
SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project

presents

SustainEUorPlanet Seminar

Monday, March 16th 2026, from 9.00 to 11.00 (CET)

AULA 8 "SALA DELLE FESTE" - via Zamboni, 22, Bologna

***The EU Approach to the ISDS
Reform – The Project for a
Multilateral Investment Court
Part I***

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Abstract: International investment law has historically relied on ad hoc arbitration mechanisms to resolve disputes between foreign investors and host states. While this system, mainly grounded in Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and the ICSID Convention, provided investors with a direct avenue to challenge state measures, it has attracted growing criticism over time. In this context, the European Union has emerged as a leading proponent of a systemic overhaul of ISDS, advocating for the establishment of a Multilateral Investment Court (MIC) as a permanent, institutionalised alternative to traditional arbitration. These seminars explore the key substantive and procedural features of the current ISDS framework, before turning to the EU's MIC proposal. The strengths and weaknesses of this initiative are examined, considering both its potential and the challenges. The analysis ultimately leaves open the question of whether the MIC represents a viable path forward for the governance of international investment disputes, inviting further reflection on the future of the international investment law regime.

Prof. Attila M. Tanzi: Attila M. Tanzi is Full Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna since 2006. He is President of the Italian Branch of the International Law Association and an Associate Member of 3VB Chambers in London. He is an adviser to the Legal Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, and a member of the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators. He has been Visiting Professor and Guest Lecturer in various universities worldwide. He was invited to give a course on “The principle iura novit curia in international judicial and arbitral proceedings” at the Summer Session of the Hague Academy of International Law in 2021. He is regularly instructed by governments, international organisations and corporations on matters of international law. He has been counsel, advocate or arbitrator in inter-state, investor-state, and commercial disputes.

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](#).