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**EU environmental norms and third countries: the EU as a global role model? (April 19)**

As the second event in CLEER's project 'Commercial power Europe: advancing societal and environmental goals through trade relations', the workshop focused on various issues related to the EU's promotion of environmental standards in third countries. The sessions dealt with the following topics: (i) EU and private sector initiatives aimed at promoting EU environmental standards in third states to introduce EU

legal instruments that influence (or fail to influence) third states, and the private sector initiatives that may trigger regulatory responses; (ii) the European Principles for the Environment (EPE) initiative of Europe-based Multilateral Financing Institutions, such as the EBRD applying EU environmental norms to projects outside the EU; (iii) sustainability criteria in the EU biofuels legislation to force changes in production methods by

countries exporting to the EU, including legal issues in EU-Brazil biofuels cooperation; and (iv) topical aspects of climate change such as the EU's ETS and Aviation policy, legal and political challenges in applying EU rules to non-EU airlines, and the effects of climate change on flying airplanes. A collection of presented papers will be published in the CLEER Working Papers series shortly. The project is supported by the EU's LLP programme,

**The external dimension of EU Counter-terrorism policy (February 22)**

CLEER and ICCT-The Hague organised a conference in Brussels with the aim of addressing the numerous challenges that the external action of the EU in this field entails. At the conference a number of issues were advanced: institutional coop-

eration, law enforcement of external action, human rights standards and geographical priorities. The presentations and discussion contributed to a better understanding of the content, effectiveness and limits of EU external counter-terrorism actions. ICCT-The

Hague and CLEER collect the papers presented at the conference for publication as edited volume in the CLEER Working Papers series.





## The external dimension of a multi-tier, multi-speed European Union (May 6)

Accommodating differentiation in EU policies and law is no new phenomenon but a concept which has always been integral to European integration. Speaking at a conference co-organised by CLEER and hosted by CEPS in Brussels, Richard Corbett (Cabinet, President of the European Council)

emphasised that the steps toward a deeper EMU have not and will not split up the Union, a statement which triggered some controversy. Other speakers touched upon the various forms of differentiation in the realm of EU external action, from the export of single market *acquis*, Schengen

opt-outs, structured cooperation in CSDP, and the consequences of a possible 'Brexit'. One of the lessons drawn from the discussions was the need to beef up the principle of legal homogeneity, possibly by expanding the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice in the realm of EU external action.

## Experiences from the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU in the area of EU external relations (May 16)

Ambassador Louis Telemachou, Representative to the Political and Security Committee of the EU talked about the experiences of the Cyprus Presidency at the helm of the EU Council, in matters falling under external policies. He expressed that while the modifications introduced by the Lisbon Treaty alleviated some of the burden from the rotating presidency in foreign policy,

the Cyprus Presidency was still given the chance to grant its full support to the efforts of the High Representative for Foreign Policy and External Action and the EEAS, especially in supporting the democratic transformation of its southern partners. The institutional, coordination, chairing and representation functions that were fulfilled by the Cyprus Presidency served to facilitate

work towards stability, development and security, also with key international partners. Dr Nikos Skoutaris, Senior research fellow at LSE, in his reaction focused on the (lack of) developments in the southern neighbourhood, noting the missing effective EU policy in the area, but acknowledging the efforts by the Cyprus Presidency.





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## **Upcoming event: CLEER Summer School on the Law of EU external relations (24-28 June)**

This year CLEER and the University of Maastricht (Campus Brussels) organise, for the first time, a summer school on the law of EU external relations. This unique and intensive one-week summer school aims to provide a thorough analysis of issues pertaining to the law of EU External relations. Through a combination of interactive lectures by renowned academic experts, workshops led by key practitioners and study visits to the EU institutions, participants gain an extensive knowledge and a deep understanding in this dynamic area of EU law and recent developments. For more information and programme, visit the Centre's website.

### **New CLEER Publications**

**CLEER Working Papers 2013/1:** 'EEAS 2.0: A legal commentary on Council Decision 2010/427 EU establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service' by Steven Blockmans and Christophe Hillion

**CLEER Working Papers 2013/2:** 'The role of the European Parliament in the conclusion of the Transatlantic Agreements on the transfer of personal data after Lisbon' by Juan Santos Vara

**CLEER Working Papers 2013/3:** 'The European Union's relations with the Southern-Mediterranean in the aftermath of the Arab Spring' by Gloria Fernandez Arribas, Karolien Pieters and Tamara Takács

*The Governing Board of CLEER, in its capacity as board of editors, welcomes the submission of working papers and legal commentaries (max. 40,000 resp. 4.000 words, including footnotes, accompanied by keywords and short abstracts) at [info@cleer.eu](mailto:info@cleer.eu). CLEER applies a double-blind peer review system. When accepted, papers are published on the website of CLEER and in 100 hard copies with full colour.*

