

## **The Rule of Law Under Threat: Eroding Institutions in the Member States and European Remedies**

(as of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

Universität Erfurt  
Jean Monnet Chair  
20-21 October 2022

Senatssaal, building MG1  
Nordhäuser Straße 63  
99089 Erfurt

In recent years, the rule of law has plunged into a crisis by developments in different EU member states at the legislative, the executive, and the judicial level. The conference aims to examine the constitutional bases and common traditions of the rule of law. Building on that, it will look into worrying developments such as the systematic backsliding of the rule of law in the so-called “illiberal constitutionalism” as well as political influence on the recruitment and election of judges and threats to judicial independence. The conference will also deal with potential remedies that especially the EU has at hands, both as regards legal and political instruments.

### **Thursday, 20 October 2022**

- 12.00 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**
- 13.00 **Welcome Address and Introduction**  
Prof. Dr. Herm.-Josef Blanke  
*University of Erfurt*
- 13.15 **The Rule of Law as a Fundamental Value of the Council of Europe, the European Union, and in the Constitutional Traditions Common to the Member States**  
Prof. Dr. Theodore Konstadinides  
*University of Essex*
- 14.00 **Illiberal Constitutionalism: Systematic Backsliding of the Rule of Law in the Triangle between Legislature, Government and Judiciary**  
Prof. Dr. Gábor Halmai  
*European University Institute*
- 14.45 **Coffee Break**
- 15.15 **Political Strategies to Overcome the Decline of International and European Rule of Law**  
Dr. Raphael Bossong  
*German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)*
- 16.00 **Are Judges Politicians in Robes? Comparative Aspects of the Recruitment and Election of Judges**  
Prof. Dr. Piotr Mikuli  
*Jagiellonian University and University of Sheffield*
- 16.45 **Comment from a historical perspective**  
Dr. Ned Richardson-Little  
*University of Erfurt*

### **Friday, 21 October 2022**

- 9.00 **Undermining Judicial Independence as a Rule of Law Problem**  
Prof. Dr. Aida Torres Pérez  
*Pompeu Fabra University*
- 9.45 **Les juridictions supranationales européennes et la crise de l’Etat de droit**  
Prof. Dr. Jean-Christophe Barbato  
*Ecole de Droit de la Sorbonne*
- 10.30 **Coffee Break**
- 11.00 **Questioning the Primacy of Union Law by National Constitutional Courts**  
Dr. Udo Bux  
*European Parliament*
- 11.45 **The Toolbox of the European Institutions to Ensure Compliance with the Rule of Law. Article 7 TEU, Rule of Law Dialogue, Budgetary Conditionality**  
Dr. Jonathan Bauerschmidt  
*Council of the European Union*
- Comment on “Transformative Constitutionalism”**  
Prof. Dr. Michael Riegner  
*University of Erfurt*
- 12.45 **Closing Remarks**  
Prof. Dr. Herm.-Josef Blanke  
*University of Erfurt*

(programme may be subject to changes)



Co-funded by the European Union

The conference will take place at the University campus as an in-person event.

It will also be possible to register for online participation (log in will be communicated upon registration).

**Registration**  
by **7 October 2022** at:  
[christel.fliedner@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:christel.fliedner@uni-erfurt.de)

The number of participants in the event is limited!

Watermark: Head of the sculpture "The Truth" at the time of restoration. Reprinted by kind permission of the Federal Administrative Court, Leipzig.

## Useful Directions

### Erfurt Main Station to the University

From the main station ("Hauptbahnhof") to the University it takes about 20 minutes. The best way to get there is to take the tram.

When you leave the station building at the main exit, you will find the tram stop on your left-hand side. Take the tram line 3 in the direction of „Europaplatz“, or line 6 in the direction of „Rieth“ and get off at the station „Klinikum/Universität“.

### From the tram station "University" to the Senate Hall ("Senatssaal")

From the tram stop, cross the street to enter the main entrance of the University. From there, you will already see the "MG1" on your left, the highest building on campus. Enter this building and take the elevator (or the stairs) to the top floor of the building, where the *Senatssaal* is located.

## Campus Plan

