



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin



Danish Agency for Universities  
and Internationalisation  
Ministry of Science, Innovation  
and Higher Education


HIGH-LEVEL  
CONFERENCE

The College of Europe, Department of European Legal Studies, in collaboration with the SAXO Institute of the University of Copenhagen, invites you to a high-level international conference exploring history of European law.

# Towards a New History of European Law

In contemporary Europe, the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) functions as a uniquely authoritative international court. Its key doctrines - direct effect and supremacy - ensure a relatively effective enforcement of European legislation compared to standard international organisations. Likewise, the system of preliminary references sent from national courts to the ECJ has given voice to private litigants across Europe to pursue the rights given to them by the European treaties and legislation. In fact, the ECJ has today become so central in the EU that sympathetic academic observers claim that it has become a European Supreme Court of sorts and that it has built a constitutional, proto-federal legal order. How did this happen? How could a set of international treaties, the Treaties of Rome (1957) albeit of a somewhat unusual nature, lead to the establishment of a 'constitutional practise'? What effects did the 'constitutional practise' have on the nature of the European legal order in terms of enforcement and efficiency? And to what extent did national governments and legal elites in the member states accept this development?

Whereas legal and social science research has studied the ECJ and the development of European law for decades, the historiography of European integration has until recently ignored the role of law in the European construction. This conference, jointly organised by the College of Europe, Department of European Legal Studies, and the Saxo Institute of the University of Copenhagen, will address this lacuna by presenting the results of the first large international research project – Towards a New History of European Public Law (<http://europeanlaw.saxo.ku.dk>) - on the history of European law from 1950 to 1993. The aim of the conference is not only to evaluate the results in an interdisciplinary light, but also challenge them with the help and insights and memories of the former insiders.

 **12 June 2015**

 College of Europe, Bruges campus  
**Verversdijk Building A**

 9:00

# PROGRAMME OUTLINE



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe



Natolin



Danish Agency for Universities  
and Internationalisation  
Ministry of Science, Innovation  
and Higher Education

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome  
**Jörg Monar**, Rector, College of Europe
- 9:40 Rewriting the History of European Law:  
Introducing the Project  
**Morten Rasmussen**, University of Copenhagen

## SESSION 1

### HISTORY OF EUROPEAN LAW 1950-1993: ACTORS AND POLICIES

**Chair:** Inge Govaere, University of Ghent and College of Europe

- 9:50 The Court of Justice of the European Union  
**Vera Fritz**, Université d'Aix-Marseille
- 10:05 Legal Service of the Commission  
**Sigfrido Manuel Ramírez Pérez**, University of Copenhagen
- 10:20 European Parliament  
**Ann-Christina Knudsen**, Aarhus University
- 10:35 Comments & Reflections  
**Christiaan Timmermans**, Erasmus University Rotterdam  
**Claus-Dieter Ehlermann**, WilmerHale  
**Jean-Paul Jacqué**, College of Europe

Discussion

- 11:20 Coffee Break

## SESSION 2

### HISTORY OF EUROPEAN LAW 1950-1993: ACTORS AND POLICIES

**Chair:** Jacques Bourgeois, WilmerHale & College of Europe

- 11:45 European Law Academia and the Constitutional Practice  
**Rebekka Byberg**, University of Copenhagen
- 12:00 Towards a Legal Framework of the Common Market  
**Brigitte Leucht**, University of Copenhagen
- 12:15 The Battle over Direct Effect, 1962-1986  
**Morten Rasmussen**, University of Copenhagen
- 12:30 Comments & Reflections  
**Paul Demaret**, formerly Rector, College of Europe  
**Alfonso Mattera Ricigliano**, College of Europe  
**Laurence Gormley**, University of Groningen & College of Europe

Discussion

- 13:15 Lunch

## SESSION 3

### HISTORY OF EUROPEAN LAW 1950-1993: MEMBER STATES' RECEPTION

**Chair:** Jean-Victor Louis, Université libre de Bruxelles

- 14:15 France  
**Alexandre Bernier**, University of Copenhagen
- 14:30 Netherlands  
**Karin van Leeuwen**, University of Amsterdam
- 14:45 Belgium  
**Anne Boerger**, University of Alberta and  
**Morten Rasmussen**, University of Copenhagen
- 15:00 Denmark  
**Jonas Pedersen**, Aarhus University
- 15:15 United Kingdom  
**Bill Davies**, American University, Washington DC
- 15:30 Comments & Reflections  
**Jacques Ziller**, University of Pavia  
**Piet Jan Slot**, University of Leiden  
**Paul Craig**, University of Oxford

Discussion

- 16:15 Coffee Break

## SESSION 4

### INTERPRETING HISTORY OF EUROPEAN LAW: THE BIG PICTURE

**Chair:** Michal Bobek, College of Europe

- 16:45 Towards an Interpretation of Actors and their Policies  
**Morten Rasmussen**, University of Copenhagen
- 16:55 Towards an Interpretation of Member States' Reception  
**Bill Davies**, American University, Washington DC

Discussion

- 17:20 Closing Address  
**Sir Francis Jacobs**, former president of the European Law Institute, formerly Advocate General at the Court of Justice