



Eurobarometer: European Citizens consider EU membership important

On **6 December 2023**, the European Parliament published the results of the [Parlemeter 2023 survey](#), conducted as part of the **Fall 2023 Eurobarometer**, which showed a general feeling of **satisfaction among citizens of member states with EU membership**. Indeed, 72% of respondents believe that their country benefits from it in terms of maintaining peace and security and supporting interstate cooperation. More than half of respondents are also reported to be **interested in the upcoming European elections** (June 6-9, 2024) and would like to see **a greater role for the European Parliament, considering its focus on issues of poverty, social exclusion, public health, response to climate change and support for the economy** a priority.



Treaty revision: the future of the EU according to the European Parliament

On **22 November 2023**, at the outcome of the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), responding to citizens' expectations for a **more effective and democratic EU**, the European Parliament presented its [proposals for the purpose of revising the Treaties](#), calling for reforms covering all policy areas. The main initiatives include, in terms of the **division of competencies** between the EU and the member States, transferring the areas of public health, civil protection, industry and education to the area of shared competence; strengthening cooperation in the areas already under shared competence; and expanding the EU's competence in the area of the environment. In terms of the operation of the **legislative system**, calls are made for **greater use of qualified majority voting and the ordinary legislative procedure**, and for **the Parliament to be given full legislative initiative rights** and the role of co-legislator in relation to the long-term budget. Further reforms concern the **Commission**, which MEPs propose to rename the "European Executive," assuming that the appointment of its president would be entrusted to Parliament with the approval of the Council, that the president would be able to choose his or her commissioners according to political preferences, and that Parliament would be able to bring a motion of censure against individual commissioners. **The Council presented its proposals on the indicated topics to the European Council**, which, in conclusions from its last meeting held **December 14 and 15** in Brussels, pledged to deal with them at future meetings with the aim of adopting conclusions on a roadmap for future work by the summer of 2024.

CJEU: right to information and to personal interview in the procedure relating to the second asylum request

On **30 November 2023**, the Court of Justice of the EU, in its judgment on [joined cases C-228/21, C-254/21, C-297/21, C-315/21 and C-328/21](#), involving the Italian Ministry of the Interior in the first case as plaintiff and in the others as defendant, ruled that, **even in the context of procedures relating to the filing of a second asylum request in a different Member State, the applicant is entitled to receive the "common brochure" of information and to undergo the personal interview** in order to be able to demonstrate the existence of a **risk of indirect refoulement**. This risk, however, **need not be examined by the courts of the second member state called upon to decide on the challenge to the transfer to the first**, unless systemic deficiencies in the asylum procedure and reception conditions are apparent in the latter.



CJEU: ban on public employees wearing religious signs is not discriminatory if justified by a legitimate purpose

On **28 November 2023**, the Court of Justice of the EU, hearing the case of the Liège Labor Court, in the judgement in *OP v. Municipality of Ans* ([C-148/22](#)), ruled that **a P.A. may prohibit its employees from visibly wearing in the workplace any sign expressive of philosophical or religious beliefs**. Such a rule is **not discriminatory if it is justified by the pursuit of a legitimate aim**, such as to create a totally neutral administrative environment, in a consistent and systematic manner, by limiting the measures to achieve it to **what is strictly necessary** and targeting the rule to the entire staff. It is up to the **national courts to verify compliance with these criteria** and the suitability of the measures taken to ensure the proper balance between the purpose pursued through the ban and the guarantee of religious freedom.



OUR ACTIVITIES

Some reflections on judicial cooperation, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence: the implications for human rights

On 21 November 2023, a Jean Monnet Joint Seminar took place on the **EU digitalisation of judicial cooperation and use of AI**. This Seminar was part of the EUVALWEB Law Clinic, of the EU-DRAW Training Lecture Series, and of the DECDP didactic activities. Lawyers, Ph.D. Students, as well as young researchers and early-stage professionals, participated.



International Security and Sanctions Regime

On 24 November 2023, a seminar took place on the political and legal Issues of international sanctions, with special regard to EU restrictive measures. Keynote speaker: **Prof. Antonino Ali** (Associate of International Law, University of Trento). The Seminar was part of the EU-DRAW (Hybrid) Training Lecture Series “Democracy and the Rule of Law: EU Law Issues”.



Possible Roads of Peace for the War in Ukraine

On 11 December 2023, **Prof. Ugo Villani**, Emeritus of International Law, University ‘Aldo Moro’ of Bari, was a guest speaker for a *Lectio Magistralis* on the procedures that could be employed to reach the end of the war in Ukraine and to bring the parties to a comprehensive agreement concerning their opposing claims. The *Lectio* was introduced by **Prof. Angela Di Stasi** and **Prof. Francesco Buonomenna** (EU-DRAW Teaching Staff).



About: EU-DRAW is an EU-funded project aiming to promote didactic and study activities, knowledge, and research on the themes of European citizenship, the rights and duties connected to it, as well as on the common rights and values, and on effective actions to assure democracy and the rule of law within the EU, including the EU external action. EU-DRAW will run for 3 years (2022-2025).

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