



Enforcement of the basic values of the European Union

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Course description and working method

Students will gain a deeper understanding on the basic values of the EU and the available mechanisms to enforce them vis-à-vis the Member States. The course would address the current deficiencies of the existing enforcement mechanisms and possible solutions will also be discussed. By the end of the course, students will be able to think critically about these issues, which capability is strengthened by the course's methodology, which relies on reading assignments in advance of each class and discussing specific cases.

Course outline

The course shall give a complete account of all mechanisms available to enforce the fundamental values of the European Union.

1. It shall first discuss the scope of such values under Article 2 and possible situations which raise the need for protecting such values.
2. A critical analyses of the rule of law framework as well as its scarce practice shall follow.
3. The Article 7 procedure will be dealt with in a historic perspective highlighting the circumstances of its creation.
4. A heavy emphasis will be put on Article 51 (1) of the Charter and the case law relating thereto.
5. The course shall also discuss how the mechanisms of the Council of Europe may contribute indirectly to the protection of the values of the EU, including applications to the European Convention of Human Rights as well as the practice of the Venice Commission.
6. By the same token, the role of national constitutional procedures in enforcing fundamental values of the EU will be discussed.

Assessment

Written exam.