
SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project

presents

SustainEUorPlanet Seminar in Bologna

Thursday, May 8th 2025, from 17.00 to 19.00 (CET)

Aula 8, "Sala delle Feste", Palazzo Malvezzi, Via Zamboni, 22, Bologna

***International Energy
Contracts & EU Energy
Law in Transition***

Dr. Liana Sakhokia

Legal Professional with a Research Focus in International and
Private Law (based in Rome)

Introductory remarks and Discussant

Prof. Elisa Baroncini

University of Bologna

SustainEUorPlanet Jean Monnet Chair

The event is organised as part of the activities of the SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project, co-financed by the European Union

Abstract: The seminar explores the legal landscape of the energy sector through three connected areas: EU internal energy law, contractual disputes, and international legal frameworks. It first outlines the key instruments underpinning the EU Energy Union and Renewable Energy Law. It then examines international energy contracts through the case study of *Uniper v. Gazprom* (2022–2024), illustrating how long-term gas supply agreements are affected by geopolitical conditions and highlighting the interpretation and limits of force majeure clauses. The final part focuses on the WTO dispute between Indonesia and the EU over the palm oil-based biofuels, as well as the EU's withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty. The seminar includes interactive components and offers a comprehensive analysis of the key points discussed.

Dr. Liana Sakhokia: Dr. Liana Sakhokia holds a Ph.D. in Law from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia) and is specialized in International Law and Private Law, with a cross-sectoral focus on areas including energy, contract, property, and oil & gas law. Her doctoral research received academic recognition and was awarded an international research grant at the University of Bologna. She has authored scholarly articles and publications in her fields of expertise. Dr. Sakhokia has been invited to speak at prestigious international conferences, including Queen's University Belfast (ALPS), the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg (YPLF), as well as seminars at the University of Bologna. She combines international academic research with extensive legal practice and brings over a decade of high-level legal experience across both public institutions and the private sector, alongside academic lecturing. She speaks eight foreign languages and her ability to navigate both Western and Eastern legal cultures, combined with a strong foundation in international and comparative law, enables her to work effectively across cross-cultural environments and transnational legal frameworks. Dr. Sakhokia is currently based in Rome, where she continues her professional activity.

Elisa Baroncini: Cum laude Law Degree and PhD in EU Law, is Full Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna, where she currently teaches International Economic Law, International Law on Sustainable Development, and International Energy Law. After having served for ten years (2012–2022) as Co-Chair of the ESIL IG on International Economic Law, in 2019 Elisa co-founded and is currently Coordinator of the Interest Group on International Economic Law of the Italian Society of International Law (DIEcon); and in December 2023, she has been elected as Member of the Executive Council of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). She has been Visiting Professor at the China-EU School of Law, speaker and organizer of many international conferences, Visiting Researcher at the European University Institute. Elisa coordinates and participates in international and national research projects. She has been awarded the Jean Monnet Module “Re-Globe - Reforming the Global Economic Governance: The EU for SDGs in International Economic Law” (2022–2025), the Jean Monnet Chair “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” (2025–2028), and the research fund by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the project “L'Organizzazione mondiale del commercio quale protagonista dello sviluppo sostenibile nel rilancio del sistema multilaterale”. Elisa has recently been the Coordinator of two UNA Europa Seeds Research Projects: “WHC@50 - Forever Young: Celebrating 50 Years of the World Heritage Convention”; and “ImprovEUorGlobe - The UN 2030 Agenda in the EU Trade Policy: Improving Global Governance for a Sustainable New World”. Member of the Scientific Committee of the “Centro Interuniversitario sul Diritto delle Organizzazioni Internazionali Economiche” (CIDOIE), Elisa has also been part of the Promoting Committee of the University of Bologna to honour the 1972 UNESCO Convention, and Member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Advances Studies (ISA) of the University of Bologna. In June 2022 she has been appointed by the European Commission TSD Expert for the dispute settlement mechanisms of the new generation of EU free trade agreements. In May 2023, Elisa Baroncini has been appointed Independent Non-executive Director of the Board of Eni S.p.A. She is also Member of the Editorial Board of “The Journal of World Investment & Trade” and the Editorial Board - Section of Bologna of “Diritto del commercio internazionale”. Elisa publishes extensively mainly in English and Italian, and her main fields of research include: the reform process of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism; the relation between free trade and non-trade values; transparency and civil society in international economic law; the new generation of EU FTAs and their enforcement; the participation of the European Parliament and the Commission in the EU treaty-making power; the relation between free trade and investment protection and cultural heritage protection; EU and international energy law.

SustainEUorPlanet The Project 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. SustainEUorPlanet has a twofold purpose. On one side, it offers a set of activities envisaging the promotion of a ruling and academic class of excellence, involving EU, national and international civil servants, politicians, NGOs, local businesses and public

administration. On the other side, SustainEUorPlanet shows the leading role of the EU as a global actor in constantly promoting a sustainable 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. Likewise, the Project focuses on political security policies in world economy. More information available on the Project's [website](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).

