

PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE EU

online seminar



The Legal Network for Protection of Democracy and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee have the pleasure to invite you to a seminar on the protection of fundamental rights and the rule of law in the EU supported also by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovenia.

Friday, 12.11.2021, 10:00 – 14:30

online seminar

The European Union was founded in the firm belief that divisions can only be resolved by peaceful means, through close cooperation, and by sharing a set of values and principles. However, recent developments have shown that these values can never be taken for granted. Some Member States openly question the principles set out in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union. Other breaches have led to involving article 7 of the Treaty. Unfortunately, we observe rule of law backsliding across the EU.

In the end, if such disrespect of Article 2 by Member States continues to be accepted and tolerated, it opens a door for even greater violations of fundamental rights and the possible erosion of democracy and the rule of law in the EU as a whole. This puts to the test the EU's willingness and capacity to hold its members to account for breaching the "contract" that unites them and to act as a promoter and defender of democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights in Europe and beyond. Rebuilding the contract needs to involve all the parties, and first of all the member states themselves.

Therefore we all should speak up to protect the rule of law, both within our own countries, as well as in other Member States to work together to defend the rule of law. This event will call attention to this topic and discuss the latest rule of law developments within the EU from a Slovenian perspective.

In the last two months of the Slovenian EU Presidency we would like to reflect on the developments in the past months within Slovenia and the EU at large. In the first session we will zoom in on the narratives and tactics that are used in justifying rule of law backsliding in Hungary and parallels that might be drawn to the current Slovenian context. In the second session we will look at regional relations, the impact of these relations and how we can use these relations to work together to better defend the rule of law.

The seminar will only be accessible online. Participation in panel discussions will be enabled via Zoom (apply to pic@pic.si to receive Zoom link for the session). The seminar will also be streamed via Facebook Livestream at @Pravna mreža za varstvo demokracije but please note that participation in the panels is only enabled via Zoom.

Agenda

10.00 – 11.30	<p>I. Identity vs Values: Co-opting the notion of national identity to circumvent the rule of law and deny fundamental freedoms</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening words by:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Katarina Bervar Sternad – Director Legal Centre for Protection of Human Rights and the Environment Pepijn Gerrits – Director Netherlands Helsinki Committee</p> <p>Key note by: Petra Bárd – Associate Professor, ELTE Law School and Researcher CEU Democracy Institute Zoltán Fleck – Professor of Law and Sociology at the ELTE University of Budapest University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel discussion with:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jerneja Jug Jerše, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Slovenia, Balasz Toth- Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Pepijn Gerrits – Director Netherlands Helsinki Committee, dr. Klemen Grošelj, Slovene MEP, Renew Europe/LMŠ, Uroš Škerl - Journalist, Dnevnik</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel moderated by Kristina Božič, journalist</p>
11.30 – 13.00	<p><i>~ Working Lunch ~</i></p> <p><i>Hosted by Mr. John Verboom, Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovenia</i></p>
13.00 – 14.30	<p>II. Regional trends and relations: how do bilateral and regional relations affect the rule of law in Central Europe and how can we build alliances in defence of the rule of law?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key note by: dr. Matej Vatovec Tašner, Slovene MP, The Left</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel discussion with:</p> <p>Joeri Buhner Tavanier – Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Maciej Kalisz– Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights Poland, , Ivan Novosel - Human Rights House Zagreb, dr. Matej Vatovec Tašner, Slovene MP, The Left</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel moderated by Kristina Božič, journalist</p>

**Pravna mreža
ZA VARSTVO
DEMOKRACIJE**

