



WEB CONFERENCE

The EU in International Diplomatic Relations: Challenges and Opportunities

Kick-off Conference EUDIPLo Jean Monnet Network

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Friday 20 November 2020 | University of Pisa

Registration

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-GprzMjE9xTlwLY4LZKo-F5ypVghcAY>

Objectives of the conference

The main aim of the conference is to examine the internal and external constraints for the European Union (EU) to enhance its capacities as an international diplomatic actor. Although the Union delegations and the European External Action Service (EEAS) have celebrated their tenth anniversary, there are still a number of constraints for the EU in acting as a diplomatic actor and overcoming the barriers of the 'Westphalian' setup of international diplomatic relations.

These constraints may be due, on the one hand, to the current allocation of competences between the EU and its Member States in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and/or to the reluctance of the Member States to let the European Commission and the EEAS function as diplomatic actors. On the other hand, the EU's institutional set up may also hinder the way the EU works in the field of international relations. There may be frictions and competition between the Council, the Commission and the High Representative over which institution or organ takes the lead in acting in the field of international diplomacy. At the same time, members of the European Parliament

may carry out 'diplomatic activities' that run in parallel with that of the executive. At the same time, there are external constraints hampering the EU's ambitions. For example, given the '*sui generis*' nature of the EU, international law may pose limits to the organization when it seeks to exercise a diplomatic role in the international arena, in addition to those imposed by Member States. Furthermore, third States and international organizations may still display a certain unease toward dealing with the EU as a non-state body and may prefer to deal with individual Member States.

Despite these difficulties, it is possible to identify at least a couple of cases that demonstrate the ways in which the EU has successfully acted as a global and regional diplomatic actor, both in the bilateral and in the multilateral arenas. Apart from a critical appraisal the conference will assess the changes that affect the EU's activity in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy and examine means to strengthen the EU's diplomatic role.

Programme | Time table is in Central European Time (CET)

09:30 - 09:45 | Welcome and presentation of EUDIPL0

Prof. Dr. **Ramses Wessel**, Professor of European Law, University of Groningen, Coordinator of EUDIPL0

Prof. Dr. **Sara Poli**, Professor of European Law, University of Pisa

09:45 - 10:05 | Keynote address

Ms. **Federica Mogherini**, Rector of the College of Europe, former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

10:05 - 11:30 | Panel 1: Overcoming Constraints to EU Diplomatic Actorness

Moderator: Prof. Dr. **Ramses Wessel**

Internal constraints: the horizontal relations between EU institutions

Dr. **Elena Lazarou**, European Parliament Research Service

Internal constraints in vertical relations with EU Member States

Dr. **Sanderijn Duquet**, KU Leuven / Permanent Representation of Belgium to NATO

International law constraints

Prof. **Eileen Denza**, University College London

Questions and Debate

11:45 - 13:15 | Panel 2: The EU as a Global and Regional Diplomatic Actor

Moderator: Prof. Dr. **Sara Poli**, Professor of EU law, University of Pisa

The EU as a global diplomatic actor: the case of Iran

Dr. **Riccardo Alcaro**, Istituto d'Affari Internazionali

Potential and limitations of the EU as mediator in the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo

Prof. Dr. **Vladimir Medovic**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics and Engineering Management, Novi Sad

"What Role for the EU in the current Eastern Mediterranean crisis?"

Dr **Claudia Cinelli**, assistant Professor, Law Department, University of Pisa

Questions and Debate

Lunch Break

14:15 - 15:45 | Panel 3: The EU in Multilateral Diplomacy

Moderator: Prof. Dr. **Christine Kaddous**, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*, Director of the Geneva Centre d'études juridiques européennes (CEJE) and of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG programme), University of Geneva

Ambassador **Walter Stevens**, Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ambassador **João Aguiar Machado**, Head of the EU Mission to the World Trade Organization

Ambassador **Birgitte Markussen**, Head of the EU Delegation to the African Union

Ambassador **Igor Driesmans**, Head of the EU Mission to ASEAN

Questions and Debate

16:00 - 17:30 | Panel 4: The EU in Bilateral Diplomacy

Moderator: Prof. Dr. **Jan Wouters**, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* EU and Global Governance, Director of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven

Ambassador **Christian Berger**, Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt and Representative to the League of Arab States

Ambassador **David O'Sullivan**, Senior Counsellor, Steptoe & Johnson, Former Head of the EU Delegation to the United States

Ambassador **Bart Ouvry**, Head of the EU Delegation to Mali

Ambassador **Stella Zervoudaki**, Senior Inspector, European External Action Service, Former Head of the EU Delegations to Chile, Guatemala and Uruguay

Questions and Debate

Short bios of speakers

João Aguiar Machado is Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the European Union to the World Trade Organization in Geneva since October 2019. Before taking up his current position, Mr. Aguiar Machado was Director-General for Maritime Policy and Fisheries at the European Commission, Brussels, since 2015. From 2014 to August 2015, he served as Director-General of Mobility and Transport at the European Commission. He has 16 years of experience working on trade policy and external relations, where he served as Deputy Director-General at the Directorate-General for Trade at the European Commission. Mr Aguiar Machado is Portuguese; he studied economics both in Lisbon and at the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium.

Riccardo Alcaro is Research Coordinator and Head of the Global Actors Programme of the Istituto Affari Internazionali. His main area of expertise are transatlantic relations, with a special focus on US and European policies in Europe's surrounding regions. Riccardo has been a visiting fellow at the Center on the United States and Europe of the Brookings Institution in Washington and a fellow of the EU-wide programme European Foreign and Security Policy Studies (EFSPS). He holds a summa-cum-laude PhD from the University of Tübingen. He is the author of *Europe and Iran's Nuclear Crisis* (Palgrave Macmillan 2018) and editor of *The Liberal Order and its Contestations* (Routledge 2018) and *The West and the Global Power Shift* (Palgrave Macmillan 2016).

Christian Berger currently holds the position of Head of EU Delegation to Egypt (as of 1 September 2020). In previous positions he served in 1986 as operations officer with the Austrian UN-Peacekeeping Battalion on the Golan (UNDOF), from 1989 to 1994 worked with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza and Jerusalem; from 1994 to 1996 at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. In 1997 he joined the European institutions in Brussels. Until 1999 he worked at the Committee of the Regions, and as of 1999 with the European Commission (DG RELEX), where he was responsible for relations with Syria; from 2001 Political Advisor on Middle Eastern issues; from 2005 to 2006 EU-Representative to the Middle East Quartet Special Envoy (James Wolfensohn); from 2006 to 2008 Head of Crisis Response & Peace-building; from 2008 to 2011 EU Representative / Head of Delegation in Jerusalem; from 2011 to 2016 Director/Deputy Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the European External Action Service, and from 2016 to 2020 as Head of EU Delegation to Turkey. Christian Berger is Austrian citizen, is married with two children, and holds degrees in law from the Universities of Vienna and London.

Claudia Cinelli has received a Marie Curie Intra-European project on the 'European Union as a global actor in the Arctic Ocean', carried out at the Arctic University of Norway (Tromsø, NO). Currently, she is post-doctoral researcher at the Law Department, University of Pisa (IT). She has a substantial academic experience both in teaching and researching in the area of International and European Law and European Union External Action. She authored/edited 5 books and one special issue published by renowned international publishers. She wrote over 40 pieces published in Journals or in collective volumes.

Eileen Denza CMG was an Assistant Lecturer at Bristol University and after call to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn a Legal Adviser (later Legal Counsellor) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Counsel to the EC Committee of the House of Lords and then Visiting Professor at University College London. As an FCO Legal Adviser she worked on legislation and litigation on immunities of diplomats, consuls, international organizations and States, in particular the State Immunity

Act 1978. Relevant publications include Diplomatic Law (4th edn. 2016) and The Intergovernmental Pillars of the European Union (2002).

Igor Driesmans is the EU Ambassador to ASEAN. Previously, he was Member of Cabinet of Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission from 2015 to 2019. His responsibilities included Asia and Pacific, Cultural Diplomacy, Transport and Fisheries. He served previously as Principal Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service (2014), Desk Officer for ASEAN (2013-2014), and Deputy Head of the Political, Economic, Trade and Information Section of the EU Delegation to South Africa (2009-2013). Ambassador Igor Driesmans is an official of the EU since 2003. He holds a Masters in History, University of Gent (Belgium).

Sanderijn Duquet is a Belgian diplomat, currently serving as the diplomatic advisor in the private office of the State Secretary for Asylum and Migration. She has studied at Ghent University (Master of Laws, 2009) and at American University Washington College of Law (LL.M., 2010) and holds a PhD in international law from the University of Leuven (2018). Her doctoral research focused on the contribution of the European Union to international diplomatic and consular law. She has published on topics such as diplomatic and consular law, EU external relations, and international institutional law. Sanderijn is an associate research fellow of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies and the Institute for International Law, University of Leuven.

Christine Kaddous is full Professor at the University of Geneva, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* and Director of the Centre d'études juridiques européennes (CEJE). She is also Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG Programme), created by CEJE and GSI in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). She teaches EU law, EU Internal Market law and EU External Relations. Her research expertise is in the heart of the topic of the present project as she is a specialist in EU external relations law, in particular EU foreign and trade policy. She has been or is a visiting professor at the Montesquieu University in Bordeaux, Nice Sophia Antipolis, Paris II (Panthéon Assas) as well as the College of Europe (Bruges/Natolin). She studied law in Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and in Cambridge (LLM, Cantab) as well as in Brussels (MA in European Studies, ULB). She practiced as a lawyer for many years in the field of Commercial Law in Switzerland. She is President of the Swiss Society of International Law (Société Suisse de droit international, SSDI-SVIR) and Vice-President of the Association suisse pour le droit européen (ASDE). She has published widely on international and EU law, international dispute settlement, international trade, EU-WTO relations, EU-Switzerland bilateral agreements and free movement of persons and services. She is EUDIPO partner - University of Geneva.

Elena Lazarou is Acting Head of the External Policies Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), where her research focuses on security and defence, global governance, transatlantic relations and EU foreign policy. Prior to joining EPRS, she headed the Center for International Relations of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Brazil (2012-2014) and the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory of the Hellenic Center for European Studies (2009-2010). She received a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Cambridge in 2008. She has held research positions at the University of Cambridge, the University of Sheffield and the London School of Economics (LSE), as well as various visiting positions in think tanks and universities in Europe and the US. She has published edited volumes, articles and policy briefs in English, Portuguese and Greek. Dr. Lazarou is an Associate Fellow on the "US and Americas" programme at Chatham House.

Birgitte Markussen is the EU Ambassador to the African Union in Addis Ababa since September 2020. She is part of the senior management team responsible for diplomatic relations and strategic direction regarding EU policy with Africa. At the same time, she serves as EEAS Expert in the Board of Directors of the European Investment Bank. Since 2016 she has been working as Director and Deputy Managing Director Africa at the EEAS. Before that, she was Director for Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. She notably served as Danish Ambassador to Burkina Faso, Niger,

Chad and the Central African Republic, and as Deputy Head of Mission in Uganda, accredited to Burundi and Rwanda. In addition, she has been working in the field of environment, energy and climate change in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. Before joining the Ministry in 2000 she held various positions in private companies.

Federica Mogherini is the Rector of the College of Europe since September 2020. She co-chairs the United Nations High Level Panel on Internal Displacement since January 2020. Previously she has served as the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, from 2014 to 2019. Prior to joining the EU, she was Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2014), and a Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (2008-14). In her parliamentary capacity, she was Head of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Vice-President of its Political Committee (2013-14); member of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2008-13); Secretary of the Defence Committee (2008-13); and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. She also coordinated the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Development Cooperation. Federica Mogherini is a Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group, Fellow of the German Marshall Fund, member of the Group of Eminent Persons of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, member of the European Leadership Network for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, and member of the Board of Directors of the Italian Institute for Foreign Affairs (IAI). She has a degree in Political Science from the University of Rome "La Sapienza". She was born in Rome in 1973, lives in Belgium and has two daughters.

Vladimir Medović graduated at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad in 1988. Attorney at law from 1995 to 2010. President of the Commission of the EU law of the Vojvodina Bar Association from 2004 to 2010. Doctoral thesis International treaties as a source of the EU law defended at the Faculty of Law, Novi Sad, in 2006. Since October 2010 professor of the EU Law at the Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary, University Business Academy Novi Sad. Member of the Team Europe founded by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia and EU Info Centre. Team leader of the Jean Monnet Modules: Accession of Serbia to the European union 2015-2018 and Application of EU Values in the Policies of the candidate States 2020-2023. Member of the Roster of experts of the Energy Community Secretariat.

David O'Sullivan served as Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to the United States from November 2014 until February 2019. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador, he was the Chief Operating Officer of the EU's new diplomatic service, the 'European External Action Service'. He had previously held a number senior positions within the European Commission include Director General for Trade (2005- 2010); Secretary General of the European Commission (2000-2005); and Chief of Staff to Commission President Romano Prodi (1999-2000). Before joining the Commission, he started his career with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1977-1979). He is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and the College of Europe (Bruges), and holds Honorary Doctorates from the Dublin Institute of Technology and Trinity College Dublin. He was awarded the EU Transatlantic Business Award by the American Chamber of Commerce in 2014. In November 2019, he joined the Brussels office of the law firm of Steptoe and Johnson LLP as a Senior Counsellor.

Bart Ouvry has been a Belgian diplomat since 1986. He had bilateral postings in Kuwait and Paris and extensive multilateral experience in Permanent Representations of Belgium in Vienna (IAEA), Brussels (EU) Geneva (UN) and Nairobi (UNEP, UN Habitat). He has also been Deputy Director for European Integration, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and human rights and democracy Director. He became Ambassador of Belgium in Nairobi in 2011. He has joined the EEAS in 2016 to become EU Ambassador in Kinshasa. As of September 2019, he is European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Mali in Bamako.

Sara Poli is Full Professor of European law at the University of Pisa (Italy) where she teaches EU law and EU external relations; she is part of the board of the PhD programme in law. In 2013 she was awarded a Jean Monnet Chair which

focused on the European neighbourhood Policy. Previously, she has worked at the European University Institute (Fiesole) as Marie Curie Fellow where she did research on the external dimension of the area of freedom, security and justice. She has been Robert Schuman Fellow at the same institution in 2002-2003. Sara has been assistant professor at the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' and teaching and research fellow at the University of Trieste. She has been lecturer of European Law at the University of Southampton and teaching assistant of the College of Europe (law department) in Bruges (1999-2001). She obtained her Master of legal studies degree at the College of Europe, and her PhD from the Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari and perfezionamento S. Anna (Pisa) where she also did her undergraduate studies. She has carried out various European projects funded by the Jean Monnet action and has received a number of grants, including the Fulbright-Schuman and DAAD fellowships. Recently, she has worked as expert of the Commission to review research projects. Sara has published in leading EU law journals in several areas of EU law, in particular in the field of EU external relations. Her most recent book is on the EU restrictive measures; she has also published on the external dimension of migration law and on the European neighbourhood policy. Currently, she is working on the role of the European Union as a diplomatic actor in the Eastern Mediterranean crisis. She is EUDIPLO partner - University of Pisa.

Walter Stevens took up his function as Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva on 1 September 2018. Previously, he served as Chair of the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) at the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels since July 2013. Prior to this, he was Director of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate at the EEAS. As a Belgian career diplomat, Ambassador Stevens served as Permanent Representative of Belgium to the EU PSC, as Chief of Staff of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, as well as the Minister of Development Cooperation. He was also previously a Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Belgium and served as a diplomat in the Belgian embassies to the United States, Saudi-Arabia, Nigeria and in the Belgian Representation to the United Nations in Geneva. Ambassador Stevens holds a Master degree in Political and Social Sciences of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. He is fluent in English, French, German and Dutch.

Ramses A. Wessel is Professor of European Law and Head of the Department of European and Economic Law at the University of Groningen. His research expertise is in EU external relations law, EU foreign and security policy, EU trade law and international organizations. He published widely on issues of European and international institutional law and participates in a number of international projects of the (legal) role of the European Union as a global actor. Ramses Wessel is Vice-President of the European Society of International Law (ESIL), and Member of the Governing Board of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) in The Hague. He is Editor of *European Papers* and of *Nijhoff Studies in European Law*; Member of the Editorial Board of *SEW Tijdschrift voor Europees en economisch recht* and of *Europe and the World: A Law Review*; Editor-in-Chief and founder of the *International Organizations Law Review*; Editor-in-Chief of the *Netherlands Yearbook of International Law*, of *European Foreign Affairs Review*, and of *ESIL Reflections*. He is Coordinator of EUDIPLO.

Jan Wouters is Full Professor of International Law and International Organizations, Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam* European Union and Global Governance, Director of the Institute for International Law and of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (both a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and a University Centre of Excellence) at KU Leuven, and President of the University's International Policy Council. He is Adjunct Professor at Columbia University (New York) and Visiting Professor at Sciences Po (Paris), LUISS (Rome) and the College of Europe (Bruges). A Member of the Belgian Royal Academy and *Of Counsel* at Linklaters, Brussels, he has published widely on international and EU law, international organizations and global governance, and corporate and financial law, including 75 books, 150 journal articles and 240 chapters in international books. He is Coordinator of a large Horizon 2020 Project, RECONNECT (Reconnecting Europe with its Citizens through Democracy and Rule of Law). He advises and trains regularly international organizations and governments, and is often asked to comment international events in the media. In 2020-21 he is Visiting Professor at Université Paris2 Panthéon-Assas (Paris), Queen Mary University (London), and the World Trade Institute (Bern). He is EUDIPLO partner – Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven.

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, **Stella Zervoudaki** began her career in 1981 and has held various positions in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European External Action Service. She has served three times as Ambassador of the European Union: recently in Chile, and previously in Guatemala and in Uruguay where she was also responsible for Paraguay and the cooperation with Mercosur. She has also served as Head of the Diplomatic Training of the European External Action Service, as Head of Press and Public Affairs in the EU Delegation in Washington DC, as Head of Unit in the Commission in the Directorate General of Agriculture and as Head of Sector in the Directorate General of Regional Affairs. Currently she is serving as Senior Inspector in the Inspection Service of the EEAS.

Stella Zervoudaki has masters degrees in philosophy, linguistics and international relations, as well as postgraduate studies in economics and social studies. She has participated in high-level seminars, including in John Hopkins University, London School of Economics, Oxford University and the European College of Security and Defence with a special focus on mediation, conflict prevention and transformation, international negotiations and security sector reform. She has participated in the work of the advisory board of the network of European universities specialized in humanitarian affairs (NOHA) and has been a guest speaker at prestigious study centres and universities in Belgium, Uruguay, Chile and the USA. Stella Zervoudaki is a modern art lover and mother of four children. Her languages are Spanish, Greek, French, German and English.

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