Call for Submissions

Seventh Edition of the Patrick Daillier Symposium

The European Union and the development of international law
What influence in a changing world ?

Paris Nanterre University, 31 March 2027

The Centre for International Law at Paris Nanterre University (CEDIN) invites submissions for **the seventh edition of the Patrick Daillier Symposium**, focusing on current issues relating to the European Union's contribution to the development of international law.

Article 3, paragraph 5 of the Treaty on the European Union provides that the Union "shall contribute to […] the development of international law". Endowed with international legal personality and its own competences, the Union contributes to the evolution, interpretation, and implementation of international law, notably through its treaty practice, its unilateral acts, and its participation in international organisations.

However, the nature and scope of this practice remain subject to discussion. On one hand, the transfer of competences to the Union's institutions and the density of European practice provide rich material for the development of international law. On the other hand, the need for autonomy of the Union's legal order, the distribution of its competences with those of its Member States, and the specificity of its institutional framework may raise questions on whether the Union's practice can be transposed onto international rules. Furthermore, ongoing developments and restructurings in the architecture of the law of international relations call for a re-examination of the Union's place within it, particularly alongside that of its Member States, and in relation to other organisations.

The seventh edition of the Patrick Daillier Symposium seeks to establish to what extent the European Union is currently fulfilling the objective set out by the Treaty on the European Union to contribute to the development of international law, and whether the measures taken to this end are, or remain, sufficient to meet this officially stated ambition.

In response to this question, the symposium will explore three areas of discussion.

1.- The representation of the European Union's diplomatic and legal positions on the international stage : challenges, methods and limitations

Contributors may examine the distribution of representative powers between the Union's institutions, as well as their involvement in formal and informal international fora of discussion. The aim is to analyse which institutions, and by what means, participate in formulating and communicating the European Union's positions internationally. Beyond the institutional division of competences, contributions may also examine developments relating to the EU's representation on the international scene. Can the Union speak with one voice? To what degree does this voice allow it to exert influence in international debates and contribute to the development of international law? What comparisons can be drawn with other organisations?

- Which EU institutions are responsible for monitoring projects and responding to questionnaires from the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC), from the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI), or from the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)? How do the roles of the European Commission, the European External Action Service, and the Council's specialised working parties and committees intersect in drafting statements presented before the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly?
- Which institutions formulate amendments to treaties still under negotiation (see, for example, the European Union's recent proposals for amendments to the Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, or the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine)?
- Which institutions define the position of the Union when a decision has been reached at a Conference of the Parties (COP) or within the bodies of the Council of Europe, and how?
- Which institutions are competent to voice the Union's positions during consultative or contentious proceedings, such as requests for advisory opinions on climate change or dispute settlement before the World Trade Organisation?
- What role does the European Parliament play at an international level? What is the value of its resolutions on international issues?

2.- The European Union : major contributor to the development of general intenational law?

Submissions may explore the substantive effects of the Union's influence on different branches of general international law. Here again, comparative analyses between the European Union and other organisations are welcome. Contributors may, for example, address the following topics:

- How does the Union contribute to the evolution of the international law of sources? Does it adopt an original approach to the law of treaties (i.e., inclusion of disconnection clauses, use of interpretative declarations)? What weight does the Union's practice carry in identifying customary international law or general principles of law, and in the growing use of legal instruments whose legally binding nature is still debated (partnership agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, administrative arrangements, association agreements)?
- To what extent do the Union's positions on the right to self-determination of peoples influence the practice of its Member States or third States (Kosovo, Palestine, Western Sahara)? Does the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union have bearing on the development of this right?
- How does the treaty practice of the Union (arbitration clauses, Ceuta Agreement) contribute to the development of international dispute resolution?

3.- The European Union and the development of specialised banches of international law

This third theme explores the practical implications of the European Union's institutional role in light of contemporary and specific challenges. Contributors may adopt a critical approach to the European influence on the development of the law in certain spheres. Submissions may consider the Union's influence on the formation and interpretation of specific branches of international law and may, where appropriate, compare it with other organisations. Proposals may concern:

- International environmental law;
- International criminal law;
- International migration law;
- International humanitarian law;
- International trade law; or,
- International investment law.

Submission requirements

We invite researchers and practitioners to submit an abstract (500 words maximum) and a short biography (150 words maximum) to journeedaillier@gmail.com. We also welcome and encourage abstracts from early-career researchers, including PhD candidates.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **3 January 2027.** We expect to inform applicants of the outcome of their proposals by **15 January 2027**.

A selection of the papers may be published at a later date; details of this will be communicated to the selected contributors.

For any additional questions about the organisation of the symposium, please contact the at : journeedaillier@gmail.com.

Symposium format

Selected contributors will each give a presentation lasting about 20 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session led by a moderator. The event will take place in person and online

The symposium will take place in French. However, contributions in English are also welcome.

Date and time

The symposium will take place on **31 March 2027**, in person, at Paris Nanterre University Faculty of Law (Bâtiment Veil), 200 avenue de la République, 92000 Nanterre, France. It will also take place online.

Contact

For any enquiries concerning the symposium or the submission process, please contact: journeedaillier@gmail.com.

Organisers of the symposium

The symposium is organized by a team of doctoral students from CEDIN (with Professor **Mathias Forteau** as coordinator) :

- Ms **Chika Alichukwu**
- Ms **Léonie Lebrun**
- Ms **Beya Mousli**
- Ms **Fanny Touzot**
- Mr **Giovanni Totozafy**

Université Paris Nanterre

CEDIN Centre de droit international de Nanterre

FIND Fédération Interdisciplinaire de Nanterre en Droit