

## Call for abstracts for the third Jean Monnet NOVA-EU workshop

### *Sustainable Europe and its global reach*



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**Format:** 1.5-day workshop

**Date:** 15 and 16 October 2020

**Venue:** Maastricht, the Netherlands (Hotel Crowne Plaza)

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### 1. Introduction and scope of the workshop

The **Maastricht Centre for European Law** is launching a **call for papers** for a workshop on **Sustainable Europe and its global reach**. This workshop forms part of a series of four workshops within **the Jean Monnet NOVA-EU project** coordinated by Professor Dr. Andrea Ott. **NOVA-EU** aims to stimulate a discussion and enhance research into four key challenges, impacting the European Union's governance structure, regulatory framework, identity and, most importantly, its future:

- **Digitalisation, Ethics and EU Fundamental Rights**
- **Migration and EU Borders**
- **Sustainable Europe and its global reach**
- **EU Rule of Law and Democracy**

The workshop “Sustainable Europe and its global reach” aims to question critically how the concept of ‘sustainable development’ is understood and implemented by the EU institutions, and examines how it impacts the EU's external policies. While this concept has emerged in the context of international environmental governance since 1987, it is reinforced in the UN context with the establishment of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. This ambitious global agenda aims to reconcile the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development, and places the fight against poverty - including the need for economic growth - and environmental protection on the same agenda.

While a definition of “sustainable development” lacks in EU primary law, references to “sustainable” and “sustainable development” can be found in many primary law provisions. However, given the abstract character of this multi-faceted concept and the rather fragmented - or even unsystematic - codification in secondary EU law, it is necessary to examine how EU institutions carry out this balancing exercise between different EU values and how the promotion of sustainable development and non-trade values (i.a. environmental protection, labour standards, human rights, rule of law and democracy aims) are integrated in EU external action.

The EU self-reflects on its role as a “global trail blazer” in sustainable development by engaging in open and rule-based trade in a bilateral and multilateral framework (European Commission, Reflection paper toward a sustainable Europe by 2030). The Commission further emphasizes in its European Green Deal the ambition on the one hand to achieve carbon neutrality in Europe by 2050, and on the other hand posting the EU as a global leader by promoting implementing “ambitious environment, climate and energy policies across the world”. These ambitious goals are set at the same time as reports come out that the EU Member States will miss the 2030 SDGs targets, some Member States face difficulties with complying with their binding climate and energy targets for 2020.

## 2. Format of the workshop

The workshop *Sustainable Europe and its global reach* intends to contribute to the academic and policy debate by discussing the aspects of “Sustainable Europe” in its external dimension in an interdisciplinary setting. It aims to include speakers from law, political science and social science. We expressly encourage junior (PhD or PostDoc level) and senior researchers to apply. Given the applied nature of the NOVA-EU project, we strongly encourage participants to reflect on the problems also from a policy perspective with the view of offering policy recommendations during the workshop. The latter will form as a springboard for two policy briefs to be presented to the European Commission as one of the outputs of the project.

Selected papers will be published online in the [Maastricht Faculty of Law Working Paper](#) series. At the end of the two-year NOVA-EU project (autumn 2021), selected (updated) papers from all four workshops of the NOVA-EU project will be published in an edited volume with a renowned publisher.

We specifically encourage papers analysing the following topics and questions from the perspective of sustainable development:

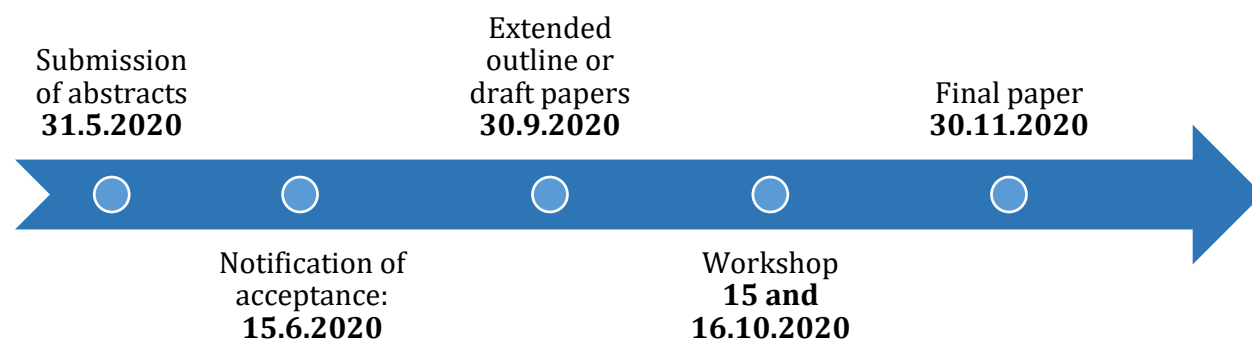
- How is sustainable development reflected in EU law and policies and what is its impact on the EU’s external policies?
- What impact does the sharp focus on environmental aims, and the use of *inter alia* market-based instruments to achieve does aims, have on human rights? How does the EU succeed in striking a balance between ambitious environmental policies and human rights, including economic and social rights, particularly in its external actions?
- How can the EU ensure coherence between its internal and external policies in light of the fact that these policies are embedded in institutions and structures while the understanding

of how to achieve sustainability is a dynamic process with potentially many different understandings across the world?

- How does the EU impact activities in third countries through EU legislation promoting non-trade values with extraterritorial reach? What new EU legislation can be thought of to increase this impact?
- What is the extraterritorial reach of EU non-trade values legislation and is it in line with international law?
- In which manner does the EU tackle the external sustainable development aspects of global supply chains?
- What are the legal mechanisms (monitoring of compliance, due diligence, enforcement etc.) with which the EU pursues trade and non-trade values in its bilateral and multilateral relations; how effective are they and what are their deficiencies?
- What is the impact of the EU's regulatory approach on non-trade values and in bilateral and multilateral fora?

### 3. Practical information

If you are interested to participate as a speaker and deliver a paper, please upload a **300-500 words abstract** of your paper by **31.May 2020**, together with a short bio, through the online system, available under the following link: <https://www.aanmelder.nl/110473/subscribe>. **Important deadlines:**



### 4. Organisational matters

**Covered expenses:** Accommodations costs (one night), travel costs (with a maximum limit) and meals will be covered for paper-givers.

For more information about the workshop, do not hesitate to contact **Ms. Elke Hundhausen** per e-mail: [elke.hundhausen@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:elke.hundhausen@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

### 5. Academic workshop committee

- Dr. Merijn Chamon, assistant professor in EU Law, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Elise Muir, professor of EU Law, Leuven University
- Prof. Dr. Andrea Ott, professor of EU External Relations Law, Maastricht University
- Prof. Dr. Marjan Peeters, professor of Environmental Policy and Law, Maastricht University
- Dr. Denise Prevost, associate professor of International Economic Law, Maastricht University