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International Relations Law of the European Union

(Possible) Topics for the Student Presentations

Rules: The presentation supports the understanding of the topics under discussion and facilitates debate among all participants. Most importantly, however, it provides students with the opportunity to practice their English language skills. The experience is meant to increase self-confidence with the English language; based on their language skills from school or previous studies/holidays/internships abroad, all participants overcome their stage fright and learn to speak freely in English. For regular students in law (*Staatsexamen*), presentations are oral only; supporting material may consist of maps, legal texts (e.g. excerpts from an international treaty, etc.), pictures, etc., while no handout or power point presentations are allowed to prevent excessive preparation. Erasmus/LLM students and those from political science, are expected to produce a handout or a short power point presentation. Speaking time is limited to 5-8 minutes for all students. No marks will be given except for those who wish to obtain ECTS credits for the course.

Themes: Each participant chooses a topic in coordination with the professor. The list below is to provide guidance only. Alternative topics may be based upon personal experiences obtained during studies/holidays/internships abroad. Please note that many topics are broad. It will, therefore, be necessary to present selected aspects only. Experience shows that it is better to focus on selected aspects the speaker considers most interesting, than to remain general and superficial. No one will be criticised for being too specific. It can be appropriate to have a cluster of presentation by different people on a related topic. However, the individual component must be visible clearly for those who wish to obtain a mark. Possible themes include:

Court cases: brief presentation of the facts and the main findings of ECJ cases (please note that the time is much shorter than for the *Kolloquium*; the presentation should therefore focus on the core findings insofar as these are relevant for the lecture). A list of relevant cases, including many classics, is provided on the homepage accompanying the lecture.

Membership in International Organisations: EU membership in International Organisations alongside the Member States is best understood through the presentation of specific examples. IOs of interest include the FAO, the observer status in the UN General Assembly, the role of the UN in the UN Security Council, or the European Space Agency (note that WTO membership is explained and discussed separately in the lecture).

Common Commercial Policy: the EU has concluded free trade agreements with countries around the world and is an active player within the WTO framework. Participants may present the political debate and the contents of the EU position on a specific topic in world trade talks, one specific trade dispute involving the EU within the WTO (time constraints mean that only core questions may be discussed) or ongoing negotiations with selected third states (e.g. US, Canada, India, Mercosur, etc.) or core aspects of existing agreements with specific countries (e.g. South Korea, China, Mexico, etc.). It can be appropriate to have a cluster of students presenting related themes on one agreement, e.g. the CETA between the EU and Canada.

Association & Neighbourhood Policies, incl. Accession: relations with neighbouring countries are crucial elements of EU foreign policy. Students may opt to present one specific aspect of relations with one neighbouring country to the East or South (except for Turkey, which will be discussed in the lecture). Please note that due to time constraints students should focus on one element of their choice instead of giving a broad overview of bilateral relations. For a start, the EEAS homepage provides a good overview of relations with different countries.

Migration and Asylum: in the summer of 2017 we may put an emphasis on the *external* reaction to the migration and refugee crisis, in part. cooperation with countries in Northern Africa and further South (Niger, etc.). There are various ongoing civil and military CSDP missions which are of particular interest as well as ongoing cooperation in the field of development aid and refugee protection (for instance, cooperation with selected African states under the 'new partnership framework'). Note that *internal* EU policies, such as the hotspots at the external border, the Dublin Regulation or the activities of the agencies EASO and Frontex are not covered by this lecture, which concerns cooperation with third countries outside the European Union.

Security and Defence Policy: within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy, the EU is conducting a number of civilian and military crisis management operations around the world. Presentations should focus on one mission among the wide list of former and ongoing missions which is available on the EEAS homepage. There are also remarkable recent developments concerning the pooling of research, acquisition and planning, such as the establishment of a Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC).