
SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project

Start of the new Jean Monnet Chair Project “SustainEUorPlanet: The EU as a Global Actor in the International Law for the Sustainable Development of the Planet – Advancing Fairness, Expanding Accountability and Promoting Security” – Jean Monnet Chair and Coordinator: Professor Elisa Baroncini

Bologna, 18 February 2025

With the start of the second semester, at the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna, it began the new **Jean Monnet Chair Project “SustainEUorPlanet: The EU as a Global Actor in the International Law for the Sustainable Development of the Planet – Advancing Fairness, Expanding Accountability and Promoting Security”**. Led by Professor **Elisa Baroncini**, SustainEUorPlanet is the ideal prosecution, deepening and widening of the just concluded **Jean Monnet Module Re-Globe**, and it is focused on the analysis of sustainability in the several external policies of the European Union. In fact, the principle of **sustainable development** is a core pillar of **the EU’s international action**. It underpins the **EU trade policy**, characterizing the innovative reform proposals at the WTO, the new generation of trade agreements, the negotiating positions on international investment law, the approach to **UN environment summits**, and the EU’s autonomous measures enforcing international rules in the light of the Lisbon Treaty values. Sustainability issues lead the **EU energy and climate policies**, currently undergoing a revision process of the EU Green Deal measures to improve the normative technique and better consider competitiveness issues, also in the light of the **principle of technological neutrality**. In addition, the **UN 2030 Agenda**, together with the international voluntary codes for enterprises, form the basis of the new EU regulatory framework that companies must comply with, making them protagonists in ensuring global supply chains that respect **human rights** and the **environment**.

SustainEUorPlanet proposes an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the EU’s international policies and legal frameworks directed to economic and social fairness, respect for the environment, access to clean energy and essential goods, while looking for **security** to overcome **geopolitical tensions and asymmetries**. In fact, the recent evolution of EU trade policy led first to the concept of “open strategic autonomy” (2021), reworked in 2023 into the second concept of “economic security”, to arrive in 2024 at the third concept of “economic foreign policy”. This involves a more and more relevant combination of trade policy with foreign policy, with consequent areas to explore also from the point of view of the international rule of law. Furthermore, the increasing reliance on **soft law** and **emergency instruments** requires considering what impact those instruments have on the **EU institutional equilibrium** and the **principle of representative democracy** on which the functioning of the European Union is based.

With a high-profile Coordinator and Team, the **SustainEUorPlanet Project** has a **twofold purpose**. On one side, it offers a set of activities envisaging to form a ruling and academic class of excellence, while involving EU, national and international civil servants, politicians, NGOs, the local business and public administration. On the other side, SustainEUorPlanet shows the leading role of the EU as a global actor in constantly promoting a

sustainability agenda for trade, environment, energy and climate policies, highlighting the importance of economic operators' accountability and the relevance that EU citizens can have in shaping and enforcing EU's external tools through participation and transparency.

The SustainEUorPlanet Academic Team is formed by the Jean Monnet Chair and Coordinator, Professor **Elisa Baroncini**, and other nine experts, Professor **Attila Tanzi**, Professor **Alessandra Castellini**, Professor **Annalisa Furia**, Professor **Gian Maria Farnelli**, Professor **Ludovica Chiussi Curzi**, Dr. **Niccolò Lanzoni**, and the PhD Candidates **Alessandra Quarta**, **Grazia Eleonora Vita** and **Klarissa Martins**. The SustainEUorPlanet Academic Team is based on the interdisciplinary interaction of the **Department of Legal Studies (DSG)**, the **Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences (DISTAL)**, and the **Department of Cultural Heritage (DBC)** of the **University of Bologna**.

Within the SustainEUorPlanet activities there are three courses, seminars and a webinar series, international conferences based on international calls for papers and a set of open-access publications. For further information see the [project's webpage](#) and [LinkedIn account](#).