

Academic Conference

Strengthening the Rule of Law in Europe

- From a Common Concept to Mechanisms of Implementation -

Date and time: Thursday and Friday, 3 and 4 April 2014, from 12.30 p.m. resp. 9 a.m.

Venue: University of Innsbruck, Kaiser-Leopold-Saal, Karl-Rahner-Platz 3, 2nd floor

The Department of European Law and Public International Law of the University of Innsbruck and the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Vienna invite to a 2-day academic conference on „Strengthening the Rule of Law in Europe - From a Common Concept to Mechanisms of Implementation“. The conference is organized under the auspices of the Austrian presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The rule of law is a value upon which the Union is founded and a prerequisite for the accession of new Member States. It has nonetheless become obvious in recent time that there is room for improvement in that regard in a number of Member States. At the moment, once a State has become a member, the Union's possibilities to react are limited, notably in view of structural deficits regarding the rule of law in the Member States, for instance, as regards the independence of the judiciary or legal certainty.

In view of this situation, discussion has begun as to whether mechanisms can be established on the Union level – beyond the sanction procedure under article 7 TEU – by virtue of which such problems may be identified and overcome. This requires, however, that consensus on the minimal content of the rule of law in the Union can be achieved. The conference's objective is therefore first a debate of the participating experts on the core elements of common European principle of the rule of law. On this basis, measures towards the implementation of this principle in the Member States and their institutional implications shall be discussed. In this regard, a bridge shall be built between the ongoing discussions on a European rule of law within the Council of Europe and the European Union, respectively.

For further details please consult the attached preliminary **program**. Due to the limited space available **pre-registration** is required. Please use the following link: <http://www.uibk.ac.at/europarecht/rule-of-law/> A list of **hotels** which provide a limited contingent of rooms with special rates is enclosed.

This conference is funded by the Hanns Martin Schleyer-Stiftung and the Heinz Nixdorf Stiftung in the framework of its Universitas-Initiative „dialogue science – practice“.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Innsbruck on 3 and 4 April 2014.

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