



Editorial

Dear Reader,

We are very pleased to present to you the first issue of the newsletter of the Maastricht Centre for European Law of the Maastricht University Law Faculty. With this newsletter, we want to inform you regularly about the Centre's research activities so as to reach out to a wider audience, to facilitate fruitful discussion with our scholars and to allow for critical input on ideas and research projects.

The Maastricht Centre for European Law, founded in 2011, celebrates its second anniversary on 8 February 2013, although research on European law has been very prominent in our university long before the Centre was founded. The Centre is committed to the study of European law from an interdisciplinary, transnational and multilingual perspective and seeks to foster cooperation between scholars working in the field of European law based in Maastricht and elsewhere. The Centre is hosting approximately 30 scholars who are active in a variety of research areas. One of our central themes for 2013 is the *proliferation of forms of legal differentiation between EU Member States in the European integration process*. This very topical theme will be explored during a conference and a young researchers' workshop that we organize in Maastricht from 29 to 31 May 2013.

You will find information about this and other recent or future activities of the Centre in this Newsletter, as well as on the Centre's website.

We hope you enjoy reading about our activities.

Best wishes,

Bruno De Witte and Ellen Vos
(Directors)



News

The second year of the Maastricht Centre for European Law has been marked by a series of individual as well as collective achievements. Joakim Zander received the Rabobank prize for his PhD dissertation on *the Application of the Precautionary Principle in Practice*. While this PhD thesis was prepared at Maastricht Faculty of Law, Joachim now works at the Legal Unit of the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki. Elise Muir won a Veni grant from the



NWO to support her research project entitled *Taking European values more seriously: collective enforcement of EU non-economic law*. Elise, who studied and worked abroad before joining the Faculty of Law of Maastricht, was also awarded the Edmond Hustinx Prize for science. Maria Weimer (see also next page) won a

Rubicon grant from the NWO for her project *Defending European values in the World Trade Organisation? Exploring the relationship between EU food regulation, WTO law, and the social disintegration of markets*.

Members of the Centre were very successful in attracting funding to support collective research initiatives. Two major Jean Monnet conferences are thus forthcoming in 2013 (more information below): the first one is entitled *Between flexibility and disintegration: the State of EU law today* organized by Bruno de Witte, Ellen Vos and Andrea Ott; the second, on the initiative of Mark Dawson and Elise Muir, will focus on *The Role of Collective Actors in Enforcing European Law*. Furthermore, Lisa Waddington is part of a consortium that has been awarded the contract to run the Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED) for 2012-2014. Lisa is a member of the core research team of ANED and responsible for coordinating research on legal issues.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Closing Conference, *The European and National Constitutional Law (EunaCon)*, 20-22 February 2013, Maastricht (for more, see next page)
- ❖ Guest lecture by Prof. J. Zeitlin (University of Amsterdam), *Extending Experimentalist Governance*, 24 April 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ Guest Lecture by Prof. J. Scott (University College London), *Territorial Extension in EU Law*, 22 May 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ Jean Monnet Conference, *The Role of Collective Actors in Enforcing European Law*, Hertie School of Governance, 23-24 May 2013, Berlin
- ❖ Jean Monnet Conference, *Between flexibility and disintegration: The State of EU law today*, 29-31 May 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ Conference, *Cultural Diversity and International Economic Law*, 20-21 June 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ Conference, *(Il)Legitimate differential treatment*, 27-28 June 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ MCEL Annual seminar, 4 September 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ Conference, *Citizens' Rights and Economic Crisis*, 20 September 2013, Maastricht
- ❖ Conference Series Faculty of Law, *2013 European Year of Citizens*, Maastricht (see [here](#))

Selected Publications

- ❖ Monica Claes & Bruno de Witte, 'The Role of National Constitutional Courts in the European Legal Space' in P. Popelier, A. Mazmanyan & W. Vandenbruwaene (eds.), *The Role of Constitutional Courts in Multilevel Governance*, Intersentia, 2013, p.79
- ❖ Monica Claes & Maartje de Visser with P. Popelier and C. van de Heyning (Eds.), *Constitutional Conversations in Europe- Actors, Topics and Procedures*, Intersentia, 2012
- ❖ Elise Muir, *EU Regulation of Access to Labour Market: A Case Study of EU Constraints on Member States Competences*, Wolters Kluwer, June 2012
- ❖ Ellen Vos, 'Making Informal International Law Accountable: Lessons from the EU' in J. Pauwelyn, R. Wessel & J. Wouters (eds.) *Informal International Lawmaking*, OUP, 2012, p. 368
- ❖ Ellen Vos with M. B.A. van Asselt & E. Versluis (eds.) *Balancing between Trade and Risk Integrating Legal and Social Science Perspectives*, Taylor and Francis, 2013, p.275

Past Events

- ❖ Network training session with Lisa Waddington, *DREAM*, 28 January-1 February 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Guest Lecture by Prof. David Vogel (Berkeley), *The Politics of Precaution*, 24 May 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Workshop, *Understanding resistances towards EU fundamental rights policy*, 25 May 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Guest Talk at the opening of the academic year by J. Bering Liisberg, *The Council Presidency and EU Law-Making*, 6 September 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Expert meeting, *Reflections on the Common Approach to European Agencies*, 11 October 2012, Brussels
- ❖ Joint workshop (MCEL & MEPLI), *EU Law in the Private Sphere - Helping Hand or Officious Intermeddler*, 26 October 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Conference, *The Economic Crisis and the Law*, 2 November 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Workshop, *Stakeholder participation in Food research*, Inprofood project, 16 November 2012, Maastricht
- ❖ Conference, *The EU Accession to the ECHR*, 16-17 November 2012, Brussels

Focus

The EuNaCon project

In 2008 Monica Claes was awarded a European Research Council grant for her project on *European and National Constitutional Law* (EuNaCon). The EuNaCon project takes as its starting-point that European constitutional law is best seen comprising constitutional rules and principles developed at European level, complemented by (common) national constitutional rules and principles as well as those from other sources such as the ECHR and international law. While considerable research efforts have been expended in understanding and identifying the relevant European constitutional rules and principles, the national component of Europe's composite Constitution is however largely underexplored. The EuNaCon project has sought to fill this gap. National constitutional traditions and principles have been analysed and compared in four key areas of constitutional law, and the insights obtained have been used to formulate a better understanding of a European constitutional law in the making.

EuNaCon marks its successful conclusion with a Closing Conference that takes place from 20 to 22 February 2013 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

During the Closing Conference, the results of EuNaCon's five sub-projects will be presented and discussed. Four of these projects offer a detailed comparative analysis of how a selection of Member States and the European Union approach classic themes of constitutional law, respectively addressing:

- ❖ The individual and political participation (Viorelia Gasca)
- ❖ Parliaments and governments (Lars Hoffmann)
- ❖ Constitutional interpretation and review (Maartje de Visser)
- ❖ Territorial pluralism (Nikos Skoutaris)

The fifth project, carried out by Monica Claes, seeks to formulate a conceptual view of a European constitutional law that is rooted in common constitutional principles and traditions, while coping with constitutional diversity. All projects have resulted in various journal articles and monographs.

PhD Defences



On 15 November 2012, Marco Zinzani successfully defended his PhD thesis, entitled *Market Integration through Network Governance: The Role of European Agencies and Networks of Regulators* at Maastricht Faculty of Law (supervised by Ellen Vos). Marco has recently joined Studio Legale Padovan in Milan, Italy, where he practices in the field of international trade law and EU law. He is the academic coordinator of a Jean Monnet Module on EU Market Integration at the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'.



On 30 August 2012 Maria Weimer defended her PhD thesis at the European University Institute in Florence. Maria's thesis with the title *Democratic legitimacy through European conflicts-law? - The case of EU administrative governance of genetically modified organisms* was supervised by Christian Joerges. Maria has been a member of our Centre since September 2011. Since September 2012 Maria holds a Rubicon grant of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research.