

COFIDE
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SOFIA

BULGARIA



BULGARIAN ASOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN LAW

2009

The Bulgarian Association for European Law (BAEL) was established and it became a member of FIDE the same year.

BAEL has more than 80 members including lawyers, judges, prosecutors, academics, government officials, and other professionals.

2011

BAEL edited the first Bulgarian Journal of European Union law.

BAEL is regularly involved in programmes teaching EU law to Bulgarian judges and other legal professionals.

BAEL works closely with the National Bar Association in disseminating knowledge of EU law to Bulgarian lawyers.

BAEL is regularly invited to participate and make submissions in legal proceedings before the Constitutional court and the Supreme courts.

BAEL organises conferences, debates and seminars in order to promote the knowledge and the dissemination of EU law within Bulgaria.

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



Isabelle Van Damme

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 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.

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). She teaches EU Law (Institutional and Substantive), Comparative Law, Labour and Employment Law and Anti-discrimination Law, in both French and English.

Her research focuses, mostly, on EU Social Law and Free movement of persons. Her PhD dissertation was devoted to the Principle of Equal treatment in EU law. More recently, she edited an "Article-by-Article Commentary on International and European Labour Law", together with a group of European Professors (2018, Nomos) and published a "European Labour Law" textbook (2016, Bruylant). She is regularly invited to contribute to conferences around the world on European and International Social Law. She is an expert on the Free Movement of workers for the network of independent experts in the field of intra-EU mobility (MoveS) set up by the European Commission.

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" (Dalloz), and the "European Labour Law Journal" (Intersentia).

Welcome to Bulgaria



Sofia Bulgaria



Founded in the 7th century, Bulgaria is one of the oldest states on the European continent.

The country is remarkable for its variety of landscapes, its rugged mountains and its numerous and sandy Black Sea beaches. Bulgaria was the birthplace of the Cyrillic alphabet, which was created towards the end of the 9th century. Today, the Cyrillic alphabet is one of the three alphabets of the EU.





Bulgaria claims a mix of Eastern and Western cultures, the blend is evident in its cuisine, its architecture and its traditions.

Did you know that the oldest gold in the world crafted by men was found in Varna, Bulgaria?

Did you know that the nods to say “yes” and “no” are reversed! Try not to get confused!



A few interesting facts

Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, was founded 7000 years ago.

Bulgaria has 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Bulgaria is the only European country that hasn't changed its name since the year it was founded.

Bulgaria is the homeland of yogurt.

Bulgaria is the world's second-biggest exporter of rose oil.

Bulgaria has 200 km of sandy beaches.

The highest mountain peak on the Balkan Peninsula is in Bulgaria.







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