

CONFERENCE

# BETWEEN NARRATIVES AND REALITY: THE EU AT THE GATES OF A NEW MANDATE

20 + 21 JUNE 2024



## PROGRAMME

Bouillonstraat 1, Maastricht  
Room: Statenzaal

# PROGRAMME

20 JUNE 2024

12.45 - 13.30 **Registration and welcome coffee**

13.30 - 15.00 **Opening ceremony**

## Institutional Greetings

- Rianne Letschert (President, Maastricht University)
- Jan Smits (Dean of the Faculty of Law, Maastricht University)
- Ellen Vos (Co-Director of the Maastricht Centre for European Law, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University)

## Keynote

- Speaker: Emily O'Reilly (European Ombudsman)
- Discussant: Ellen Vos (Maastricht University)

15.00 - 15.30 **Coffee break**

15.30 - 15.45 **Introduction to the conference**

Leticia Díez Sánchez and Fulvia Ristuccia (Maastricht University)

15.45 - 17.15 **Panel I - EU Institutional change: identifying failures and opportunities**

## Chair

Thu Nguyen (Jaques Delors Centre Berlin)

## Speakers

- **Fernanda Nicola (American University Washington College of Law)**  
*"The Political Economy of the Rule of Law: Beyond the ECJ Narrative of Judicial Independence in the Polish Saga"*
- **Alexander Schuster (European University Institute)**  
*"The Collective Securitization of EU Policies: Legal Consequences, Challenges and Solutions"*
- **Jock Gardiner (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa)**  
*"The Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament: A Vehicle for Informal Constitutional Change in the European Union"*

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17.15 - 17.45 Coffee break

17.45 - 19.15 Panel II - Environmental protection

## Chair

Thu Nguyen (Jaques Delors Centre Berlin)

## Speakers

- **Lucila de Almeida (Nova University and European University Institute)**  
*"Between Narratives, Realities, and Legal Fiction: Empowerment as the role of consumers, the technology neutrality principle, and the National Energy and Climate Plans"*
- **Marijn van der Sluis (Maastricht University)**  
*"Charting the Course: Evaluating the European Green Deal's Progress Towards Climate Goals"*
- **Zamira Xhaferri (University of Amsterdam)**  
*"Externalizing the European Green Deal: New approaches to 'green' the EU's Free Trade Agreements"*

19.15 Social drinks

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21 JUNE 2024

**9.00 - 10.30**      **Panel III - Borders and Membership**

**Chair**

Pauline Melin (Maastricht University)

**Speakers**

- **Martijn Pluim (European Institute of Public Administration)**  
*"The New Pact on Migration and Asylum – A true European response?"*
- **Lisa Senecal (Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon)**  
*"Border Multiplicity"*
- **Gamze Avci (University College Utrecht - Utrecht University)**  
*"EU Pre-accession Assistance for Turkey: Shifting Narratives, Geopolitics and a Contested Candidate"*

**10.30 - 11.00**      **Coffee break**

**11.00 - 12.30**      **Panel IV - Inequality and cohesion in the EU**

**Chair**

Zina Nimeh (UNU-MERIT and Maastricht University)

**Speakers**

- **Balasz Szechy (European Parliament)**  
*"The future of Cohesion Policy"*
- **Pascal McDougall (Sciences Po Law School and University of Ottawa)**  
*"Economic Crisis, The Right to Work, and Social Europe in 2024"*
- **Marco Bevilacqua (Luiss Guido Carli)**  
*"Under the Banner of the Renewed EU Fiscal Rules: EU Budget Control and Domestic Consistency"*

**12.30 - 13.00**      **Closing remarks**

Leticia Díez Sánchez and Fulvia Ristuccia (Maastricht University)