Abstract

The EU’s ‘Economic Constitution’ as established in the Treaties has been radically transformed since the early days of market integration through law. Initially, what was referred to as the Economic Constitution largely consisted of rules related to market distortions such as competition law and State aid control. Successive Treaty amendments as well as further developments in the post-Lisbon era have added matters in a much wider scope of monetary and also economic policy giving powers to get involved in ‘macro-economic’ questions. Within the EU, there has also been a significant diversification of the bodies, from within the executive branch of powers, dealing with economic matters. These two developments, the branching out of EU powers into economic policy matters and the increase in bodies dealing with such questions has to a certain degree re-defined the relations between domestic, European and international actors and sources of law.

The various elements of the EU’s Economic Constitution – the old and the new – interact and can be used to achieve certain economic and fiscal policy objectives. Understanding the economic model pursued by EU law and how far political choices can shape the exercise of economic policy within the EU is thus an important objective of research. Given the current setup, how ideologically ‘neutral’ can the EU’s Economic Constitution be and how amenable is it to the expression of political will through elections? Where is the power located to change economic policy making?

This conference aims to be a forum of discussion and exchange of ideas about the theoretical framework of the transformations in terms of shift of powers and competences (in Day/Part I) as well as of the challenges and consequences for the understanding of the concepts (in Day/Part II). Overall, the conference will explore how the transformations of the EU’s Economic Constitution of the past years have changed EU public law, modes of government and governance.
Programme

Thursday 21 September

The Metamorphosis of the European Economic Constitution

09:00 - 11:00
Session I: Introduction - The metamorphosis of the European Economic Constitution
Introductory remarks - Discussant: Katerina Pantazatou (University of Luxembourg)
Christian Joerges (Hertie School of Governance) “Was Europe’s Economic Constitution brought to trial?”
Klaus Tuori (University of Helsinki) “Key constitutional principles of the European Macroeconomic Constitution, their fate during the crisis and accountability of the Eurosystem”
Federico Fabbrini (Dublin City University) “Economic governance in Europe after the crisis: constitutional paradoxes in comparative perspective”
Bruno de Witte (Maastricht University and European University Institute) “A gentle criticism of the Metamorphosis thesis”

11:30 - 13:30
Session II: The expansion of economic policy powers and the program countries – the practice of borrowing EU institutions

Discussant: Herwig Hofmann (University of Luxembourg)
Angelos Dimopoulos (Queen Mary University) “The role of EU institutions under international law and cooperation between EU Member States”
Frédéric Allemand (University of Luxembourg) “The new European economic constitution: from soft to hard policy coordination?”
Dariusz Adamski (Wroclaw University) “Just believe in miracles! How evolving economic and political beliefs have redefined the European Economic Constitution”

Light lunch

15:00 - 17:00
Session III: Social Rights and the Economic Constitution?

Discussant: Luca Ratti (University of Luxembourg)
Claire Kilpatrick (European University Institute) “Social rights and the Economic Constitution?”
Nicola Countouris (University College London) “Social rights and the market in Europe’s Economic Constitution”
Lucia Serena Rossi (University of Bologna) “Labour rights in transnational situations: fundamental freedoms vs fundamental rights”

Coffee break

Friday, 22 September

Challenges and consequences for the legal and political understanding of the European Economic Constitution

Workshop for Young Researchers

09:00 - 11:00
Session IV: Regulatory tools and “building sites”

Discussant: David Howarth and Giovanni Zaccaroni (University of Luxembourg)
Jakub Gren (ECB and University of Luxembourg) “The role of the principle of decentralization in the operational design of the Single Supervisory Mechanism”
Viorica Vita (European University Institute) “(Un)constitutional conditions? Promoting EU constitutional ends through EU budget conditionality”

13:00 - 13:30
Conclusions

Herwig Hofmann (University of Luxembourg)

Light lunch