

## Lecture Series *The European Union as a Global International Actor*

# New Diplomatic Activities of the European Union and the Limits of International Law

**Prof. Ramses A. Wessel** | University of Twente  
Professor of European and International Institutional Law

### Abstract

The strengthening of the global ambitions of the EU, the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) as “the first structure of a common European diplomacy” with ‘embassy-like’ delegations all over the globe, the development of the EU as an actor in international security on the basis of its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), or the more outspoken wish to play a role in international institutions, be it as a full member (as in the case of the WTO) or simply as a visible and audible representative (as in the UN General Assembly) all seem to point to the EU taking up ‘state-functions’ in more areas than before.

International law, on the other hand, is still quite traditional. Created as ‘inter-state’ law it continues to struggle with the presence of non-state actors in the international order. Yet, international organisations obviously found their place as international legal actors, and other fora and networks are also increasingly recognised as legally relevant. It is a truism that the European Union is not a regular international organisation. From the outset, Member States have been willing (or were forced...) to transfer competences to the Community and later the Union. The Lisbon Treaty, however, seems to herald a new phase in which not only EU law itself, but also international law may be faced with new challenges.

**Ramses A. Wessel** is Professor of European and International Institutional Law and Co-Director of the Centre for European Studies at the University of Twente, The Netherlands. He graduated in 1989 at the University of Groningen in International Law and International Relations and subsequently worked at the same university (1989-1991) and at the Department of International and European Institutional Law at Utrecht University (1991-2000). Prof. Ramses A. Wessel is the author of *The European Union's Foreign and Security Policy: A Legal Institutional Perspective* (Kluwer Law International, 1999) and of numerous other publications in the field of international and European law. His general research interests lie in the field of international and European institutional law, with a focus on the law of international organizations, issues of global governance, the relationship between international and EU law, European foreign, security and defence policy and EU external relations in general. Website: <http://www.utwente.nl/mb/pa/staff/wessel/>

**Thursday 20 March 2014**  
**5 pm - 7 pm**

### Location

University of Luxembourg  
Bâtiment Weicker  
Room B 001 (ground floor)  
4, rue Alphonse Weicker  
L-2721 Luxembourg

### Language

English

### Registration

- by e-mail to [fdef-colloques@uni.lu](mailto:fdef-colloques@uni.lu) (specifying name and institution)
- Free seminar
- Maximum number of attendants: 80

### Contact

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## Lecture Series “The European Union as a Global International Actor”

organised by Prof. Eleftheria Neframi, University of Luxembourg, Jean Monnet Chair

The conference of Prof. Ramses A. Wessel is part of the Lecture Series on the theme *The European Union as a Global International Actor*, supported by the FNR (RESCOM Scientific Events).

15 conferences will be held from March to November 2014, in three parts: Institutional issues / Policy oriented approach / External perception and impact on global governance.

The objective of the Lecture Series is to bring together leading specialists of legal, political economy or international relations background in order to critically assess the European Union's external relations in a multipolar world.

### Conference programme, March - June 2014

**Monday 3 March 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***Institutional Aspects of Global Trade Governance from an EU Perspective***

Prof. Dr. Frank Hoffmeister, Deputy Head of Cabinet (to the EU Commissioner for Trade)

**Thursday 13 March 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***The Institutional Framework of the European Diplomacy***

David O'Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service

**Thursday 20 March 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***New Diplomatic Activities of the European Union and the Limits of International Law***

Prof. Ramses A. Wessel, University of Twente, Professor of European and International Institutional Law

**Friday 28 March 2014, 11 am - 1 pm**

#### ***Exclusive, Shared and National Competence in the Area of EU External Relations : Do Such Distinctions Matter ?***

Prof. Allan Rosas, Judge, Court of Justice of the European Union

#### ***A Reticent Court? Policy Objectives and the Court of Justice***

Prof. Marise Cremona, European University Institute

**Monday 31 March 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***The European External Action Service: Legal Foundations, Practice and Review Process***

Pr. Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow & Head of the EU Foreign Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies / University of Amsterdam

**Monday 28 April 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***The EU as a Global Power: (In-) Security in the Regions?***

Dr Astrid Boening, Researcher, University of Miami, European Union Center of Excellence

Jan-Frederik Kremer, Center for Global Studies, Bonn University

**Monday 5 May 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***How to Raise the European Union's Profile in China?***

Prof. Jing Men, InBev-Baillet Latour Chair of European Union - China Relations, EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, College of Europe

**Monday 12 May 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***The Role of International Law in the Relations between Member States of the European Union***

Prof. Bruno De Witte, Maastricht University / European University Institute

**Monday 12 June 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***Market Power Europe***

Dr Chad Damro, Senior Lecturer of Politics and International Relations, Jean Monnet Chair, Co-Director of the Europa Institute, University of Edinburgh

**Monday 30 June 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

#### ***Is there any Alternative to Europe's Total Marginalization within the Emergent Multipolar World ?***

Prof. Mario Telo, Membre de l'Académie Royale des sciences de Belgique, Jean Monnet Chair, Vice President of the Institute of European Studies, Université Libre de Bruxelles