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CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: FEEDBACK EVENT WITH CITIZENS

On 2 December 2022, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission discussed **the follow-up to the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#)** with the citizens who participated in the European Citizens' Panels. The debate involved a wide range of topics, such as social justice and **threats to European values and the EU budget**, as also the lessons learned for **participatory democracy**. Since the closing of the Conference, as is well known, the three institutions have started the implementation and follow-up process in accordance with their respective competencies under the Treaties of the EU. Concerning the proposal "*Rule of Law, Democratic values and European identity*", **the Commission has announced a defence of democracy package**, including an initiative on the protection of the EU democratic sphere from covert foreign influence by the second quarter of 2023.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REACTION TO “QATARGATE”

On 15 December 2022, MEPs adopted a **resolution** calling for the broader need for transparency and accountability in the European institutions. The resolution lays down the consequences that the EP would draw following **allegations of bribes paid by the states of Qatar and Morocco** to MEPs and EP staff **in exchange for influence over Parliament’s decisions**. In the resolution, MEPs denounce the alleged corruption attempts by Qatar, which would constitute **serious foreign interference in European democracy**. As an immediate measure, MEPs decided to suspend all work on legislative files relating to Qatar, particularly concerning visa liberalisation. They also call for both a special committee and an inquiry committee, under Article 226 of TFEU. Ultimately, the resolution emphasises the role of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO), the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), Europol and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in the fight against corruption, and calls for common anti-corruption rules applicable to EU bodies.

ENHANCING EU POLICIES TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD

On 18 January 2023, the European Parliament adopted a **resolution** on the EU’s 2022 annual report on human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union’s policy on the matter. In the resolution, **the EP strongly condemns Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine**, as well as Belarus’s involvement enabling Russia to launch deadly attacks against Ukraine from its territory. The EP encourages the EU institutions «*to strive for a continued ambitious commitment to make the protection of human rights a central part of all EU policies in a streamlined manner and to enhance the consistency between the EU’s internal and external policies in this field*» and recalls that the **2020-2024 EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy** should be used **as a roadmap of the EU’s priorities concerning human rights** and should therefore be at the centre of all EU external policies.

RULE OF LAW: THE EU COMMISSION DECIDES TO REFER POLAND TO CJEU FOR VIOLATIONS OF EU LAW BY ITS CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL

On 15 February 2023, the EU Commission **referred Poland to the CJEU** for violations of EU law by the Polish Constitutional Tribunal. The Commission opened this **infringement procedure against Poland** on 22 December 2021, after the rulings of the Polish Constitutional Tribunal of 14 July 2021 and 7 October 2021, where it had considered provisions of the EU Treaties incompatible with the Polish Constitution. The Commission considered that these rulings breach **the general principles of autonomy, primacy, effectiveness, and uniform application of Union law and the binding effect of rulings of the CJEU**. On 15 July 2022, the Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion to Poland, to which Poland replied on 14 September 2022, rejecting the reasoning of the Commission. The Polish reply does not address the Commission’s concerns. As reflected in **2022 Rule of Law Report**, serious concerns related to the **independence of the Polish judiciary** continue to persist. In 2019 and 2020, the Commission launched two new infringement procedures to safeguard judicial independence. Since then, the Court of Justice found that the disciplinary regime for judges in Poland is not compatible with EU law. In its **Recovery and Resilience Plan**, Poland committed to undertake reforms of the disciplinary regime regarding judges, to dismantle the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court, and to create review proceedings for judges affected by decisions of that Chamber aimed at strengthening certain aspects of **the independence of the judiciary**.



OUR ACTIVITIES

ROAD TO...EU-DRAW



On 2 December 2022, a seminar took place on the topic "**Sicurezza e diritti nello spazio digitale europeo**" at the Department of Management and Innovation Systems, University of Salerno. Keynote speakers: **Michele Nino**, Associate Professor of International Law, Department of Legal Sciences, University of Salerno, and **Massimiliano Mormone**, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Postal and Communications Police in Naples.

WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS "MIGRATIONS, RULE OF LAW AND EUROPEAN VALUES"

The Legal Observatory on the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, jointly with the research groups of PRIN "International Migrations, State, Sovereignty and Human Rights: Open Legal Issues" and the Jean Monnet Module "EU-DRAW", invited **young researchers** to present, by 15 February 2023, and discuss **their scientific works within a Workshop** that will take place at the University of Salerno in **Spring 2023**. By 30 September 2023 researchers are invited to send the final text of their paper, which will be published in paper form and **open access by the end of 2023**.



INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

On 6 March 2023, the Jean Monnet Module "EU-DRAW" will have its launch with a keynote speech on: "Advancing EU Values in Internal and External Policies". The event will take place from 10.30 a.m. at Nicola Cilento Hall, University of Salerno. Discussants: **Francesco Bestagno**, Legal Advisor of the Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union (Bruxelles), and **Cosimo Risi**, Ambassador. Info: www.eu-draw.com



HYBRID TRAINING LECTURE SERIES "DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW: EU LAW ISSUES"

- 03/04/2023 h. 15. 30 THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
- 13/04/2023, h. 14.30 PROMOTING AND PROTECTING VALUES IN EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS
- 20/04/2023, h. 9.00 INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION CHALLENGES IN THE EU AREA OF FSJ
- 05/05/2023, h. 14.30 QUO VADIS EU? NATIONAL IDENTITIES AND EUROPEAN VALUES AT STAKE
- 15/05/2023, h. 14.30 THE ROLE OF DOMESTIC COURTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RULE OF LAW

For registration (all the Series or single Lectures), fill out this [Google Form](#)

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Ph.D. students and young researchers of any nationality and affiliation are strongly encouraged to enjoy the Lecture Series as speakers, in order to share and exchange views and network with other researchers in their respective fields of interest. First, they are expected to present the results of their research, and then, to engage in the debate with the keynote speakers acting as chairpersons and discussants. For this purpose, a maximum of two junior investigators for each Lecture will be selected to discuss (online or in person) their research on the issues with the other participants. **Interested young researchers are invited to send an abstract written in Italian or in English (between 1000-3000 words) together with a CV to the following address eu-draw@unisa.it.**



MORE INFORMATION: WWW.EU-DRAW.COM



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