


# **Global Europe: Legal and Policy Issues of the EU's External Action**

Volume 5

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Marek Neuman · Ramses A. Wessel · Thijs de Zee  
Editors

# A Geopolitical Europe in the Making?

The EU's Actorness in a (De-)Globalising  
World



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# Acknowledgements

To understand the process that led to the publishing of this edited volume, we need to go back four years in time, when our colleague, Prof. Dr. Anjo Harryvan, in true spirit of wanting to bring the European Union closer to the people, decided to apply for the prestigious Jean Monnet Chair, financed by the European Union. Being successful in his application, he was able to establish the Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics and Governance within the Department of International Relations and International Organisation of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Groningen in 2021. The Chair was founded at a time of careful optimism about the course of European integration: the Union was seen to have (more or less successfully) mastered the Eurozone, the migration, and the Brexit crises that plagued it from 2008, 2015, and 2016, respectively, and despite anti-EU rhetoric *within* some of the member states, European integration had not come to a halt.

The Jean Monnet Chair was particularly interested in how the most recent European integration trends informed the EU's external relations and foreign policy-making. To this end, and bundling forces with legal experts at the same university, the Chair organised a multidisciplinary conference in Groningen (the Netherlands), entitled *The EU in a Globalising World: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. The preparations for this conference began in 2021 and were soon overshadowed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which has created novel and very distinct conditions against which European integration would have to continue, not least in terms of its foreign policy approach. Gathering in Groningen, scholars from a variety of academic disciplines—European law, political science, European studies, migration studies, and international relations to name but a few—set out to make sense of the changing role the EU attempts (and is able) to play globally. One thing became clear rather quickly: post-February 2022, the world may be less globalising than what the Jean Monnet Chair—and the conference title—believed a year earlier. Hence the title of this very volume, which can be regarded as the tangible outcome of

the many lively academic debates that began in Groningen and continued ever since: *A Geopolitical Europe in the Making? The EU's Actorness in a (De-)Globalising World*.

Reflecting upon the past year of intensively working on this subject and towards this edited volume, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge several individuals and institutions without which this volume would not have been possible. First and foremost, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all the chapter contributors. Not only have they repeatedly improved their chapters in line with the comments received from several reviewers, but they also (more or less) stuck to the strict deadlines, and—most importantly—created a pleasant atmosphere in which to work. It is the mentioned reviewers whom we would like to thank for their constructive feedback, their comments and suggestions. This volume is better thanks to their continued input and support.

Second, we are very grateful to our two research assistants, Jeanette Jansen and Laura Jager. Whereas Laura has predominantly supported us in the final stages of the project, Jeanette has supported the Jean Monnet Chair from its inception. We align with Thijs de Zee, one of the co-editors of this very volume, when saying that if it was not for your continuous and critical support, Jeanette, we might still be restructuring the conference programme. Furthermore, the book would be nowhere close to being such an enjoyable read had it not been for the linguistic magic of Andrew Gloege, who tediously edited each and every sentence of this volume. For this, we want to thank you very much.

Third, without the right institutional support, both the research and publication process would not have gone this smoothly. As such, we would like to thank everyone at T.M.C. Asser Press, particularly our editors Frank Bakker and Annika Mäkinen for their support and assistance over the past year. We would like to thank and acknowledge the financial support the Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics and Governance (project number 101047734) has received from the European Commission. Without this funding, the Chair and all its activities over the past three years—including this very volume—would not have seen the light of day.

Finally, and most importantly, we would like to thank Prof. Dr. Anjo Harryvan for his vision to set up the Chair and his guidance throughout the first few years of its existence. He has been an ardent supporter of—and believer in—the European cause and all his academic (and more popular) work speaks to his conviction that Europe needs to be brought closer to its citizens if it wants to have a future. Unfortunately, an insidious disease has taken Anjo's life too early to see the successful completion of *his* Chair. It is him—and his life work—that this volume is dedicated to.

Marek Neuman  
Ramses A. Wessel  
Thijs de Zee

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