

## FROM LEGAL PRINCIPLES TO INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT: THE NEXT DECADE OF EUROPEAN LAW



**15**  
**YEARS**

**ELI**

**EUROPEAN  
LAW  
INSTITUTE**

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The ELI Anniversary Roundtable brings together leading judges and academics to reflect on the evolving mission of European law in a decade marked by sustainability challenges, technological disruption, and geopolitical uncertainty.

On 18 March, the debate will examine whether European law is moving from normative harmonisation towards a broader model of governance, highlighting the growing role of soft law, standards, and institutional guidelines. It will also address the role of universities and research centres in shaping the future of European legal scholarship, promoting interdisciplinary research and preparing lawyers for increasingly complex and transitional contexts.

By connecting academic research, policymaking, and legal practice, this roundtable aims to contribute to a strategic reflection on how European law can remain legitimate, innovative, resilient, and future-proof.

The event will be held in English and is subject to mandatory registration until 13 March, with participation limited to available places.

**Registration form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/KYjhJfSdFt>

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**Organisation:** Research Centre for Justice and Governance & School of Law of the University of Minho

**Scientific coordination** Prof. Dr. Marta Santos Silva



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# PROGRAMME

18 March, 2026

ROOM 2.01, BUILDING 17, UNIVERSITY OF MINHO (SCHOOL OF LAW)

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**4:00–4:30 pm** Networking coffee

**4:30–4:35 pm** Welcome words

Prof. Dr. MARTA SANTOS SILVA

Host, Adjunct Researcher at JusGov/Minho University & Innominate member of the Executive Committee

**4:35–4:50 pm** Keynote Speech

**European Law in Uncertain Times:**  
Legitimacy, Innovation and Resilience.

**Speaker:**

Prof. Dr. TERESA RODRIGUEZ DE LAS HERAS BALLELL

Professor at the University Carlos III of Madrid & President of the ELI

**4:50–5:50 pm** Strategic Roundtable

**Two Guiding Questions**

**5:50–6:20 pm** Round 1

**The Evolving Mission of European Law:**  
Is European law moving from harmonisation to governance?

**Invited speakers:**

Sir GEOFFREY VOS

Lord Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales & Vice-President of the ELI

Prof. Dr. CHRISTIANE WENDEHORST

Professor at the University of Vienna & Scientific Director at the ELI

Judge SYLVAIN POILLOT PERUZETTO

Supreme Court of France & Innominate member of the Executive Committee

**6:20–6:50 pm** Round 2

**The Role of Universities and Research Centres:**  
What kind of legal scholarship does Europe need now?

**Invited speakers:**

Prof. Dr. PIETRO SIRENA

Professor and Dean at Bocconi University & Second Vice-President at the ELI

Prof. Dr. BAŞAK BAŞOĞLU

Professor at the Piri Reis University, Istanbul & Innominate member of the Executive Committee

**6:50–7:00 pm** Debate & Closing

Prof. Dr. MARTA SANTOS SILVA

Host, Adjunct Researcher at JusGov/Minho University & Innominate member of the Executive Committee