

**Foreign Perspectives on European Identity**  
**29 - 30 November 2021**  
**via ZOOM**  
[Registration](#)

**ABSTRACT**

Internal disputes over the adherence to common values and global challenges demanding unified EU positions, have re-ignited debates over questions of shared identity and the EU's evolving capacity to act on the global stage, credibly, and in unison.

Moving beyond the traditional scope of a mostly intra-European discourse, this format seeks to integrate foreign perspectives from around the world, to approach answers to the fundamental question of what unites - rather than divides - Europeans, the EU and its member states.

To what extent can the European Union be considered a state-like actor? How do perceptions of the EU's cultural, political, and legal identity influence its legitimacy and room for maneuver? And has the EU recently lost credibility as a global standard-bearer for value-based policy in the world?

**PROGRAMME**

*Monday, 29 November 2021*

**13:30 CET: Opening remarks** (Prof. Markus **Kotzur**, Eva **Leptien**, University of Hamburg)

**Topic 1: The EU as an international actor: Classifying statehood and justifying state behavior**

13:45 – 15:30 CET

The Lisbon Treaty of 2009 introduced a new institutional set-up for the European Union: besides increasing the European Parliament's legislative powers, the added provisions regarding the EU's role on the international level were also substantial. The EU was granted full legal personality, enabling it to conclude international agreements and join international organizations. But have these changes significantly enhanced the "statehood" of the EU, and to what extent has the EU's capacity to "speak with one voice" in foreign affairs been strengthened? In which contexts is the EU still unable to act as if it were a state – and how does this affect relations with international partners? Can the EU be considered a state-like actor - politically, culturally, and legally, and to what degree is it perceived as such by the world community?

**Keynote speakers:**

- Prof. Henk **Botha**, Departmental Chair and Professor, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University
- Prof. **Liu** Lirong, Associate Professor of European Studies, Fudan University
- Prof. Chin-peng **Chu**, Vice President, Jean Monnet Chair Professor, Department of Public Administration, National Dong Hwa University

**Moderator:** Eva **Leptien**, Partnership management, International Affairs Department, University of Hamburg

## Topic 2: Perspectives on cultural, political and legal identity. One Europe and many Europeans?

16:00 – 17:30 CET

*United in diversity* – the European Union's motto, first coming into use in 2000, can be viewed as an attempt to acknowledge the variety of its many different cultures, traditions and languages, while simultaneously conveying a common purpose and sense of belonging. Self-attributed symbols such as the EU's motto do not automatically translate to its citizenry and therefore may ring hollow. The EU often invokes common values and history as shared ground. But to what extent does a joint cultural heritage actually exist, and are EU member states perceived as having such joint heritage? Is the EU observed as a mostly united entity, or a rather loose structure composed of individual nation states? And how do foreign perceptions of the EU's cultural, political, and legal identity influence its legitimacy and room for manoeuvre as an international actor?

### Keynote speakers:

- Prof. J.H.H. **Weiler**, Joseph Straus Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law & Justice, New York University
- Prof. Eli M. **Salzberger**, Faculty of Law, University of Haifa

**Moderator:** Prof. Markus **Kotzur**, Chair for Public Law, European and International Public Law at University of Hamburg, President of Europa-Kolleg Hamburg

*To round off the conference day and to enable further exchange on the content discussed, participants and speakers are afterwards invited to a virtual networking session via the digital platform WonderMe. Access data will be provided during the conference.*

Tuesday, 30 November 2021

## Topic 3: Losing leadership? Perceptions of the EU with regards to environmental and climate policy and the enforcement of human rights

13:30 – 15:30 CET

Setting high standards in the fields of human rights and fundamental values as well as policy areas such as environmental and climate protection, the European Union self-ascribes a role model function for the rest of the world. While rule of law and democracy are conditions for EU accession as part of the Copenhagen criteria, the European Union's capacity to guarantee compliance with rule of law principles within its family of member states currently appears to be limited. Critics claim the proposed measures of the European Green Deal do not go far enough to achieve the necessary climate targets. Has the EU thus lost credibility as a global standard-bearer of value-based policy, particularly with regards to countering climate change and the enforcement of fundamental rights? Or did such leadership never exist in the first place?

### Keynote speakers:

- Prof. Ingo **Sarlet**, Professor Titular (Chair Professor), Law School, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul
- Prof. R. Daniel **Kelemen**, Professor of Political Science and Law, Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Politics, Rutgers University

**Moderator:** Manuela **Niehaus**, Research Fellow, University of Hamburg



**Topic 4: Looking in, looking out and looking further**

16:00 – 17:45 CET

The European Commission under Ursula von der Leyen's presidency has set itself the goal to reinforce the European Union's global leadership. In this context, particular potential is ascribed to the economic strength of the European Union: a fair and open trade agenda is the Commission's means of choice to globally enforce high climate, environmental and labour protection standards. Deliverables set out in the Commission's recently adopted 2022 Work Programme range from strengthening connectivity partnerships with global partners under the new Global Gateway strategy to intensifying efforts towards a genuine European Defence Union. How do global partners evaluate these goals, and do they deem their achievement realistic? Will their partnerships with the EU mainly be characterised by trade relations, or how do other policy areas fit into the picture? And could the EU serve as a model for the development of other regional and inter-regional arrangements?

**Keynote speakers:**

- Prof. Alberto **van Klaveren Stork**, Professor Titular, Director of the Academic Unit of International Legal and Economic Relations, Universidad de Chile
- Dr. Anne **Dienelt**, Senior Fellow and Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Hamburg

**Moderator:** Dr. Holger **Niemann**, Advisor to the Director, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg

17:45 CET: Closing remarks (Prof. Markus **Kotzur**, University of Hamburg)

Please register [via this link](#). The conference language is English.

