

# JEAN MONNET CHAIR “EU INSTITUTIONS, RIGHTS AND JUDICIAL INTEGRATION”



## THE JEAN MONNET CHAIR

The Jean Monnet Chair “EU Institutions, Rights and Judicial Integration” was awarded to Associate Professor Alexandros Tsadiras and the Open University of Cyprus after a rigorous peer review of a proposal to the European Commission. Dr Tsadiras will hold the Chair at the Open University of Cyprus until 2025.

Jean Monnet Chairs are three-year teaching and research posts with a specialisation in European Union studies for university professors. Following a global, very competitive selection process, the European Commission awards the Chair to qualified professors who focus their teaching and research on topics relevant to European integration.

The Jean Monnet Chair “EU institutions, Rights and Judicial integration” that will be hosted at the Open University of Cyprus has the following objectives: a) generate and enhance knowledge and insights that can support EU policy-making and strengthen the role of the EU in a globalised world, b) foster dialogue between the academic world and society, including local and state level policy-makers, civil servants, civil society actors, and c) spread knowledge about EU subjects to wider society.

The Chair aspires to: introduce new courses on European Union Law and enhance the profile of the existing syllabus; conduct high level research on crucial issues of European Integration; organize international events with the aim of facilitating the flow of knowledge and engage different stakeholders in policy dialogue; implement a fervent dissemination strategy in order to spread the European ideal and the core values of the European identity.

**EU Law Digest  
HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT THE  
UNION WE LIVE IN**

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# OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

As the second public University, established in 2002, the Open University Cyprus (OUC) aims to fill an important gap in the Cypriot higher education system, offering accredited distance learning degrees at all levels (undergraduate, master and doctoral). Building on its origins as the country's only University dedicated to distance education, OUC is growing quickly in academic stature and overall reputation. Today's challenging realities have widened OUC's horizons, helping to bring Cyprus near towards its strategic goal: to be established as a regional educational and research center and hub for international scholars and students alike in the Eastern Mediterranean basin.

In OUC, constraints such as time, local limitations, age, occupational status, or family responsibilities, are lessened and cease to function as inhibitory towards the creation of an appropriate learning environment. All the study programmes offered by the Open University of Cyprus are based on modern educational systems, new technological advancements, and refined ground for the interested participants, at all levels (undergraduate, postgraduate, and training in the context of lifelong learning). OUC is equivalent to any other recognized university in the world, regardless of its educational methodology (conventional or distance learning).

The Open University of Cyprus is dually oriented toward both the domestic and international educational communities and their activities and goals. The academic programmes offered by OUC are international, well planned and career-oriented to correspond to the country's needs and meet the demands of its students by upgrading knowledge and expertise, according to their aspirations and ambitions. OUC is proud to be a University that is entirely synchronized with the European Credit Transfer System ECTS, and that enhances the mobility of its students and the inter-relationship with other conventional universities.

Furthermore, along with its educational role, the OUC also focuses on the development of research and the enhancement of research programs; through its publications on innovative results which have an impact on relevant scientific areas. Since its establishment, OUC has emphasized the vital importance of research for promoting the University in the international scientific community, while also actively pursuing interaction with scientific organizations and professional associations.

Finally, through its social activities and commitment to connect with society, OUC envisions its role as an inspiring educational institution. An innovative, open university that offers a stimulating environment for students, staff and alumni noted for promoting culture and collaboration with its neighboring countries - and beyond.

<https://www.ouc.ac.cy>



## THE CHAIRHOLDER

The holder of the Jean Monnet Chair, Dr Alexandros Tsadiras, is Associate Professor of European Union Administrative Law and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management at the Open University of Cyprus. He holds a doctorate in Administrative Law of the European Union from the University of Oxford, a Masters Degree in European Union Law from the University of Edinburgh and a law degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He is a member of international scientific associations, such as the Research Network on EU Administrative Law, the European Law Institute, the International Ombudsman Institute and the European Criminal Law Academic Network. His research interests include the concept of good administration, the European Ombudsman, extrajudicial protection at Union level and the improvement of European Union administrative services.



**Directive (EU) 2022/2041 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union**

This Directive establishes a framework for adequacy of statutory minimum wages with the aim of achieving decent living and working condition, for promoting collective bargaining on wage-setting, and for enhancing access of workers to rights to minimum wage protection where provided for in national law and/or collective agreements.

With a view to improving living and working conditions in the Union, in particular the adequacy of minimum wages for workers in order to contribute to upward social convergence and reduce wage inequality, this Directive establishes a framework for: (a) adequacy of statutory minimum wages with the aim of achieving decent living and working conditions; (b) promoting collective bargaining on wage-setting; (c) enhancing effective access of workers to rights to minimum wage protection where provided for in national law and/or collective agreements.

This Directive applies to workers in the Union who have an employment contract or employment relationship as defined by law, collective agreements or practice in force in each Member State, with consideration to the case-law of the Court of Justice.

**Directive (EU) 2022/2381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on improving the gender balance among directors of listed companies and related measures (Text with EEA relevance)**

This Directive aims to achieve a more balanced representation of women and men among the directors of listed companies by establishing measures that aim to accelerate progress towards gender balance, while allowing listed companies sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements for that purpose. This Directive applies to listed companies. This Directive does not apply to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Directive incorporates among its principles equality of treatment and opportunities between women and men, including participation in the labour market, terms and conditions of employment and career progression.

**Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control**

The regulation: seeks to ensure better consumer protection in relation to the content and marketing of: foods for infants, young children and special medical purposes, total diet replacement for weight control, seeks to provide greater legal certainty for businesses operating in the sector and for national authorities applying the rules, replaces a plethora of rules that had built up over 3 decades and become both complex and fragmented. The Regulation strengthens rules on foods for vulnerable population groups that need particular protection, such as infants and children up to 3 years old, overweight or obese people and people with specific medical conditions (e.g. people with metabolism disorders). The regulation's annex contains a single list of substances (including minerals and vitamins) that can be added to these foods, replacing the 3 lists that existed under the previous legislation. The regulation also vests the European Commission with the responsibility of adopting, by means of delegated acts, specific compositional and labelling rules for the following categories of foods: infant and follow-on formulae; processed cereal-based foods and other baby foods; foods for special medical purposes; and total diet replacement for weight control.

**Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services**

The single digital gateway will facilitate online access to the information, key administrative procedures and assistance and problem-solving services that people and businesses may wish to contact if they encounter problems when exercising their internal market rights while living in or doing business in a European Union (EU) Member State. The single digital gateway will guide people and companies to information on national and EU rules, rights and procedures, and also to the websites where they can carry out these procedures online. Users looking for help will be guided towards assistance and problem-solving services.

### **Judgment of the Court in Case C-460/20 | Google**

Right to erasure ('right to be forgotten'): the operator of a search engine must dereference information found in the referenced content where the person requesting dereferencing proves that such information is manifestly inaccurate. Such proof need not however result from a judicial decision made against the publisher of the website.

The right to protection of personal data is not an absolute right but must be considered in relation to its function in society and be balanced against other fundamental rights, in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Accordingly, the general data protection regulation expressly provides that the right to erasure is excluded where processing is necessary for the exercise of the right, in particular, of information. The data subject's rights to protection of private life and protection of personal data override, as a general rule, the legitimate interest of internet users who may be interested in accessing the information in question. That balance may, however, depend on the relevant circumstances of each case, in particular on the nature of that information and its sensitivity for the data subject's private life and on the interest of the public in having that information, an interest which may vary, in particular, according to the role played by that person in public life.

However, the right to freedom of expression and information cannot be taken into account where, at the very least, a part – which is not of minor importance – of the information found in the referenced content proves to be inaccurate.

### **Judgment of the Court in Case C-435/22 PPU | Generalstaatsanwaltschaft München (Extradition and ne bis in idem)**

The authorities of a Member State are not to extradite a third-country national to another third country where that national has been convicted by final judgment in another Member State for the same acts as those referred to in the extradition request and has been subject to the sentence imposed in that State. This solution, which follows from EU law, cannot be called into question by the fact that a bilateral extradition treaty concluded by the requested Member State limits the scope of the principle ne bis in idem to judgments handed down in the requested State.

The Court replies that the principle ne bis in idem, as enshrined in the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement and the Charter, precludes the extradition, by the authorities of a Member State, of a third-country national to another third country, where that national has been convicted by final judgment in another Member State for the same acts as those referred to in the extradition request and has been subject to the sentence imposed in that State. The fact that the extradition request is based on a bilateral extradition treaty limiting the scope of the principle ne bis in idem to judgments handed down the requested Member State does not alter that result.

The Court states that the principle ne bis in idem laid down by the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement applies, in the Schengen area, also to third-country nationals, and regardless of whether or not their stay was lawful. Any other solution would call into question, in relations between the Member States, the very basis of the area of freedom, security and justice as an area without internal borders and would disregard the principles of mutual trust and mutual recognition of judicial decisions in criminal matters on which the principle ne bis in idem enshrined in that convention is based.

### **Judgment of the Court in Case C-69/21 | Staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid (Removal – Medicinal cannabis)**

A third country national who is suffering from a serious illness may not be removed if, in the absence of appropriate medical treatment in the receiving country, that national risks being exposed to a real risk of a rapid, significant and permanent increase in the pain linked to that illness.

### **Judgment of the Court in Case C-237/21 | Generalstaatsanwaltschaft München (Request for extradition to Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

Extradition of a Union citizen to a third State in order for him to serve a sentence in that State may be justified to prevent the risk of impunity.

**Source:** [https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2\\_7052/en/?annee=2022](https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_7052/en/?annee=2022)

## Euro and Schengen: Croatia joins the Euro and Schengen areas

On 1 January 2023 Croatia will adopt the euro as its currency and will fully join the Schengen area. This marks an important milestone in the history of Croatia, of the euro and Schengen areas and of the EU as a whole. It follows a period of intensive preparation and substantial efforts by Croatia to meet all the necessary requirements.

The Commission has fully supported Croatia in the process of joining the euro and Schengen areas. With Croatia, 20 EU Member States and 347 million EU citizens will share the EU's common currency. As for Schengen, this is the eighth enlargement and the first after 11 years.

The euro will deliver practical benefits to Croatian citizens and businesses. It will make travelling and living abroad easier, boost the transparency and competitiveness of markets, and facilitate trade. Euro notes and coins will also become a tangible symbol for all Croatians of the freedom, convenience and opportunity that the EU makes possible. Public support for the euro in the euro area remains very strong, with broad majorities of EU citizens believing the euro is a good thing for the EU as a whole and for their own country.

The Schengen area allows 420 million people to travel freely between member countries without going through border controls. It allows to develop a common, shared responsibility for controlling the external borders of the Union and the responsibility to issue common Schengen visas. Above numbers, for more than 35 years now Schengen has been an area of values, freedom, security and justice. Especially in the current geopolitical and economic context, the Schengen area is instrumental to stability, resilience and recovery.

### Introducing euro cash

From Sunday, 1 January 2023, the euro will gradually replace the kuna as the currency of Croatia. In line with a consistent record of exchange-rate stability, the kuna will be exchanged at a conversion rate of 1 euro for 7.53450 Croatian kuna. The two currencies will be used alongside each other for a period of two weeks. When receiving a payment in kuna, the change will be given in euro. This will allow for a progressive withdrawal of the kuna from circulation.

The dual display of prices in kuna and euro became compulsory on 5 September 2022 and will apply until 31 December 2023. In order to protect consumers and address their concerns about unjustified price increases in the changeover period, a Business Code of Ethics has been introduced to ensure stability of prices for goods and services by helping businesses to correctly recalculate and display prices. Businesses who sign up to the initiative can display its logo to reassure customers, and will lose this right if found to be in breach of the Code. The Code of Ethics is enforced by the State Inspectorate, which will also monitor the prices of frequently-purchased products and services during the changeover.

Commercial banks have received euro banknotes and coins in advance from the Croatian National Bank and have in turn supplied euro cash to shops and other businesses. Kuna banknotes and coins can be exchanged for euro banknotes and coins at the Financial Agency and post offices until 31 December 2023. The exchange is free of charge. The exchange of kuna banknotes and coins at commercial banks is also possible until 31 December 2023. It is free of charge for all exchanges done before 1 July 2023 up to a limit of 100 kuna banknotes and 100 kuna coins. For changes as of 1 July 2023, commercial banks can charge a fee. Croatia's national central bank will exchange kuna banknotes without a time limit, and kuna coins until 31 December 2025. This service is free of charge.

70% of automatic teller machines (ATMs) in Croatia will distribute euro banknotes already on 1 January 2023, and the rest will follow as soon as possible thereafter (within two weeks). To facilitate the process, commercial banks will publish online information on which ATMs distribute euro.

### Schengen area

The Schengen area is one of the main achievements of the European project. It started in 1985 as an intergovernmental project between five EU countries – France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg – and has gradually expanded to become the largest free travel area in the world.

An enlarged Schengen area without internal border controls will make Europe safer, through reinforced protection of our common external borders and effective police cooperation; more prosperous, by eliminating time lost at borders and facilitating people and business contacts; and more attractive, by significantly expanding the world's largest common area without internal border controls.

Since its accession to the EU in 2013, Croatia has applied parts of the Schengen acquis, including those related to the external border controls, police cooperation and the use of the Schengen Information System.

The remaining parts of the Schengen acquis, which include the lifting of controls at internal borders and related measures, will become applicable as of 1 January 2023: checks at internal land and sea borders between Croatia and the other countries in the Schengen area will be lifted. Checks at internal air borders will be lifted from 26 March 2023, given the need for this to coincide with the dates of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) summer/winter time schedule.

In line with the Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Regulation, Croatia will be evaluated within one year from the date of the full application of the Schengen acquis. This Regulation was recently reformed to strengthen the evaluation of the respect for fundamental rights under the Schengen acquis.

### Background

In its 2022 Convergence Report, the Commission concluded that Croatia met the criteria for adopting the euro. This assessment was supported by the European Central Bank's own Convergence Report. In July 2022, EU Finance Ministers took the formal decision that opened the way for Croatia's adoption of the euro.

The Croatian authorities have undertaken extensive preparations for the country's entry into the euro area by implementing their national changeover plan, providing all the details for the organisation of the introduction of the euro and the withdrawal of the kuna.

The core principle of Croatia's national changeover plan is consumer protection. Mechanisms for building a safe environment for consumers have been thoroughly planned under four pillars: the Code of Ethics, the price monitoring of goods and services, the supervision of traders and service providers, and the dual display of prices.

Many retailers, public companies and service providers have signed up to the Code of Ethics launched by the authorities to ensure that the conversion of prices to euro is done fairly and without abusive price increases. The dual display of prices became compulsory on 5 September. It will end 12 months after the date of the introduction of the euro (31 December 2023). The prices of 103 predefined frequently purchased products and services are being monitored during the changeover.

The "Euro Law" provides the Code of Ethics with the necessary regulatory framework. It designates the State Inspectorate as the main body for price monitoring and control and includes provisions on the correct dual display of prices, the respect of the rounding rules, and the correct application of the conversion rate. In case of infringement of the provisions of the "Euro Law", the State Inspectorate can first issue orders to the traders or economic operators to address the non-compliance; the next step will be to impose penalties. In parallel and if necessary, consumer associations will publish "blacklists" of business entities that violate the principles of the Code of Ethics.

The preparations for the changeover have been complemented by a comprehensive communication campaign by the Croatian authorities. The Commission and the European Central Bank have contributed to these efforts.

Regarding the Schengen accession, already in December 2021 the Council confirmed that Croatia had fulfilled the conditions to join the Schengen area. The evaluation process took place from 2016 to 2020. It included a successful targeted verification visit in 2020 to verify the implementation of actions in external border management. This came after the Commission confirmed that Croatia successfully completed the Schengen evaluation process in 2019.

Source: [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-area\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-area_en)



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