

EDITORIAL

NO JOURNEY IS A STRAIGHT PATH

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Last year, the European Journal of Legal Studies (EJLS) celebrated its tenth anniversary at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy). At a time when the EU fears and encounters erosion and disintegration, the EJLS took this anniversary as an opportunity to invite scholars from all over Europe for an intense and fruitful two-day conference on legal issues arising from the EU project. A selection of four conference papers features in this special issue. While the authors by no means underestimate the unique nature of the challenges currently facing the European project, they equally do not seem to consider that progress towards an ever-closer Union was ever meant to be straightforward.

As such, the conference contributions do not feature dashed hopes of continuous progress towards an increasing number of joint policies adopted in the EU or broken hearts over exiting states. Rather, the five authors propose tools for understanding and organizing micro-processes taking place within the EU, including micro-processes of interaction between EU Member States and EU organs. The result of this common endeavor makes for a refreshing read, breaking from the current alarmist EU literature in which a step backwards is taken as the beginning of the end of the EU project.

This special issue is thus an opportunity to explore ongoing EU mechanics and processes, starting with **Lucie Pacho Aljanati**'s subtle take on questions of uniform application and interpretation of EU law. By sharing her findings on the divergences of interpretation of EU law revealed by different language versions of decisions of the European Court of Justice, she successfully conveys the importance of looking in an informed and reasoned way at the multilingual architecture of EU law. After this deep dive into the issue of

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linguistic integration, **Lena Boucon and Daniela Jaros** provide a rigorous and stimulating analysis of the current dynamics of monetary integration. Their piece examines the application of national law by the European Central Bank within the EU banking union's single supervisory mechanism (SSM) and conceptualizes this application as a new, hybrid, mode of European integration. Moving to the scrutiny of a case of interaction between the national and EU level, **Jasper Krommendijk** invites us to observe the preliminary reference 'dance' between the CJEU and Dutch courts in the field of migration. Through legal-empirical research, the author establishes that the decisions of national judges in the Netherlands not to refer a question to the CJEU do not reflect some political strategies, but rather legal considerations or circumstantial elements. Finally, looking at the national and EU level interaction from a broader perspective, **Lando Kirchmair** revisits the issues raised by the complex relationships between international, EU and national law. After outlining his dissatisfaction with the existing theoretical frameworks, Kirchmair sketches a 'theory of the law creators' circle' in an attempt to reconceptualize these relationships.

With that, I invite our readers to delve into these highlights of the EJLS conference. I wish to congratulate the special task force of editors and the former Executive Board of the journal who made the event a great success. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Academy of European Law, to Anny Bremner, Joyce Davies, as well as H el ene Debuire Franchini and Agnieszka Lempart, without whom the 10th anniversary conference could not have happened.

The completion of this 10th anniversary project is also where some of the editors of the EJLS end their own journey as part of the Executive Board of the journal: R uta Liepina and Maria Haag, to whom I wish to express heartfelt thanks on behalf of the entire board for their incredible work as Executive Editors, and Marcin Bar anski and Th eo Fournier, Heads-of-Section for Legal Theory and Comparative Law respectively. My time as Editor-in-Chief of the EJLS, whose adventures I will continue to follow with delight, has also come to an end. It has been wonderful working with and learning from all the editors of the journal, and very gratifying to develop the EJLS projects in the supportive environment of the European University Institute. I wish to extend sincere thanks to the EUI Web communications

services and in particular to Francesco Martino, Web Communications Manager, and Andrea Kostakis for their invaluable help in designing and creating the new website and for providing us assistance with unfailing generosity and enthusiasm. Finally, I wish to express special thanks to the President of the EUI, Professor Renaud Dehousse and his office, to the EUI Law Department, and to the members of the EJLS Departmental Advisory Board, Professor Deidre Curtin, Professor Claire Kilpatrick, Professor Urška Šadl, and Professor Martin Scheinin, for allowing us to develop our projects independently and with the peace of mind knowing that they are always happy to advise and support us when needed.

Thanks to their support, an EJLS prize will be awarded to the best New Voices contribution and another to the best General Article written by a young scholar for the Autumn 2018 Issue and the Spring 2019 Issue.

