

THE FUTURE OF RULE OF LAW IN THE EU

Wednesday 6 February 2019, at 10:00 – 12:00
Seminar Hall, Finnish Institute of International Affairs
Arkadiankatu 23 H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

The EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. During the past years, there have been several violations of these values, in particular the rule of law principle. The procedure of Article 7 of the EU Treaty has been launched against the governments of Hungary and Poland. In the first phase of the procedure the Council, acting by a majority of four fifths of its members, may determine that there is a clear risk of a serious breach of such values. This seminar addresses how EU policies and mechanisms can best protect the rule of law. What are the main tools the EU should employ and expand to tackle the breaches against its values? How effective might they be? What might be the main shortcomings in political and legal terms? What is the way forward?

Opening words and Chair:

Teija Tiilikainen, Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers:

Christophe Hillion, Professor of EU law, Universities of Leiden and Oslo

Paul d'Auchamp, Deputy Regional Representative for Europe, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Heidi Kaila, Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs, Government Secretariat for EU Affairs, Prime Minister's Office

Closing remarks:

Heather Grabbe, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute

Biographies



Christophe Hillion is Professor of European Law at the universities of Leiden and Oslo, research professor at the Norwegian Institute of International studies (NUPI) and senior researcher at the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS). He has published on external relations and constitutional law of the European Union. His present research focuses on the implications of Brexit for the European integration process, as well as on the protection of the rule of law and fundamental rights in the EU, and in its external action. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Common Market Law Review* and *European Papers*. Hillion regularly advises European governments and institutions



Paul d'Auchamp is Deputy Regional Representative at the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe since 2012. A political scientist by training, he began his career in the Municipality of Copenhagen, working on integration issues and inter-ethnic relations. He joined the United Nations in 2000, initially working at the Geneva HQ of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), where he worked on indigenous people's rights and victims of torture. In 2003, he joined the OHCHR Africa Branch, where he covered, amongst other countries, the DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, and the Lusophone African countries. In 2009, he moved to Dakar, Senegal, as OHCHR's Deputy Representative for West Africa. In the OHCHR Europe Office, he has focused on rule of law and civic space issues inside the EU, as well as on human rights in EU external action. Paul was born in Brazil and holds both Brazilian and Danish nationality.



Heidi Kaila is Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs at the Government Secretariat for EU Affairs in the Finnish Prime Minister's Office. She is responsible for legal and institutional issues. Ms Kaila has a long and extensive experience in the Finnish administration. She has also worked at the European Court of Justice. She has published notably on the protection of fundamental rights in the EU.



Heather Grabbe is the Director of the Open Society European Policy Institute in Brussels. She was ranked 5th in Politico's 2017 list of "women who shape Brussels" and appears regularly in the media on open society issues. From 2004–2009 she was Senior Advisor to then European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn, responsible for EU policy on the Balkans and Turkey. Before joining the Commission, she was Deputy Director of the Centre for European Reform, the London-based think-tank. She did academic research on European politics at the European University Institute (Florence), Chatham House (London), Oxford and Birmingham universities, and teaching at the London School of Economics.



Teija Tiilikainen is the Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Previously, Dr. Tiilikainen was the Director of the Network of European Studies at the University of Helsinki (2003–2009). She has also served as Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland from 2007 to 2008. Dr. Tiilikainen was the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Finland in the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002–2003. Currently, she is also Editor-in-Chief of *Ulkopolitiikka* – the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs.