
(Dr Damjan Kukovec, Prof. Howell Jackson, Prof. Marco Lamandini, Prof. Olha Cherednychenko)

The conference concluded with a roundtable with Prof. Pierre-Henri Conac, Prof. Eilis Ferran, Prof. Niamh Moloney and Ms Amandine Zelenko.

The presentations led to fruitful exchanges. Despite positive trends in several Member States, the conference revealed the need for reforms both at the European and national level to increase the effectiveness of administrative sanctions and the protection of investors. ●

LCEL establishes Luxembourg as a hub for Europe's legal dialogue

The Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) was officially inaugurated on 10 October 2025 with a festive two-day conference at the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce. The event brought together around 200 high-ranking guests presidents and judges of Europe's highest courts, ministers, senior legal advisors from EU institutions, and leading academics to debate the role of European values in contemporary Europe and beyond.

Keynote speeches were delivered by President of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) Koen Lenaerts, Greek Foreign Minister Georgios Gerapetritis, and President of the General Court Marc van der Woude. Additional addresses were given by former Vice-President

of the European Commission Viviane Reding and Luxembourg's Minister for Research and Higher Education Stéphanie Obertin. The conference also welcomed members of national supreme courts as well as legal scholars from LCEL and partner institutions.

According to University Rector Jens Kreisel, the founding of LCEL is among the University's most strategic decisions in recent years: "With the help of the LCEL, we aim to establish Luxembourg as a hub for European law and secure its role as a European capital." Minister Obertin reaffirmed the government's commitment to European law, stressing the importance of LCEL's interdisciplinary approach in generating deeper insights and bridging academic and institutional boundaries.

The LCEL was established as an interdisciplinary centre of the University of Luxembourg in 2024, succeeding the Max Planck Institute (MPI) Luxembourg for Procedural Law. With more than two dozen academic staff members, the new Centre is already one of the largest centres for European law in the world. Its mission is to conduct cutting-edge research on societal challenges, promote the study of European law, and serve as a platform for critical interdisciplinary dialogue.

By uniting judges, policymakers, and scholars engaged with European law, the Centre aims to position Luxembourg as a central forum for legal debate in Europe – a place where ideas, institutions, and individuals come together to reflect on and shape the future of the Union's legal framework. The inaugural event clearly reflected this vision. Given the high level of participation by experts from the judiciary, politics and academia, the institute succeeded in establishing itself as a platform for exchange right from its very first scientific conference.

LCEL Director Takis Tridimas opened the event by affirming the EU's identity as a community of shared values grounded in Article 2 of the Treaty of on European Union (TEU), which describes the fundamental values of the EU. In the face of rising populism and global uncertainty, he stressed, the Union must act as a guardian of democracy and emphasised the role of the Court of Justice in upholding these values as binding legal principles.

Keynote speakers Koen Lenaerts, Georgios Gerapetritis and Marc van der Woude collectively emphasized the European Union's identity as a community of values grounded in democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights, as articulated in Article 2 TEU. These values, they argued, are not merely aspirational but constitute binding legal principles that shape the Union's constitutional order. Several speakers highlighted the role of the Court of Justice of the EU as a guardian of these principles, stressing the importance of judicial independence, transparency, pluralism, and press freedom as preconditions for democratic governance. Lenaerts underlined that judicial independence and mutual trust are both institutional and legal requirements, and stressed the Court's responsibility to balance EU legal



unity with national identity. Gerapetritis urged a renewed constitutional ethos, likening Article 2 to "eternity clauses" found in national constitutions.

Viviane Reding reflected on the evolution of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into binding law, noting that deeper integration has brought new risks, including threats to media freedom, judicial autonomy, and academic institutions. In her view, only coordinated action across institutions can safeguard these achievements. Marc van der Woude warned that systematic violations of fundamental rights may cross EU red lines and potentially challenge a Member State's place in the Union. He and others called on the legal community to reflect on its role in addressing declining trust and reaffirming the ethical obligations tied to EU membership.

In addition to the keynotes, the conference featured panels exploring the political, legal, institutional, and scientific dimensions of EU values and their evolving role in European integration. Given the strong interest and participation, the conference is being established as an annual event. The 2026 edition will take place again on 9 – 10 October, this time focusing on the key question "Is EU Law fit for Purpose?" ●



Institutional Engagement

Over the past two years, the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) has developed its cooperation with European institutions, strengthening its role as a forum for dialogue between academia and practice. Located in Luxembourg, Europe's judicial capital, the Centre benefits from close proximity to the Court of Justice of the European Union, the General Court, and other key EU institutions. This is reflected in the regular participation of representatives from European courts and EU institutions in LCEL events.

This institutional dimension was particularly visible at the Centre's inaugural conference, which brought together leading scholars and senior representatives of European and national institutions. Prominent members of the Court of Justice and the General Court contributed as keynote speakers and chairs, underlining the relevance of LCEL's work for contemporary debates on European values, the rule of law, and the evolving constitutional foundations of the Union.

Judicial dialogue has also been fostered through recurring formats such as the annual European Competition Law Circle, jointly organised with the Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ), and with the participation of the members of the General Court of the European Union. The Forum provides a platform for exchange between courts, EU institutions, academics, legal practitioners, and private-sector stakeholders on key developments in EU competition law. The 2025 edition focused on the early implications of the Digital

Markets Act (DMA), bringing together perspectives from the General Court, the European Commission, and national competition law judges.

Beyond its own events, the LCEL has also contributed to judicial debates across Europe through the participation of its leadership in major conferences. In 2025, Professor Takis Tridimas delivered a keynote address at the annual conference of the EFTA Court and gave a lecture at the Constitutional Days conference hosted by the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. These interventions supported ongoing reflection among European judiciaries on the internal market, the balancing of competing rights, and the role of supranational courts in democratic systems.

The Centre's institutional reach further expanded beyond Europe in 2025 through its submission of written observations in advisory proceedings before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) on the protection of democracy. Drawing on European legal experience, the LCEL addressed issues including judicial independence, democratic legitimacy, disinformation in the digital sphere, anti-corruption safeguards, and youth participation, contributing to comparative institutional dialogue on democratic resilience.

The LCEL pursues research excellence and actively strengthens its role as a leading transnational hub for the study of European law, grounded in sustained dialogue with courts and institutions. ●

Public Outreach



Daiva Miksys, Amandine Troseller, Martin Yaya Ojeda, Estelle Curti, Prof. Takis Tridimas (f.l.t.r)

Alongside its institutional engagement, the Luxembourg Centre for European Law has actively strengthened its public presence and expanded its outreach beyond academia. Through media contributions, digital formats, and community-based initiatives, the Centre has contributed to public debate on European Union law and values while increasing the visibility of its research and expertise.

LCEL members have been featured in interviews and expert contributions addressing current challenges facing the European Union, including the rule of law, judicial independence, democratic resilience, and institutional reform. These interventions helped bring academic perspectives into broader public discussion and reinforced the Centre's role as a trusted source of expertise.

The Centre also supported public outreach through visibility around its leadership and academic profile. In the context of Professor Takis Tridimas' appointment as incoming Director, LCEL contributed to public-facing formats, including a podcast episode hosted by EU Law Live and a feature interview in the Luxembourg press. These initiatives highlighted both the Centre's academic

ambitions and its role as a platform for reflection on key developments in EU law.

In addition, the Centre developed thematic outreach initiatives aimed at making European law accessible and relevant to wider audiences. On Europe Day 2025, the Centre launched a dedicated feature under the title "Quo vadis, Europe? What's at stake for the rule of law?", bringing together short contributions from LCEL researchers. The initiative offered a multi-dimensional reflection on the rule of law, linking its constitutional and institutional foundations with current challenges ranging from democratic legitimacy and judicial independence to digital governance, sustainability regulation, cross-border judicial cooperation, and the EU's role on the global stage.

The Centre further engaged with the wider community through cultural and participatory formats. An art contest, initiated and organised by the LCEL Library, invited participants from the University and beyond to reflect creatively on EU law and values. The initiative attracted submissions from diverse backgrounds and culminated in an exhibition hosted in the LCEL Library, reinforcing the Library's role as a place of encounter and dialogue. ●



Focus on

Focus on Prof. Joana Mendes



Interdisciplinarity has always been important, but today it is unavoidable to make sense of EU law.

Prof. Joana Mendes

Professor Joana Mendes joined the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) in 2025, bringing with her a distinctive and reflective approach to European Union law. Her academic path began in Portugal at the University of Coimbra, where she studied law and developed a strong interest in administrative law. Her early pre-doctoral work focused on questions of environmental law and public governance, including how the protection of water as a public good required changes in the organisation of public administration.

“I sometimes say that my interest in EU law was an accident. I only started studying EU law during my doctoral studies at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. Until then, what drove me to academia was administrative law.”

At the European University Institute, EU law became central to her work, not simply as a legal field, but as a way of reasoning about law itself.

“EU law for me came with the opening that the EUI gave me in terms of thinking about the law and what one can do when reasoning in EU legal terms.”

Rather than pursuing narrow specialisation, Professor Mendes has sought to remain a generalist in EU law, despite increasing academic pressure towards hyper-specialisation. Much of her earlier research has been driven by a sustained interest in how the concepts and principles of EU administrative law are formed, and how they might be rethought to strengthen legal protection.

“For most of my work, what drove my research was understanding how certain principles, norms or legal categories of EU administrative law could be developed in view of the meaning that they had outside of the EU legal system, and how the meanings that they had acquired in EU law could be re-thought to secure legal protection where the law was lacking.”

This perspective has led her beyond comparative law alone, towards legal theory, intellectual history and political economy as essential dimensions for understanding both the possibilities and the limits of EU law. In recent years, her work has engaged with areas such as Economic and Monetary Union, financial regulation and the regulation of pesticides.

“I’m not a specialist in any of these areas, but I have developed a keen interest in them both to understand how EU law shapes them and what the law of those sectors can tell us about EU law.”

One of her current projects, *Local Meanings of EU Law* (with Professor Afroditi Marketou, Université Paris-Est Créteil), explores how EU law acquires meaning in different social and cultural contexts. Moving beyond a focus on national legal systems alone, the project examines how EU law is mobilised by diverse communities and actors, from workers’ organisations and LGBTQ+ movements to farmers, industry and environmental groups.

“EU law is a vehicle to express different claims and identities. If we pay attention to how EU law is given meaning in these very different contexts, we understand the reasons for both adherence and resistance to EU integration and to EU law. In our perspective, the ‘official’ EU law of the institutions and courts is just one local meaning of EU law among others, despite the importance that the legal system give it.”

Since joining LCEL, Professor Mendes continues to pursue her research within a new institutional setting that she sees as particularly promising.

“The big difference is the opportunity to develop my work as part of an emerging intellectual community of EU law, in interaction with early-career researchers and within an institutional structure that has an unparalleled potential to give new voices to EU law and shape the directions in which it will evolve.”

She also underlines the broader responsibility that comes with building a new centre at a challenging moment for Europe.

“This is happening at a particularly difficult period in the EU and in the world, which is both an opportunity and an added responsibility. I am delighted to be part of this journey.” ●

Professor Joana Mendes joined the LCEL in April 2025, after nearly a decade at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance. She has been a member of the University of Luxembourg since 2016 and previously served as Head of the Doctoral School in Law. She has also been appointed Visiting Professor at LSE Law School for a three-year term.



Focus on Dr Mark Konstantindis



In these contexts, recourse to courts is no longer just about justice, if it ever was. It is also about politics, strategy, and the management of conflict. Understanding this requires us to go beyond legal analysis alone.”

Dr Mark Konstantindis, Postdoctoral Researcher

Dr Konstantindis joined the Luxembourg Centre for European Law as a Postdoctoral Researcher with a strong interest in the complexity and openness of European Union law. His academic journey began at King's College London, where he studied law and first encountered the breadth of EU law and its intricate relationship with national and international legal systems.

“While I very much enjoyed studying English law, I was immediately struck by the scope of European law and by how it interacts with different legal orders. What continues to fascinate me is that even some of its most fundamental questions remain open.”

Coming from Greece, a civil law jurisdiction, and having pursued his legal education and doctoral studies in the United Kingdom, Mark developed a particular sensitivity to the ways in which different legal and political cultures shape EU law.

“This interplay between legal traditions resonated with me personally. Being trained across both civil and common law systems made me more aware of how European law is constructed through dialogue between different perspectives.”

His current research reflects this openness and cross-disciplinary curiosity. In 2025, together with Dr Harrison Mbori and Professor Josip Glaurdić from the Faculty of

Humanities, Education and Social Science (University of Luxembourg), he initiated the project *Beyond Diplomacy & Legality: The Implications of the Continued Judicialization of Peace and Security*. The project examines the expanding role of international courts and tribunals in situations of conflict, and the broader implications this has for law and global governance.

“The project emerged from a simple observation: international courts are increasingly involved in contexts of war and security disputes. This challenges how we traditionally understand their role, their legitimacy, and even the nature of litigation itself.”

Rather than approaching these questions from a purely legal perspective, the project brings together insights from international law, political science, and European law. This interdisciplinary approach reflects a key shift in how complex global phenomena are studied.

“In these contexts, recourse to courts is no longer just about justice, if it ever was. It is also about politics, strategy, and the management of conflict. Understanding this requires us to go beyond legal analysis alone.”

The project was awarded funding from the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Luxembourg, supporting its development as an interdisciplinary research initiative. This recognition enabled the organisation of a

workshop that brought together scholars from a wide range of disciplines, geographical backgrounds, and career stages.

“What made the project stand out, I believe, was both its subject matter and its approach. We are dealing with a phenomenon of clear contemporary relevance, but we also sought to show that it cannot be understood through law alone. The diversity of perspectives we brought together was essential to that.”

Through his work at the Centre, Dr Konstantindis contributes to a growing research environment that seeks to address European law not in isolation, but as part of a broader legal and political landscape. ●

Dr Mark Konstantindis is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Luxembourg Centre for European Law, University of Luxembourg. His work has been published in leading journals, including the *European Law Review*, *German Law Journal*, and *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, and he regularly contributes to legal blogs and international conferences. Dr Konstantindis has been appointed Thought Leadership Co-Chair of the Young ITA (2025-2027), the under-40 branch of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA), a leading global forum for international arbitration.



Focus on David Althoff



My research is ultimately about how the law should be shaped and which principles ought to guide it.

David Althoff, Doctoral Researcher

David Althoff is a Doctoral Researcher at the Luxembourg Centre for European Law, where his work explores the theoretical foundations of private international law. He studied law at the University of Amsterdam (LLB) and Leiden University (LLM), specialising in Civil Law as well as Jurisprudence and Philosophy of Law, an academic combination that continues to shape his research approach today.

His doctoral project examines the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in Dutch domestic private international law, focusing on decisions originating from non-EU states and outside existing treaty frameworks.

“My research looks at the foundations of the current law, but more importantly at the question of which foundations should underlie it. It is a normative project, concerned with how the law ought to be shaped.”

Rather than focusing only on doctrinal analysis, his work also engages with legal theory, asking how principles such as mutual trust, legal certainty should shape future developments. The European dimension plays a central role in this inquiry.

“EU law has developed its own system and underlying ideas on the recognition and enforcement of judgments. One of the key questions is whether these foundations should also inform Dutch domestic law.”

This interaction is not merely theoretical. Case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union shows that Dutch judgments recognising third-state decisions may circulate within the EU, raising questions about the relationship between national and European legal orders.

At the same time, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, particularly on the right to a fair trial and the right to family life, adds an additional layer that shapes how such rules should evolve.

Alongside his doctoral research, David contributes to the annual case law overview of the European Court of Human Rights in family and youth law for the Tijdschrift voor Familie- en Jeugdrecht (FJR). This work involves analysing and synthesising recent judgments to provide a clear overview of the main developments.

“The overview requires us to distil complex case law into its essence. It is a different kind of academic exercise, but one that sharpens analytical clarity and keeps me closely connected to current developments.”

His engagement at the LCEL also extends beyond research. Through the Centre’s guest programme, he has initiated research stays and organised seminars with visiting scholars, including Dr Laura van Bochove and Professor Jonathan Soeharno. These experiences have contributed to his academic development in new ways.

“Organising these events allowed me to develop skills beyond research. It also created opportunities to engage with broader questions, from private international law in the context of the Hague Conference to the protection of the rule of law.”

Through his work, David Althoff contributes to the LCEL’s research environment by combining doctrinal analysis with legal theory, and by engaging with European and international dimensions of law in a reflective and forward-looking manner. ●

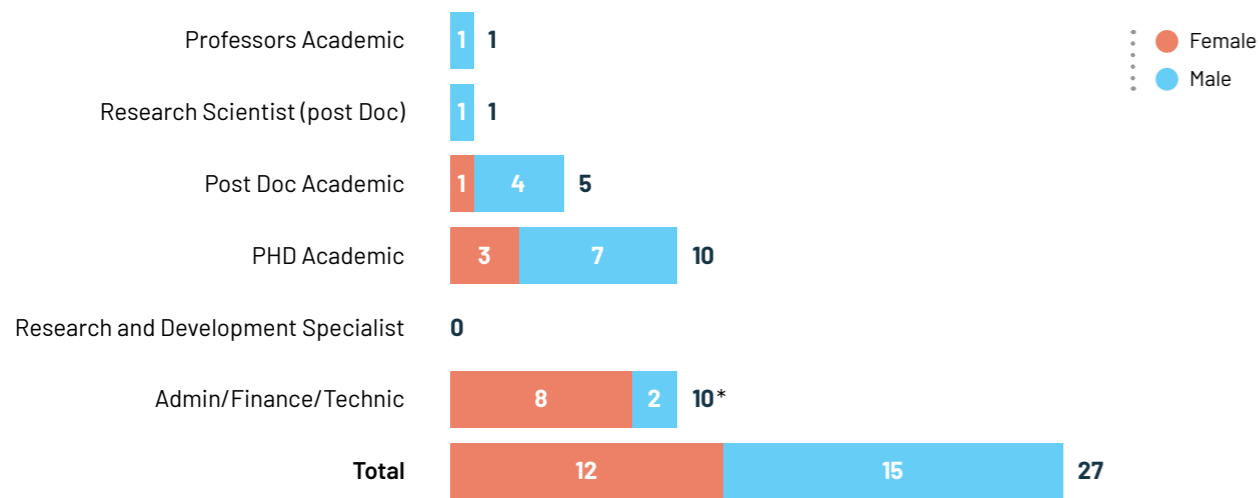
David Althoff is a Doctoral Researcher at the Luxembourg Centre for European Law, University of Luxembourg and an external PhD-Candidate at Leiden University. He studied law at the University of Amsterdam and Leiden University, specialising in civil law and legal theory. His doctoral research focuses on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in Dutch private international law, with a particular emphasis on its normative foundations.



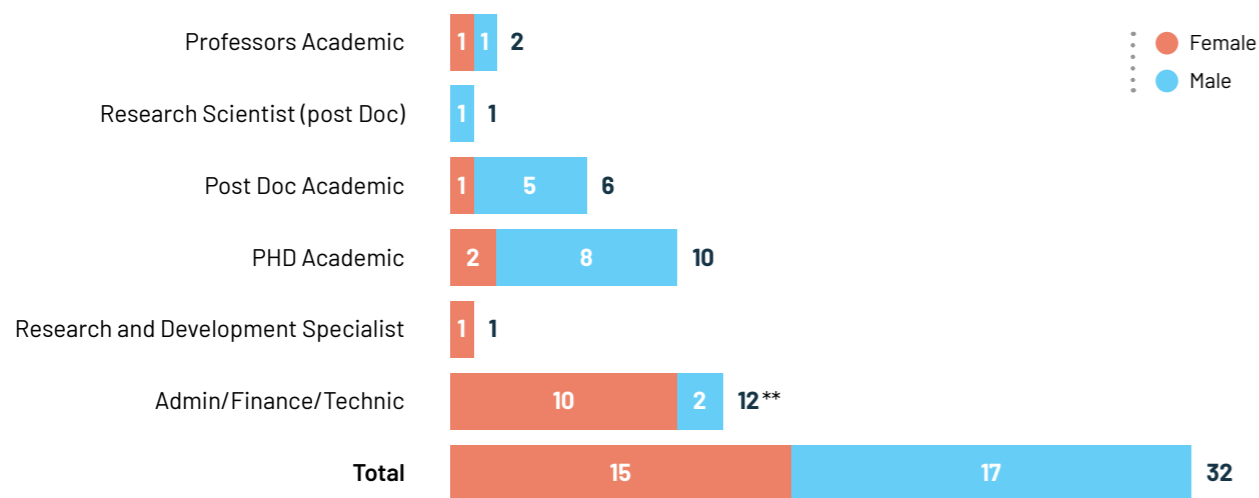
Our People

The Centre in Numbers

Staff Headcount by category and gender 31.12.2024



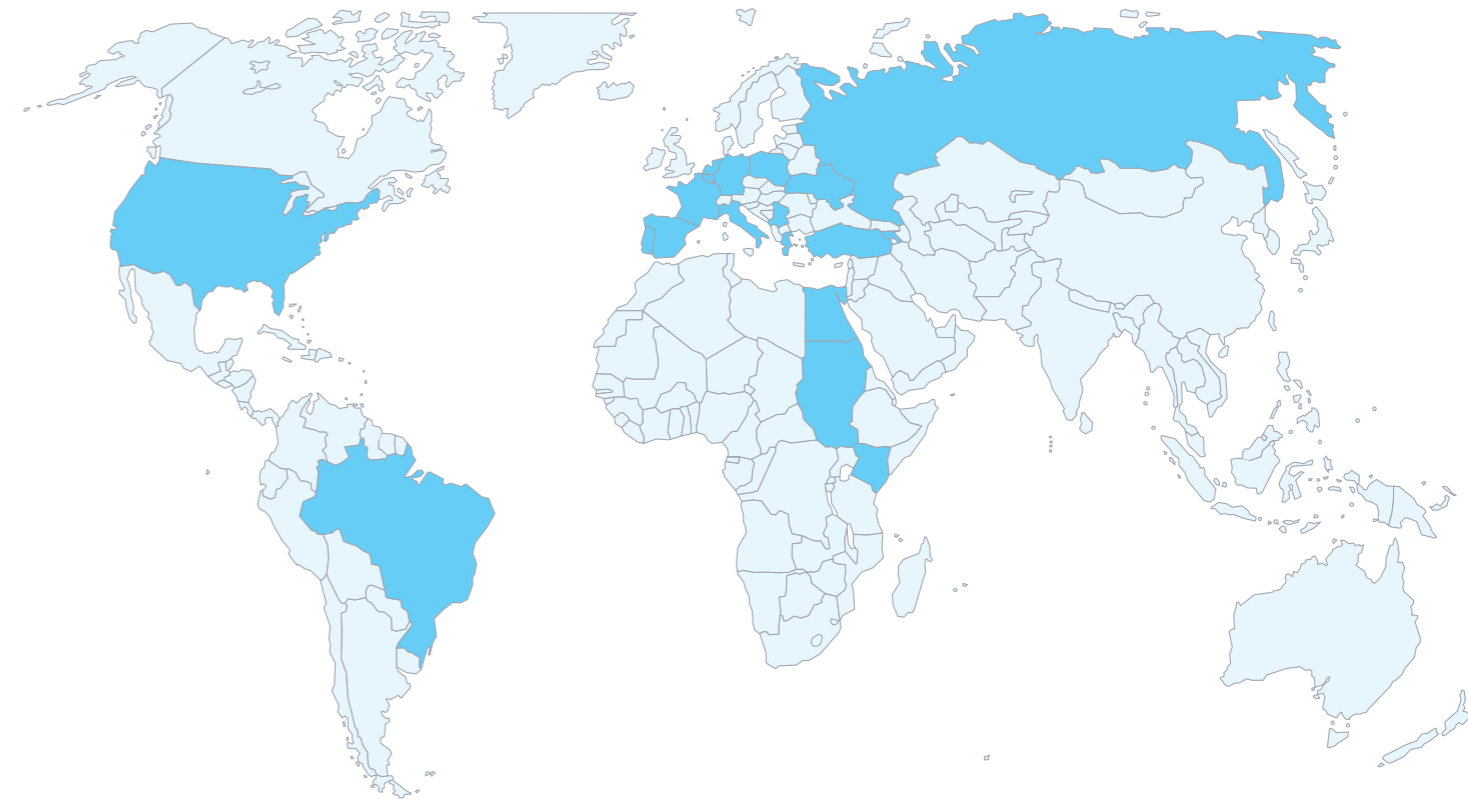
Staff Headcount by category and gender 31.12.2025



* composed of 3 administrative staff members and 7 librarians

** composed of 4 administrative staff members, 7 librarians and 1 project officer in the library

An international community



The Luxembourg Centre for European Law brings together a truly international community of scholars and researchers.

Researchers and administrative staff working at LCEL come from 16 different national backgrounds, including Germany, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, Serbia, Ukraine, Armenia, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Brazil, the United States, Turkey, and Russia.

This diversity enriches the intellectual environment at the Centre. Different academic traditions, cultural perspectives, and legal backgrounds contribute to vibrant discussions and innovative research on European law and governance.

At the same time, the Centre's international profile allows it to attract emerging scholars from around the world, making Luxembourg a meeting point for ideas, collaboration, and academic exchange in the field of EU law.

PhD Defences

Somesh Dutta

The Future of Treaty-Based Investment Adjudication: The Trend Towards Eliminating Investor-State Arbitration from Investment Treaties

University of Luxembourg, 02.05.2024

SUPERVISOR

- Prof. H el ene Ruiz Fabri (*University Paris 1*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. Matthew Happold (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Prof. Edoardo Stoppioni (*University of Strasbourg*)
- Prof. Dr Fuad Zarbiyev (*Graduate Institute*)
- Dr Michele Potesta (*L evy Kaufmann-Kohler*)

Dominik Ormig

Financial Digitalisation and International Investment Disputes

University of Luxembourg, 01.07.2024

SUPERVISORS

- Prof. H el ene Ruiz Fabri (*University Paris 1*)
- Prof. Henri Culot (*UC Louvain*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. Andr e Pr um (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Prof. Pierre-Henri Conac (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Prof. Michael Waibel (*University of Vienna*)
- Prof. R egis Bismuth (*IEP Paris*)

Kritika Sharma

The Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court – A Good Governance Approach

Leiden University, 30.04.2025

SUPERVISORS

- Prof. Niels M. Blokker (*Leiden University*)
- Prof. Sergey Vasiliev (*Open University*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. Carsten Stahn (*Leiden University*)
- Ass. Prof. Christiane Ahlborn (*Trinity College Dublin*)
- Prof. Schabas William (*Leiden University*)
- Ass. Prof. Letizia Lo Giacco (*Leiden University*)
- Prof. Armin Cuyvers (*Leiden University*)

Anastasia Trubacheva

Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Economic Matters within the Eurasian Economic Union: Current Legal Framework and Future Prospects for Development

University of Luxembourg, 12.05.2025

SUPERVISOR

- Prof. Burkhard Hess (*University of Vienna*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. Gilles Cuniberti (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Prof. S everine Men trety (*Universit  Libre de Bruxelles*)
- Prof. Alexander Trunk (*Kiel University*)
- Prof. Jens Kleinschmidt (*Trier University*)

Bin Zhao

The Characterization of Disputes before International Courts and Tribunals

University of Luxembourg, 22.11.2024

SUPERVISOR

- Prof. H el ene Ruiz Fabri (*University Paris 1*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. Eleftheria Neframi (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Prof. Paolo Palchetti (*University Paris 1*)
- Prof. Dr Xinjun Zhang (*Tsinghua University*)
- Prof. Alina Miron (*University of Angers*)

Habiba Abubaker

Navigating Peace Through Dialogue: A Legal Analysis of the African Union's Mediation Framework and Strategic Peace Efforts

University of Luxembourg, 26.03.2025

SUPERVISOR

- Prof. Burkhard Hess (*University of Vienna*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. J org Gerkrath (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Prof. Joana Mendes (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Em. Prof. R udiger Wolfrum (*Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law*)
- Prof. Jochen von Bernstorff (*University of T bingen*)

Arman Melikyan

Reconfiguring the Evolving Legal Interface of Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters of Free Trade Agreements: Substantive Obligations, Dispute Settlement and Compliance

University of Luxembourg / UC Louvain , 28.11.2025

SUPERVISORS

- Prof. H el ene Ruiz Fabri (*University Paris 1*)
- Prof. Henri Culot (*UC Louvain*)

JURY MEMBERS

- Prof. Eleftheria Neframi (*University of Luxembourg*)
- Dr Rodrigo Polanco (*World Trade Institute*)
- Prof. Freya Baetens (*University of Oxford*)
- Prof. Dr Pierre d'Argent (*UC Louvain*)

Research Environment

The Library

The Luxembourg Centre for European Law Library acts as a central hub for European law scholarship, supporting the work of LCEL researchers, the Department of Law at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance (FDEF), the wider University of Luxembourg community, and the public at large. As a specialised research library, with its rich and up-to-date collection, and modern research environment and services, the LCEL Library attracts also visiting researchers and scholars from neighbouring countries and beyond.

Collection & Resources

The LCEL Library houses a specialized collection of more than 70,000 items in 45 languages, including books and journals covering various areas of law, including but not limited to: European Union Law, International Law, Environmental Law, Economic, Financial and Banking law, Investment and Competition Law, Internal Market Regulation, Consumer Rights, Data Protection, Judicial Cooperation, Comparative Law, the laws of the Member States of the European Union and of certain non-member countries.

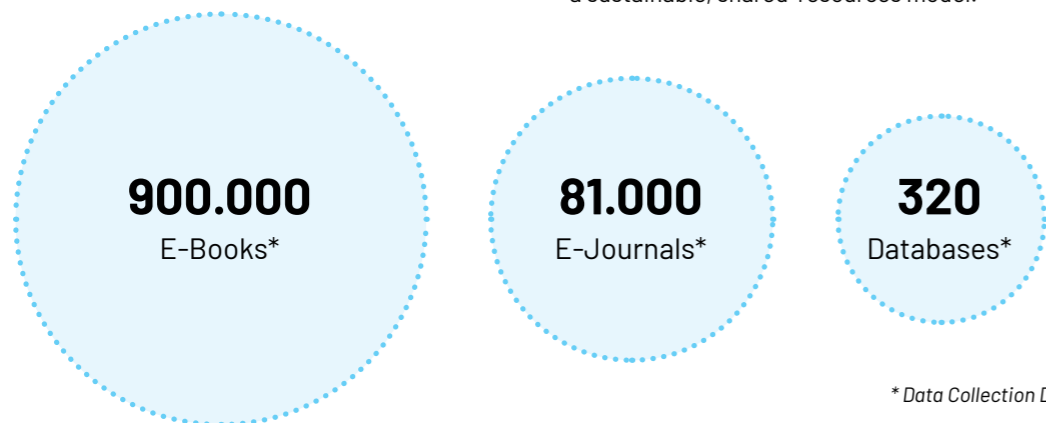
The LCEL Library is coordinating its acquisitions with the FDEF Liaison Librarian at the Luxembourg Learning Centre. During the reporting period, the LCEL Library strengthened its collections with 2,378 print books,

KEY MILESTONES:

- Beginning of **2024** Introduction of SAP for all library acquisitions
- Beginning of **2025** Integration into the UniLu Network
- Mid **2025** Library spaces transformation
- End of **2025** Launch of the Alma Migration Project (new library management system)

focused on landmark monographs and key academic publications on European law. At the same time, the LCEL Library undertook a strategic optimization of its journals' portfolio to ensure stronger alignment with the Centre's evolving research priorities while supporting long-term sustainability and responsible budget management. As a result, 5 new high-value journals were introduced, bringing the total portfolio to 94 subscriptions.

Through the integration into the University of Luxembourg, as member of the Consortium Luxembourg, LCEL Library users benefit from access to a vast array of electronic resources, significantly expanding our collections without increasing costs. This network participation offsets the need for larger independent acquisitions and reinforces a sustainable, shared-resources model.



* Data Collection December 2025

User Services

The LCEL Library supports a diverse and growing community of users, including LCEL researchers, visiting scholars, early-career academics, professors and staff. It also serves the wider Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance (FDEF), welcoming an increasing number of Master's students based at the Weicker Building. The LCEL Library remains open to the wider University community and, in line with its mission, welcomes members of the public interested in exploring its collections.

The LCEL Library offers a range of user services designed to support research and learning. During the reporting period, the LCEL Library has processed a total of 2,897 loans and 35,126 renewals, demonstrating strong engagement with the print collection.

Premises & Spaces

During 2025, and in close collaboration with the colleagues from the University's Facility Management Team, the LCEL Library undertook major improvements to its premises, resulting in the availability of 55 spaces designed for both collaborative and individual work.

These enhancements included the creation of a Multifunctional Room for flexible academic and community use, the reorganisation of the Reading Room and Reference Desk to improve accessibility, the introduction of a collaborative area to foster informal learning and exchange, and the addition of one individual acoustic cabin and several tables with computers or screens to provide private study environments. Together, these changes have transformed the Library into a more versatile and user-friendly space, supporting diverse research and learning needs.

Outreach & Community engagement

The LCEL Library actively develops its services, resources and initiatives, ensuring strong alignment with the LCEL mission. Through the University of Luxembourg intranet and the LCEL Newsletter, the Library keeps its community informed and engaged with ongoing activities and developments.

LCEL Library Talks

Throughout 2025, the LCEL Library Talks hosted a dynamic series of 6 presentations on research publications and services for researchers, bringing together professors, researchers, students, and staff for lively discussions and knowledge exchange.



Monthly Focus Display

Each month, the LCEL Library prepares a themed bibliographic exhibition, alongside the New Acquisitions, linked to a national or international day, or LCEL conferences and events, showcasing relevant publications from our collection and fostering awareness and discovery around topics, such as Data Protection, Environmental Law, EU Values, and Human Rights.

LCEL Library Art Contest: EU Law and Values in a changing world

To celebrate the Inaugural Conference of the LCEL, the LCEL Library launched its first Visual Art Contest, inviting everyone to express through their art how EU law and values shape, and are shaped by, a changing world. The winning artworks are now exhibited in the LCEL Library and visually represent the dynamic relationship between EU Law, society and creativity. ●

The Guest Programme

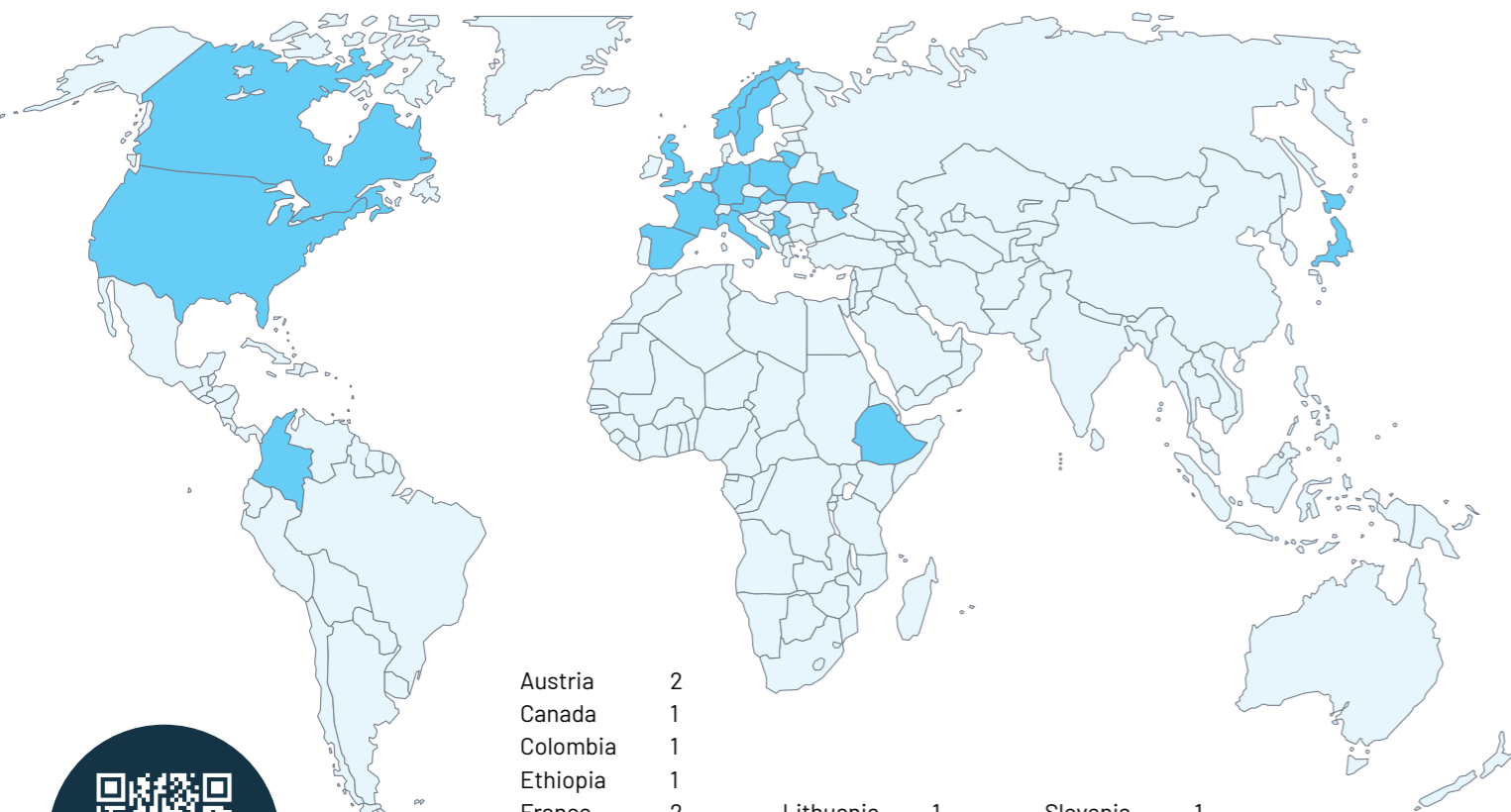
The LCEL Guest programme is an integral part of the Centre’s academic activity and international engagement. It enables researchers and practitioners from Europe and beyond to undertake research stays at LCEL, contributing to the Centre’s research environment and strengthening international academic exchange.

In 2024 and 2025, visiting researchers were fully integrated into the Centre’s academic life. They were provided with a personal workspace and access to LCEL’s specialised library and electronic resources, and benefited from professional support from the Centre’s librarians. Guests participated in LCEL’s workshops, presentations, conferences, and exchange fora, and engaged in

exchanges with LCEL researchers and with members of the University of Luxembourg’s Department of Law.

The diversity of visiting scholars enriched the Centre’s daily research culture and fostered dialogue across legal traditions, methodologies, and thematic areas. LCEL’s location in Luxembourg, home to the Court of Justice of the European Union and other European institutions, provided a distinctive setting for many of the research stays.

The following overview presents the visiting researchers hosted at the LCEL and illustrates the international reach of the Guest Programme. ●



The data shown refers to guests hosted at the LCEL in 2024 and 2025.

Cooperation with the Department of Law of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg

The LCEL carries out activities in close cooperation with the Department of Law of the University of Luxembourg and is fully embedded in the academic life of the University. This cooperation spans teaching, research exchange formats, shared infrastructure, and joint scholarly initiatives.

LCEL professors and researchers are actively involved in the Department’s teaching activities. They contribute to core programmes such as the Master of European Law and the Master 2 in EU Law and Litigation. In addition, doctoral researchers affiliated with the LCEL participate in the delivery of seminars (travaux dirigés), thereby contributing to the training of the next generation of legal scholars and practitioners. During the reporting period, LCEL researchers also co-coached the University of Luxembourg team for the 2024/2025 edition of the Philippe C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, one of the oldest and most prestigious moot court competitions worldwide.

Beyond teaching, cooperation is reflected in a range of shared academic formats that foster continuous intellectual exchange. The LCEL Exchange Forum brings together Centre researchers, visiting fellows, and members of the Department of Law to present ongoing work and engage in interdisciplinary dialogue. The LCEL Library Talks similarly provide a joint platform for the presentation of research, publications, and research tools by colleagues from both the Centre and the Department.

Academic collaboration also takes the form of jointly organised lecture series and high-level scientific events. During the reporting period, the LCEL and the Department of Law co-organised a lecture series on “The EU as a Global International Actor”, comprising seven lectures. Cooperation further extended to the organisation of major scholarly events, including a high-level roundtable held on 16 May 2025, which brought together six Advocates General, alongside professors and researchers from both institutions, to discuss the theme “Discretion in the Opinions of the Advocates General of the CJEU”.

The LCEL and the Department of Law also collaborate closely within the framework of the Doctoral School of Law (DSL). The DSL’s course programme brings together PhD candidates from both entities, fostering an integrated and dynamic research community. Doctoral researchers actively participate in events organised by the LCEL and the Department, as well as in the scientific and networking activities offered by the DSL.

As highlighted by Professor Eleftheria Neframi during her appointment as Head of the Doctoral School of Law: “The integration of the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) into the University is an important step forward in our collective pursuit of excellence in legal research.” ●

Publications

The following publication list is non-exhaustive and includes only the publications from Orbi.lu at the date of the data collection (December 2025)

2025

- 1. Abubaker, H.** (2025). Navigating Peace Through Dialogue: A Legal Analysis of the African Union's Mediation Framework and Strategic Peace Efforts [Doctoral thesis, Unilu - University of Luxembourg]. ORBilu-University of Luxembourg.
- 2. Ayman, R.** (2025). From investment protection to investment facilitation: a new paradigm in the pursuit of sustainable development. Vietnamese journal of legal sciences.
- 3. Ayman, R., & Mowatt, C.** (2025). Repeat Appointments. In Nijhoff International Investment Law Series. Brill Nijhoff.
- 4. Biazatti, B.** (2025). The Crime of Persecution in Yekatom and Ngaïssona: An Intersectionality-Based Critique. ORBilu-University of Luxembourg.
- 5. Biazatti, B.** (2025). Abd-Al-Rahman Trial Judgment: New Views on the Principle of Legality Applied. ORBilu-University of Luxembourg.
- 6. Biazatti, B.** (2025). The Indeterminacy of International Law [Paper presentation]. Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany.
- 7. Biazatti, B.** (2025). The backlog-driven reform of the Initial Review of petitions in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Journal of International Dispute Settlement, 16(3), 1-20.
- 8. Biazatti, B.** (2025). Is Democracy a Personal Right? [Paper presentation]. LCEL's Inaugural Conference: European Union Law and Values in a Changing.
- 9. Biazatti, B.** (2025). Marginalization in the Making of International Law: Patterns of Exclusion and Inequality in the State Engagement with the International Law Commission [Paper presentation]. ESIL Annual Conference, Agora 3 - Reforming the Diversity and Inclusivity of International Law's Institutions, Berlin, Germany.
- 10. Biazatti, B.** (2025). A Global Fight against Impunity: the Latin American Perspective on Strengthening the ICC [Paper presentation]. Regional Conference in Latin America - Review of the Rome Statue of the ICC: Strengthening the Court's Jurisdiction for the Crime of Aggression.
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- Enforceable Titles within the EU: Challenges and Opportunities [Paper presentation]. EFFORTS International Exchange Seminar.
- 16. Conac, P.-H.** (2025). La scission transfrontalière européenne en droit luxembourgeois. In T. Bonneau, A. Couret, Dondero, F.-X. Lucas, J. Moury, I. Parleani, ... E. Schlumberger, Liber amicorum Hervé Le Nabasque. Paris, France: Joly.
- 17. Conac, P.-H.** (2025). Unternehmensführung durch Vorstand und Aufsichtsrat. Aktien-, Kapitalmarkt- und Bilanzrecht, Corporate Governance. Handbuch. Hrsg. von Peter Hommelhoff, Klaus J. Hopt, Patrick C. Leyens. - München: Beck 2024. XXII, 1.339 S. - ISBN 978-3-406-78257-2. Reviewed by Pierre-Henri Cona. Rabels Zeitschrift für Ausländisches und Internationales Privatrecht.
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