

Events 2015



- Asser 50 Years Symposia
- Asser International Sports Law Centre (AISLC)
- Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER)
- Hague Environmental Law Facility (HELFF)
- International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) – The Hague
- International Humanitarian Law/International Criminal Law
- Supranational Criminal Law (SCL) and Hague Initiative for Law and Armed Conflict (HILAC) Lecture Series
- Other events

Asser 50 Years Symposia

Private International Law - Symposium 'International Civil Procedure and Brussels I bis'

19 March 2015



Prof. Francisco Garcimartin Alferez, Chair Professor of Private International Law at Universidad Autónoma of Madrid

The Symposium on “International Civil Procedure and Brussels I bis” was the first in a series of four to celebrate the institute’s 50th anniversary in 2015. The programme was divided in three parts. The first part concerned recent developments in EU private international law, whilst the two subsequent parts dealt with the changes that the Brussels I bis Regulation has brought to the matter of forum selection clauses as well as to the enforcement of foreign judgments. The topics that were dealt with by the panels gave rise to lively discussions. [More information](#)

European Law - Symposium 'Better Regulation in the EU revisited: benefiting business and citizens'

23 April 2015

This event, organised to mark 50 years of the institute’s existence and its successful engagement in scholarly and policy debates on the core issues of EU law, brought together officials from the European Court of Justice, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together with prominent academics they discussed the institutional and substantive aspects of the EU’s Better Regulation Agenda. Keynote speeches were given by **Prof. Ben Smulders**, the Head of Cabinet of the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Frans Timmermans, and by **Mr Piet Hein Donner**, Vice-President of the Netherlands Council of State. The event built forth on Asser’s 1997 conference and edited volume on the quality of EU legislation.

[More information](#)



Prof. Ben Smulders, Head of Cabinet of the First Vice-President of the European Commission

International and European Sports Law - Symposium '20 years later: the legacy of *Bosman*'

18 June 2015

The International and European Sports Law Symposium looked back to the European Court of Justice (CJEU)'s landmark ruling in the *Bosman* case and explored its significant legal and political relevance for the development of EU sports law and policy.



Prof. Dr Carl Otto Lenz, Advocate General during the Bosman proceedings



Mr Theo van Seggelen, FIFPro Secretary-General

The event was divided in four main panel sessions and convened a number of distinguished speakers, including Prof. Dr Carl Otto Lenz, Advocate General during the *Bosman* proceedings; Mr Ian Forrester, partner at White & Case LLP, representing UEFA in *Bosman*; Prof. Dr Stephen Weatherill, Oxford University; Prof. Dr Simon Gardiner, Leeds Beckett University; Prof. Dr Stefaan Van den Bogaert, Leiden University; Dr Borja Garcia, Loughborough University; Mr Yves Le Lostecque, European Commission, Head of Unit Sport Policy; Mr Alasdair Bell, UEFA General Counsel and Director of Legal; and Mr Theo van Seggelen, FIFPro Secretary-General.

[More information](#)

Public International Law - Symposium 'International Legal Aspects of Countering Piracy'

15 October 2015



L-R: Mr Stuart Casey-Maslen, Independent Consultant; Ms Nelleke van Amstel, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces; Mr Eftymios Papastavridis, Academy of Athens; and Mr Kenneth Manusama, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

In celebration of the Asser Institute's 50th anniversary and the recent establishment of the Antonio Cassese Initiative Foundation in the Netherlands, both organisations teamed up to organise a symposium on the 'International Legal Aspects of Countering Piracy'. The symposium addressed the most important international legal questions regarding the countering of maritime piracy by repressive means.

[More information](#)

The Inaugural T.M.C. Asser Lecture on 'Peace in the Middle East: has International Law failed?'
2 December 2015

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the T.M.C. Asser Instituut launched the Annual T.M.C. Asser Lecture for the benefit of The Hague's national and international legal community, scholars, practitioners, judges, policy-makers and journalists who will be able to enjoy, on an annual basis, a lecture by an internationally renowned jurist and outstanding public intellectual.



Prof. Joseph Weiler, President of the European University Institute, Florence, Italy

The inaugural lecture was delivered on 2 December 2015 in the Academy Hall of the Peace Palace in The Hague by [Professor Joseph Weiler](#), President of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and University Professor at NYU School of Law.
[More information](#)

Asser International Sports Law Centre (AISLC)

The mission of the [Asser International Sports Law Centre](#) is to provide high quality research, services and products to the sporting world at large (sports ministries, international and intergovernmental organisations, sports associations and federations, the professional sports industry, etc.) on both a national and an international basis.

An important activity to promote and facilitate academic research and scholarly debate is the organisation of Lunch & Learns.

This lecture series aims to introduce and update participants on the most pressing questions in the field of international sports law, by giving the floor to outstanding academics and practitioners.

Overview Lunch & Learn Lectures in 2015:

The Pechstein Ruling of the OLG Munich: The beginning of the end for the Court of Arbitration for Sport?

12 March 2015

Speakers:

- Antoine Duval, *T.M.C. Asser Instituut*
- Vesna Lazic, *T.M.C. Asser Instituut*
- Marco van der Harst, *T.M.C. Asser Instituut*

Same as it ever was. Legal and ethical issues within big-money U.S. college sport

20 May 2015

Speaker: Richard M. Southall, *Associate professor in the Department of Sport and Entertainment Management at the University of South Carolina-Columbia and Director of the College Sport Research Institute.*

Rugby and competition law: recent cases and potential future issues

23 September 2015

Speaker: Grégory Basnier, *member of the Paris Bar (Avocat à la Cour)*.

The FIFA DRC: Key Cases in Recent Years

28 October 2015

Speaker: Frans de Weger, *Federation of Professional Football Clubs*.

Other Sports Law events in 2015:

Roundtable 'The Olympic Agenda 2020: The devil is in the implementation!'

22 April 2015

Speakers:

- Henk Hulshof, *Coordinator of the sport and human rights programme for Amnesty International*
- Ryan Gauthier, *PhD Researcher at the Erasmus University Rotterdam*
- Antoine Duval, *Senior researcher T.M.C. Asser Instituut*

Launching event: Special Issue of the Maastricht journal - '20 years after Bosman'

24 June 2015

Organised in cooperation with Maastricht Journal of Comparative and European Law at Maastricht University Campus Brussels.

[More information](#)

Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER)

The [Centre for the Law of EU External Relations \(CLEER\)](#) has since its inception in 2008 played an active role in focusing on one of the most dynamically changing areas of EU law, offering a platform for discussion and implementing various activities through which to connect those interested in the European Union's actions on the global plane.

CLEER Presidency Lecture series

A special lecture series complements the events organised by Asser/CLEER, which provides focus on a specific segment of EU external actions: the role of the incumbent presidencies in coordination and leadership in regional and global issues. The lecture series, initiated in 2011, engages the diplomatic contingent of incumbent Presidencies posted in The Hague, giving them the opportunity to share their experiences with the broad networks of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and CLEER.

The EU Council Presidency Lecture Series has, to date, reviewed the experiences of the Hungarian (2011), Polish (2012), Danish (2012), Cyprus (2013), Irish (2013), Lithuanian (2014) and Greek (2014) presidencies of the EU Council in the area of EU external relations.

In 2015 we welcomed both H.E. Mr Francesco Azzarello, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (25 March 2015) and H.E. Ms Ilze Rūse, Ambassador of Latvia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (29 September 2015) to the institute who reviewed the Italian and Latvian experiences, respectively.



H.E. Mr Francesco Azzarello, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of the Netherlands



H.E. Ms Ilze Rūse, Ambassador of Latvia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Other CLEER activities in 2015:

Workshop on 'The European Union and International Dispute Settlement: Mapping Principles and Conditions'

19 – 20 February 2015

This workshop was organised by the European University Institute, in collaboration with the ESIL Interest Group on The EU as a Global Actor and CLEER

1st CLEER Graduate Workshop on 'Selected Issues of EU External Relations Law'

22 – 23 June 2015

CLEER and the T.M.C. Asser Instituut presented their first two-day graduate workshop on selected issues of EU external relations law on 22-23 June 2015. The workshop was hosted by Maastricht University in the European capital of Brussels.

The graduate workshop formed a unique platform to receive first-hand information from leading experts and engage in discussions with them. It also provided an excellent opportunity to build a network of contacts that will last. This year the programme comprised presentations by practitioners and academics working on EU external representation post-Lisbon.

Conference 'The European Union as an Actor in International Economic Law'

1 – 2 October 2015

CLEER and the Research Unit in Law of the University of Luxembourg organised a conference with the view to discussing recent developments concerning EU external action in the field of international economic law. The conference focused thematically on a number of important issues raised by recent practice and case law whose resolution does not appear to be in the offing.

[More information](#)

EC-CLEER Conference on 'The institutional balance in the practice of the external relations of the European Union'

11 December 2015

This workshop, organised by CLEER in cooperation with the European Commission in Brussels, intended to take stock of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union on external relations and to pay tribute to Gregorio Valero Jordana, who passed away earlier this year. He acted as agent for the Commission in many key cases in this area. Panels of distinguished speakers debated these cases and other judgments relating to the three topics covered by the workshop: the scope of external competences; inter-institutional balance and sincere cooperation; and the effect of international law in the EU legal order.

Hague Environmental Law Facility (HELFF)

The Hague Environmental Law Facility (HELFF) is a joint initiative of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, the Institute for Environmental Security (IES) and its European Environmental Law (EEL) network. HELFF is active in contributing to the sphere of international and European environmental law by bringing together those involved in research, education, policy advice and practice in this field to discuss concrete challenges regarding the development and implementation of environmental law.

One instrument to support this mission is The Hague Environmental Law Facility Lecture Series. These lectures are delivered in The Hague by renowned speakers in the field of international and European environmental law and focus on environmental law issues, especially in the area of enforcement, compliance and implementation.

Launch of Professor Steven Freeland's new book entitled 'Addressing the Intentional Destruction of the Environment during Warfare under the Rome Statute of the ICC'

20 May 2015

Speaker: Steven Freeland, *Professor of International Law at Western Sydney University, where he teaches both postgraduate and undergraduate students, and supervises PhD students, in the fields of International Criminal Law, Commercial Aspects of Space Law, Public International Law and Human Rights Law.*

Oil and Gas in the Marine Arctic: the Rights and Responsibilities of States and Peoples

26 May 2015

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) – The Hague

High Level Panel 'The Dilemmas Involved in Countering Terrorism through the Internet: What's at Stake?'

28 August 2015



L-R: Dr Quirine Eijkman, Campus The Hague/Leiden University; Ms Verity Harding, Google Europe; Mr Rob Wainwright, Europol; and Mr Marco de Swart, ICCT - The Hague

ICCT convened a public high level panel on countering terrorism through the internet as part of the Summer Programme on Countering Terrorism: Legal Challenges and Dilemmas. Terrorist organisations are making use of the internet for recruitment, incitement and radicalisation purposes, but also for financing, planning and preparing terrorist attacks.

While several countries are working on new legislation providing the intelligence community with far-reaching powers to crack down on communications on the internet between terrorists, EU ministers increase pressure on the social media industry to prevent the spread of radicalisation through the internet. However, these measures can have a serious impact on a range of important human rights as well, including the freedom of expression. This event discussed some of the legal limitations and opportunities and answered the question 'what is at stake?'

[More information](#)

Lecture 'Combating Terrorism with the Tools of Law. Process of Reflection on an International Court against Terrorism'

17 November 2015

The institute hosted this joint initiative of the Romanian and Spanish embassies which examined the possible establishment of an International Court against Terrorism. The lecture, which drew an unprecedented number of participants, addressed the main perceived challenges and problems including the financial implications and the relationship of such a court to existing international and domestic jurisdictions. The lecture concluded with an animated debate among panelists and participants.

[More information](#)



Mr Ion Gâlea, Director General for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

International Humanitarian Law/International Criminal Law

IHL Platform Lunch Lecture

22 January 2015

Ms Pnina Sharvit Baruch, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv, spoke about the dilemmas in asymmetrical warfare. After her talk, a response was provided by Paul De Waart, Professor Emeritus International Law at VU University Amsterdam.

Launch of the report 'Unacceptable Risk: Use of explosive weapons in populated areas through the lens of three cases before the ICTY'

28 January 2015

The International Humanitarian and Criminal Law (IHCL) Platform of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and PAX organised the launch of the report 'Unacceptable Risk: Use of explosive weapons in populated areas through the lens of three cases before the ICTY'.



The event was moderated by Onur Güven, Researcher on arms control law at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, who kicked off the evening and introduced the speakers: Frank Slijper, Policy Advisor at PAX; Maya Brehm, Researcher on weapons law and Consultant for PAX; and Stefan Waespi, Federal Prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney General, Berne, Switzerland and former Senior Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (in a private capacity). [More information](#)

4th PhD Day IHCL Platform 22 June 2015

After a word of welcome by Prof. Janne Nijman (Academic Director T.M.C. Asser Instituut) and Dr Christophe Paulussen (Senior Researcher T.M.C. Asser Instituut and Coordinator of the IHCL Platform) presentations were given by Nele Verlinden of Leuven University ('How to become a party to a pre-existing armed conflict?'), Mark Roorda of the University of Amsterdam ('Implementing LOAC: Drone Strikes and Military Targeting Procedures'), Jens Iverson of Leiden University ('The transition to peace in the just war tradition'), Catherine Harwood of Leiden University ('Interpretation and application of IHL by international commissions of inquiry: what normative significance?'), Emma Irving of the University of Amsterdam ('Where human rights protection ends: how to ensure the right to liberty at the ICC') and Zahra Mousavi of the University of Amsterdam ('Role of States in the Development of International Criminal Law: with Particular Reference to Iran and its Prospects of Joining the International Criminal Court'). The successful day was concluded with a reception.

Livestreamed Launch Event 'The 1949 Geneva Conventions: A Commentary' 4 December 2015

The IHCL Platform of the Asser Institute organised a livestreamed projection of the launch of the book 'The 1949 Geneva Conventions: A Commentary', which took place at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

The Commentary, published by Oxford University Press, is edited by Professors Andrew Clapham, Paola Gaeta, and Marco Sassòli and prepared under the auspices of the Geneva Academy. In this book, over sixty international law experts investigate the application of the Geneva Conventions and explain how they should be interpreted today.

[More information](#)

Supranational Criminal Law (SCL) and Hague Initiative for Law and Armed Conflict (HILAC) Lecture Series

Asser's SCL and HILAC lecture series enable (PhD) students, diplomats, scholars and practitioners from international organisations and tribunals to discuss current developments in a very informal way and with the biggest names in the field of international humanitarian law and international criminal law.

In the course of our Supranational Criminal Law lecture series, a long running collaboration with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and the Grotius Centre at the University of Leiden, we welcomed many distinguished speakers to the institute.

Overview SCL Lectures in 2015:

The International Crimes Division of Uganda

21 January 2015

Speaker: Harriet Ssali Lule, Deputy Registrar of the International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Court of Uganda.

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

What is an International Crime?

3 March 2015

Speaker: Kevin Jon Heller, Professor of Criminal Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London (SOAS).

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Palestine and the International Criminal Court

17 March 2015

Speakers:

- Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
- Shawan Jabarin, Director of Al-Haq

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Reflections on Eight Years on the ICC Bench: Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova

29 April 2015

Speaker: Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova, Outgoing Judge International Criminal Court.

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Improving victims' legal representation at the ICC

10 June 2015

Speakers:

- Jean Philippe Kot, Avocats sans Frontières
- Fidel Nsita, LRV
- Fiona McKay, Head Victims Participation and Reparation Section of the ICC

International criminal law – a personal note on its practice and current challenges

9 September 2015

Speaker: James Stewart, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Accountability in the war on terror? – in cooperation with ICCT

22 October 2015

Speakers:

- Norman Farrell, Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon
- Larissa van den Herik, Professor of International Law at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University
- Helen Duffy, Director of 'Human Rights in Practice' and Professor Gieskes Chair of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University

Lights and Shadows of the Proposed Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia

9 December 2015

Speaker: Prof. Dr Héctor Olasolo Alonso, Chair in International Law, El Rosario University (Colombia); Chairman, Iberoamerican Institute of The Hague (IIH) and Ad Hoc Professor, The Hague University of Applied Sciences.

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Inside the International Law Commission: Towards a Convention on Crimes Against Humanity

16 December 2015

Speaker: Sean D. Murphy, Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

The video of this lecture can be viewed [here](#).

Overview HILAC Lectures in 2015:

International Humanitarian Law and cyber warfare

31 March 2015

Speaker: Brigadier-General Prof. Paul Ducheine, Professor in the Law of Cyber Warfare at the University of Amsterdam and in Cyber Operations at the Netherlands Defense Academy

Detention in armed conflict and the significance of the Serdar Mohammed case – Venue: Humanity House

14 October 2015

Speaker: Prof. Jonathan Hafetz, Associate Professor at Seton Hall Law School

Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict: Protection and Prosecution – Venue: Humanity House

19 November 2015

Speaker: Dr Marina Lostal, Lecturer in International Law at The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Other events

Visit top 25 students Lebanon Lecture Series

6 February 2015

The top 25 students of the 2014 season of the Lebanon Lecture Series visited the T.M.C. Asser Instituut. They were welcomed by Executive Director Ann O'Brien, and Senior Researcher Christophe Paulussen. The Lecture Series is organised in cooperation with eight Lebanese universities and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and enables Lebanese students, via internet streaming, to interact with top scholars and practitioners on matters of international criminal law (procedure).

The programme has also led to more cooperation between the different universities in Lebanon.

[More information](#)

Public Lecture 'Shari'a and the rule of law'

24 March 2015

The T.M.C Asser Instituut organised a public lecture by Laila Al-Zwaini within the framework of the MATRA South *Administration of Justice* training programme. This very topical issue that carries foremost importance for the work of the judiciary in Arab countries attracted much interest from members of the legal community in The Hague, next to the judges, prosecutors and policy-makers that took part in the Matra South training programme.

Ms Al-Zwaini addressed the nexus between Shari'a and its very rich history and the rule of law in the legal systems and practices of Arab countries. Ms Al-Zwaini looked at the tensions between incorporating international standards within the Shari'a-based constitutions and legal practices of these countries, bringing in her own field experience. She emphasised the occasional and regretful mismatches between the reality within the countries that so desperately need assistance in their public sector reforms and the programming of donors that do not take into account local realities, one of them being the significantly pluralistic and traditional system of Shari'a. She explored avenues towards developing a locally and globally shared rule of law culture.

The lecture was followed by a discussion, moderated by Dr Tamara Takács, Senior Researcher at the T.M.C Asser Instituut, whereby the course participants and other members of the audience raised questions to the speaker.

[More information](#)

Delegation of Judges from the Supreme Court of Albania visited the Asser Institute

22 April 2015

Prof. Dr Xhezair Zaganjori, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Albania, and his colleague Judges were on a three-day visit to the International Courts and Tribunals in The Hague, when they visited the Asser Institute in view of the excellent relations between our two institutions.



The Asser Institute has trained the legal officers of the Supreme Court of Albania in 2014 and many Albanian Judges (as well as Prosecutors and senior Civil Servants) participated in the [Matra PATROL training programmes in The Hague \(2012 – 2015\)](#). It is the wish of the Albanian Supreme Court to further strengthen its co-operation with the Asser Institute.

Second Private International Law Meeting

21 May 2015

The yearly Private International Law meeting was attended by a number of scholars in the field, as well as representatives of ministries and of The Hague Conference on Private International law.

[More information](#)



L-R: Prof. Gilles Cuniberti, University of Luxembourg; Prof. Dr Vesna Lazić, T.M.C. Asser Instituut; and Prof. Jinske Verhellen, University of Ghent

Workshop on 'Governing the Global Climate Regime: Issues of Institutional Integrity and Justice'

15 – 16 June 2015

This event was organised by the Griffith University's Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law (IEGL) from Australia, in collaboration with the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and Amsterdam Centre for International Law (ACIL). The workshop started with a paper outlining a framework for good governance and integrity. Subsequent speakers addressed specific elements of the global and other climate regimes, commenting *inter alia* on governance, integrity and effectiveness issues and addressing, in particular, current weaknesses. The participants discussed what lessons could be learned from those weaknesses and which good governance solutions might be encapsulated in the future regimes regarding climate change, notably at the global climate summit in Paris at the end of 2015.

Public Roundtable "In Whose Name? On the Functions, Authority and Legitimacy of International Adjudication"

7 September 2015

In Whose Name do or should international courts decide? This is the fundamental question raised in a book published by Prof. Armin von Bogdandy (Max Planck Institute Heidelberg) and Dr Ingo Venzke

(Amsterdam Center for International Law), and it was the overarching question debated at a Public Roundtable organised by the authors in cooperation with the Asser Institute.

Moderated by Prof. Janne Nijman (Asser), speakers Judge Fausto Pocar (International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia), Dr Gleider Hernández (Durham), Dr Cecily Rose (Leiden), and Prof. Stephan Schill (Amsterdam), each with their own expertise and relevant experience with different international courts and tribunals, shared their reflections on the issues of legitimacy that lie behind this question. While building on the public law theory of international adjudication developed in their book, Prof. Armin von Bogdandy and Dr Ingo Venzke responded by arguing that ultimately international courts and tribunals speak the law – that is, exercise international public authority – ‘in the name of the peoples and citizens whose freedom they ultimately shape, however indirectly.’ The proposition contributed to a lively debate among the Roundtable’s participants.

Roundtable "Tiptoeing to the TTIP: What Kind of Agreement for What Kind of Partnership?"

18 September 2015



Mr Hiddo Houben, Deputy chief negotiator for TTIP (DG Trade)

In light of the ongoing negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, in cooperation with the Amsterdam Center for International Law, organised a Roundtable designed to bring to the fore the main contentious issues surrounding the current debate: regulatory cooperation and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism.

With this event the Asser Instituut, being uniquely located at the crossroads of legal practice, policy deliberations and academic debate, brought together participants with high-level expertise from various backgrounds, in order to contribute to the current policy debate. Participants included academics and policy makers, as well as representatives of the civil society, who assessed the political, legal and institutional long-term consequences relating to the conclusion of TTIP.

[More information](#)