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EUROPE DAY 2023: CELEBRATING EUROPEAN UNITY

**CELEBRATE
 EUROPE
 DAY**



On 9 May, **the European Union will celebrate Europe Day 2023**, a moment to commemorate the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 1950. To mark the special occasion, the EU institutions, including EU delegations and representations worldwide, will organise **a wide range of online and on-site activities**, providing citizens with the opportunity **to discover and experience the European Union**. This May, Europe Day will bring citizens together to **learn more about how the EU is supporting peace, security and democracy** and how it is working to build a Europe that is green, digital and competitive, fair and skilled, as well as strong, resilient and safe.

More information on the activities can be found [here](#).

COMMISSION REGISTERS THE 100TH EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

On 18 April 2023, **the European Commission decided to register** a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) entitled **'Connecting all European capitals and people through a high-speed train network'**. The initiative calls on the Commission to propose a legally binding act aiming at connecting all European capitals through high-speed railway lines by linking the existing high-speed railway networks and building high-speed lines where these do not yet exist. The organisers have now six months to open the signature collection and one year to collect one million statements of support from at least seven different Member States. As the European Citizens' Initiative fulfils these formal conditions established in the relevant legislation, the Commission will have to react. The Commission could decide either to take the request forward or not, and will be required to explain its reasoning. The registration marks an important milestone, since the introduction of this **unique tool that empowers European citizens to actively participate in shaping the policies and priorities of the European Union**.

MEPS ASSESS COMMISSION'S RULE OF LAW MONITORING IN THE MEMBER STATES

On 30 March 2023, during a joint debate on **rule of law issues**, **MEPs discussed** with Commission Vice-President Jourová **recent events and allegations of democratic backsliding in Greece, Spain, and Malta**. They also voted on a **resolution** comprising **Parliament's assessment of the Commission's 2022 rule of law report** and the overall state of EU values. Parliament's resolution welcomes the improvements in the Commission's annual reporting tool, many of which are in line with Parliament's previous recommendations. However, **a number of issues remain**. MEPs demand that the scope of the analysis be **expanded to cover the entire range of EU values, linking findings to the activation of tools for the protection of the EU's values and budget, and recognising deliberate backsliding in some countries**.

CJEU: THE AMOUNT OF THE DAILY PENALTY PAYMENT WHICH POLAND IS REQUIRED TO PAY IS REDUCED FROM ONE MILLION TO 500 000 EUROS

During the ongoing procedure in **case C-204/21, by order of the Vice-President of the Court** of 27 October 2021, **Poland was ordered to pay the Commission a periodic penalty payment of €1 000 000 per day**, to ensure that Poland gave effect to the interim measures set out previously in an **order of 14 July 2021**, in particular **as regards the suspension of the application of some provisions of national legislation concerning the organization of justice**. On 10 March 2023, Poland asked the Court to cancel or, in the alternative, vary the order imposing the periodic penalty payment in question.

By the **order of 21st April**, the Vice-President concludes that **the measures adopted by Poland are not sufficient to ensure that all the interim measures set out in the order of 14 July 2021 have been put into effect**. Nevertheless, **he considers that Poland has repealed the provisions conferring certain powers on the Disciplinary Chamber as regards the status of judges and that that chamber has been abolished**. He also notes that **various measures adopted by Poland had the effect of reinforcing the legal remedies available to judges who are the subject of decisions of the Disciplinary Chamber or facilitating, in certain scenarios, the review of the compliance of requirements relating to an independent and impartial tribunal previously established by law**.

In the light of the effect of the measures thus adopted by Poland, the Vice-President reduces the amount of the periodic penalty payment to €500 000 per day.

OUR ACTIVITIES

"Quo vadis EU? National identities and European values at stake"

On **5 May 2023**, the fourth seminar of the (Hybrid) Training Lecture Series "Democracy and the Rule of Law: EU Law Issues" will take place on the topic "**Quo vadis EU? National identities and European values at stake**". Chair: **Prof. Lina Panella** (University of Messina, Coordinator of the SIDI-ISIL Group of Interest "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship in the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice"). Keynote speakers: **Prof. Gaëlle Marti** (Jean Moulin University Lyon 3, JM Chair sur la promotion et la préservation des valeurs de l'Union européenne), **Prof. Michele Messina** (University of Messina, JM Module European Citizenship and Rule of Law: Promoting our European way of life), **Prof. Francesco Buonomena** (University of Salerno, EU-Draw JM Module Teaching Staff Member). This seminar is jointly organized with the SIDI-ISIL Group of Interest "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship in the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice".



Previous lectures themes and related didactic materials are available on <https://www.eu-draw.com/hybrid-course/>

Book presentation and open debate on EU Migration and Asylum Law



On 24 March 2023, **Prof. Stefano Amadeo** and **Prof. Fabio Spitaleri** presented their book 'Il diritto dell'immigrazione e dell'asilo dell'Unione europea' (2022, Giappichelli Editore), followed by a students' debate on **topical themes related to European Union migration and asylum policies**.

This presentation/debate has been jointly organized with EUVALWEB JM Chair and the Italian Association of European Union Law Scholars (Forum Immigration, Borders and Asylum).

Guest Lecture on International Humanitarian Law

On 27 April 2023, within the Undergraduate Course 'European Citizenship, Democracy and the Rule of Law in the European Union', a didactic seminar took place on the implementation and enforcement of International Humanitarian Law at the University of Salerno.

Keynote speakers: **Cap. Marco Pizzorno** (Teacher of Law of Armed Conflict), **Col. Luigi Bramati** (Provincial Commander of Carabinieri - Avellino).



MORE INFORMATION: WWW.EU-DRAW.COM



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