



## Editorial

In 2017 it is 25 years ago that the Maastricht Treaty was signed in Maastricht. After the numerous events marking the commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty, MCEL scholars continued to contribute to academic research of European law. MCEL members actively organised and took part in various conferences, workshops, roundtables and other events. MCEL in turn welcomed many guest speakers at the monthly research seminars.

Moreover, the centre experienced a positive change. Interesting new initiatives, such as the weekly MCEL lunches, were introduced. In addition, although the research stay of several visiting researchers in Maastricht came to an end in 2016, new members were welcomed. Those members actively joined the MCEL research seminars and presented their research or noteworthy new developments in EU law. Numerous MCEL members were also invited to collaborate with different European Union institutions. The "Focus" section elaborates on their work in bridging between academia and practice.

Bruno De Witte and Ellen Vos

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ Summer School, "Septfontainers Summer School of EU Law 2017. We the Court: Inside the Fabric of EU Law", 22-29 July, Andelot-Blancheville.
- ❖ MCEL/CERIM Academic Opening Conference, "Multi-Speed Europe, Differentiated Integration and the Future of the European Union" opening event, 12 September, Maastricht.
- ❖ Conference, "Atlantic Series Conference: Aspects of Surveillance", 26-27 September, Brussels.
- ❖ Conference, "The Surveillance Triangle: Authorities, Data Subjects and means", 25 September 2017, Brussels.

## News

In the first half of 2017, MCEL research seminars featured several guest talks. A. Ward discussed the external effects of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. R. Crowe debated the development of a post-Lisbon regime of differentiated budgetary integration in a presentation entitled "The European Budgetary Galaxy". M. Van Der Sluis presented on the topic "In Law we Trust: the Role of EU Constitutional Law in the Euro", followed by the discussion led by P. Dermine. In addition, several new MCEL members delivered presentations. A. Volpato presented a case study on case James Elliott Construction. D. Fromage and N. Athanasiadou discussed respectively the role of national parliaments in an increasingly asymmetric EU and whether the European citizens' initiative has been "lost in admissibility". The last MCEL research seminar will take place on 20 June and will feature two connected presentations. N. Athanasiadou will present on the Brexit negotiation directives and A. Ott will examine the Opinion rendered by the CJEU on the EU-Singapore trade agreement. MCEL researchers also gathered in the framework of the MCEL PhD forum. Visiting researcher L. Szegedi presented the topic "Inspection power in diverse institutional models in the European Union - all roads lead to EU agencies?" and A. Volpato "A legal framework for the delegation of powers in the European legal system". MCEL also launched a new initiative of informal lunches on a weekly basis, where MCEL members have the possibility to have lunch together, share thoughts, opinions, information or events.



MCEL members also participated in and organised various conferences, workshops and lectures. M. Eliantonio organised the conference "Scientific Knowledge in Environmental Litigation: National Solutions, EU Requirements and Current Challenges". V. Abazi gave a lecture to students of the International Session of the Model European Parliament within the framework of the 25th Anniversary of the



Maastricht Treaty. V. Abazi and M. Brkan attended the annual European Union Studies Association conference in Miami, where they took part in the panel "Constitutional transformations of Europe through technology". M. Brkan also presented on the topic of automated decision-making and transparency in EU data protection law at the 10<sup>th</sup> CPDP Conference "Computers, Privacy & Data Protection: the Age of Intelligent Machines". E.

Muir organised a roundtable on EU equality law as the 'first' fundamental rights policy of the EU and, in collaboration with MCEL co-director B. De Witte and C. Kilpatrick, the workshop "How EU Law Shapes Opportunities for Preliminary References on Fundamental Rights: Discrimination and other examples". P. Melin and Z. Vankova, in cooperation with the University of Antwerp, organised a workshop on the external dimension of EU social security coordination. L. Waddington gave one of the key note lectures at the conference "Applying Non-discrimination Law" organised by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Hellenic League for Human Rights. A. Ott spoke at the event "The Future of EU Trade Policy: The Implications of Opinion 2/15 (EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement)" at the University of Luxembourg. M. Peeters delivered a presentation at the Chinese University of Hongkong entitled "Regulatory experiences in EU climate law: legal lessons for other economies?" during the conference "The 60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome: EU and Global Perspectives". Lastly, A. Hoogeboom was awarded first place in the Law Faculties Association 2016 doctoral thesis competition on European law and A. Gutiérrez received the "Albert Fina" award for one of his works written during his visiting research in Maastricht.

## Selected Publications

- ❖ Brkan, M. & Psychogiopoulou, E. (2017), *Courts, Privacy and Data Protection in the Digital Environment* (eds.), Edward Elgar Publishing.
- ❖ Brkan, M. (2017), 'In Search of the Concept of Essence of EU Fundamental Rights Through the Prism of Data Privacy', (1) Maastricht Faculty of Law Working Paper.
- ❖ De Witte, B., Ott, A. & Vos, E. (2017), *Between Flexibility and Disintegration - The Trajectory of Differentiation in EU Law* (eds.), Edward Elgar Publishing.
- ❖ Fromage, D. (2017), 'Fiscal Councils: Threat or Opportunity for Democracy in the post-crisis Economic and Monetary Union', in: L. Daniele (ed.), *Democracy in the EMU in the Aftermath of the Crisis*, Springer, 161-178.
- ❖ Ott, A. (2016), 'The European Parliament's Role in Treaty-Making', 23(6) *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law*, 1009-1039.
- ❖ Van der Mei, A.P. (2016), 'EU External Relations and Internal Inter-Institutional Conflicts: The Battlefield of Article 218 TFEU', 23(6) *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law*, 1051-1076.
- ❖ Waddington, L. (2017), 'The potential for, and Barriers to, the Exercise of Active EU Citizenship by People with Disabilities: The Right to Free Movement', in: B. Hvinden et al. (eds.), *The Changing Disability Policy System, Active Citizenship and Disability in Europe Volume 1*, Routledge, 196-214.
- ❖ Abazi, V. & Curtin, D. (2017), 'The EU Security Exception: Beyond Control?', in: C Harlow et al. (eds.), *Research Handbook on EU Administrative Law*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 188-208.
- ❖ Claes, M. & Bonelli, M. (2017), 'The Rule of Law and the Constitutionalisation of the European Union', in W Schroeder, *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Europe - From a Common Concept to Mechanisms of Implementation*, Hart Publishing.
- ❖ Van der Mei, A.P. (2017), 'Collective Redundancies: Judicial Fine-Tuning of a Classic Concept of EU Labour Law', 42(1) *European Law Review*, 82-92.

## Focus

### Bridging the Gap Between Academia and Practice

During the academic year of 2016/17, several MCEL members have been invited to interact and collaborate with the EU institutions.

On 17 October 2016, M. Brkan participated in the workshop "Robotics and Artificial Intelligence – Ethical Issues and Regulatory Approach" for the Committee on Legal Affairs. M. Brkan provided comments on the report "Civil Law Rules on Robotics" which addressed recommendations to the Commission. She also shared her thoughts on the topic during the oral discussion which took place during the workshop.

E. Muir shared her thoughts on the limitations of the scope of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union with the PETI Committee of the European Parliament (EP) on 23 February 2017. Her contribution was meant to feed in a normative/political investigation of the limited scope of the Charter. E. Muir recalled the purpose of the system for the protection of fundamental rights in the EU before and after the Lisbon Treaty; insisting on the limited competences of the EU in the field of fundamental right protection and the important role of the Council of Europe.

V. Abazi was invited to discuss possible EU legislation on whistleblower protection at the high-level roundtable on "Whistleblower protection in the EU" at the EP on 29 March 2017. The discussions included MEPs P. Durand, B. Jávor and J. Reda as well as senior Commission officials from the office of Vice President F. Timmermans and Commissioner for Justice, Consumers & General Equality Ms V. Jourová, Trade Unions, NGOs and journalists and business representatives. V. Abazi provided legal arguments in favour of horizontal EU legislation on whistleblower protection.

E. Vos represented The Academic Research Network on Agencification of EU Executive Governance TARN and presented her views on oversight and resources of fee receiving EU agencies at the Workshop on Oversight and resources of partially and fully self-financed agencies organised by the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Budgets of the EP in Brussels on 4 May 2017.

M. Eliantonio participated at a meeting organised by the European Commission on 16 May 2017 on the topic of EU standardisation. The meeting was called by the Commission in order to involve academia in the context of the so-called Joint Initiative on Standardisation. The initiative is driven by stakeholders (EU and EFTA Member States, standardisation organisations and bodies, European industry and industry associations, SMEs, and societal stakeholders), with the Commission playing a mainly coordinating role and building consensus - bringing together the expertise of all parties involved.



## People



**Natassa Athanasiadou** recently joined as a new MCEL member. Natassa is Assistant Professor of EU law at Maastricht University since April 2017, having previously worked for the European Commission as a Legal Officer advising on matters of EU institutional, administrative and civil service law. She studied law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and obtained a doctorate from the University of Heidelberg. Natassa's research interests lie mainly in the area of European institutional law and fundamental rights.