

Draft, 21/04/2015

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in the AFSJ: five years after the Lisbon Treaty

Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL), 4A Strēlnieku Street, Rīga

Tuesday, 28 April 2015

Working languages of the conference will be Latvian and English

**Please note that Latvian time is one hour ahead of Brussels time*

- 09.30 – 10.00 Arrival and registration of participants
- 10.00 – 11.00 Welcome addresses and introductory session
Chair: Prof. George Ulrich, RGSL Rector
- Mr Dzintars Rasnačs, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Latvia
 - Ms Paraskevi Michou, Director General of DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission
 - Ms Laura Ferrara MEP, Rapporteur on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU, European Parliament
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 13.00 Session 1 – The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the CJEU – setting the scene
This session will establish a framework for the following discussions
- Chair: Mr Inguss Kalniņš, Deputy State Secretary on strategies, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia and Governments' Agent before the CJEU
- The added value of the 'constitutionalisation' of the Charter (Prof. Jean-Paul Jacqué, Honorary Director-General of the Council of the European Union)
 - The application of the Charter by the CJEU (including examples of recent jurisprudence in the AFSJ) (Mr Ēgils Levits, Judge of the CJEU)
 - Applicability of the Charter to the EU institutions and Member States when implementing EU law (Mr John A. E. Vervaele, Utrecht University)
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
- 14.30 – 16.00 Session 2 – The role of the Charter in the creation of the AFSJ – the policy cycle approach
This session will examine how the Charter is mainstreamed at all stages of the legislative procedure from the impact assessment through the inter-institutional phase
- Chair: Prof. Enzo Moavero Milanesi, LUISS University (IT)
- Strengthening fundamental rights in the legislative process – impact assessment (Mr Paul Nemitz, Director for Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission)
 - Experience of recent EU policy and legislation (Ms Thérèse Blanchet, Director of

Council Legal Service, Council of the European Union)

- Results achieved – an assessment (Mr Morten Kjaerum, appointed director of The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law)

- Discussion

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00

Session 3 – The impact of the Charter on the application of EU law in the AFSJ

This session will examine the national perspective, including challenges and best practices in the application of the Charter when implementing EU law in the AFSJ

Chair: Prof. Stefan Braum, Luxembourg University

- Contribution of the Charter to strengthening the protection of fundamental rights at national level (Mr Nicolas Polge, Conseil d'Etat, France)

- Ensuring Charter compliance when adopting national implementation measures – best practices (Mr Paul van Sasse van Ysselt, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands)

- The application of the Charter by national courts (Mr Gabriel Toggenburg, European Agency for Fundamental Rights)

- Discussion

18.00 – 20.00

Free time

20.00

Dinner

Wednesday, 29 April 2015

09.30 – 10.30

Keynote speech - Mutual Recognition and Protection of Fundamental Rights in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (Prof. Koen Lenaerts, CJEU Vice-President/judge)

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30

Session 4 – Future developments, prospects and challenges

Chair: Prof. Mārtiņš Mits, RGSL

- Challenges of judicial control of supranational actors (Prof. Martin Scheinin, EUI)

- Fundamental rights and constitutionalisation of EU law after Lisbon (Prof. Valsamis Mitsilegas, Queen Mary University of London)

- Prospects for the harmonisation of the jurisprudence of the CJEU with the ECtHR (Ms Ineta Ziemele, Judge of the Latvian Constitutional Court, former judge of the ECtHR)

- Discussion

12.30 – 13.15

Conclusions - synthèse (Prof. Peter Gjørtler, RGSL)

13.15

End of conference