

Call for papers

The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice in the context of war in the EU's neighbourhood

28-29 April 2025, Centre for European Integration, School of Law, University College Cork, Ireland

Theme

The Centre for European Integration (CEI) at University College Cork organises a conference focusing on the impact of armed conflicts on the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ). In particular, it seeks to explore the challenges for the Common European Asylum System, the Temporary Protection Directive, and the externalization of migration controls. A central theme of the conference is the EU's legal obligations to protect fundamental rights and the rule of law, particularly in the context of war in the EU's neighbourhood.

The European Union's (EU) AFSJ is established with an aim to foster free movement 'in conjunction with appropriate measures with respect to external border controls, asylum, immigration and the prevention and combating of crime' (Article 3(2) TEU). The realities of contemporary armed conflicts—from the US invasion of Afghanistan to Russia's war against Ukraine and beyond—have tested and are still testing the resilience and coherence of the AFSJ's legal framework. These conflicts raise pressing questions about asylum and migration, counterterrorism, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and more generally on the balance between competing public interests, or between public interests and individual rights.

This conference seeks to explore the interaction between armed conflicts and the EU's AFSJ. How do ongoing conflicts shape the dynamics of EU constitutionalism in the AFSJ? What challenges do they pose for mutual trust and recognition in judicial cooperation? How does the EU's response to external security threats affect its internal security governance?



In addition to being interested in answering those 'big picture' questions on the conceptualisation of the relationship between armed conflicts and EU (internal) policies, we also invite submissions on the following specific topics, including but not limited to:

- The impact of armed conflicts on the Common European Asylum System, the Temporary Protection Directive, and the externalization of migration controls.
- The effects of armed conflicts on European Arrest Warrants, evidence-sharing, and cross-border investigations.
- The resilience of general principles, such as mutual trust, in the face of acute stressors such as armed conflicts.
- The EU's legal obligations in protecting fundamental rights and the rule of law in the context of a war in the EU's neighbourhood.

Event organisers

Dr Luigi Lonardo and Dr Roila Mavrouli

Practical information

The Centre for European Integration is pleased to invite all interested scholars from EU law and related fields to submit a short abstract to the conference **by March 7, 2025**. The conference will take place **on April 28-29, 2025** at University College Cork.

The conference provides a forum for researchers at all levels of experience (PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, professors) to present work-in-progress and to use the opportunity to discuss draft ideas and concepts. We welcome papers dealing with the above topics but not strictly limited to them. Researchers who wish to adopt a more interdisciplinary approach—integrating insights from sociology, political science, and cultural studies—are most welcome. The Centre for European Integration encourages submissions from those who are from underrepresented regions and/or institutions.

If you are interested in participating in the conference, please submit your abstract by March 7, 2025 in an e-mail with the subject “Conference CEI” to llonardo@ucc.ie and rmavrouli@ucc.ie

The abstract should have 400 words maximum in a PDF file with your name, and a short bio (100 words). The organisation committee will inform the selected applicants one week after the deadline whether their submission is accepted. There is no registration fee for the conference.

The Centre for European Integration will contribute to cover some of the expenses of selected speakers.

We aim at publishing the conference proceedings in an edited volume with an international publisher.