



## Editorial

In the date of this issue, the European Union and the world at large are still struggling with possibly the greatest challenge in our times: a pandemic crisis that made all of us to put everything into perspective and where scientific production and knowledge exchange has met a new era. This issue's contributions – received before COVID-19 was a real concern in the European continent – reflect a great number of Union law areas from citizenship and solidarity to the Union's institutional legal setting and they can be surprisingly helpful in this pandemic context as they can support the European Union to equate the path it is now being traced.

The first contribution, by Ángel R. Oquendo, entitled “Toward a European citizenship based on transnational constitutionalism and solidarity” aims at underlining civic rights – as voting, association, expression, non-discrimination... – in order to perceive them as scalable to consolidate a post-national principled identity. Focusing in the European legal order, this objective is twofold, in order to overcome its lasting crisis and to resist nationalist temptations: i) to enhance participatory means so the perception of the European Union can be transformed; and ii) to promote social welfare rights that can beneficiate a majority of citizens.

The following work, authored by Laura Flores Anarte and entitled “From Wollstonecraft's dilemma to Nancy Fraser's theory of gender justice: a proposal for the analysis of gender equality policies”, focuses on social policies in order to understand them as vital instruments on women's discrimination and gender inequality. Notwithstanding, the author underlines there is still room on the conceptualization of gender inequality which sets aside the possibility of electing suitable means to establish an egalitarian paramount. Departing from Nancy Fraser's scientific quest to overcome this problem, this paper underlines several topics to study public policies on gender equality.

The next text “Brexit and its impact on the UK Higher Education sector and the rights of scholars and students”, authored by Katarzyna Gromek Broc, focuses on Brexit and how it can have an impact on Higher Education in the United Kingdom, particularly focusing on Scholars and Students' legal positions, since the academic world, in the wording of the author, will be the one to “bear the cost of this political decision”, even if it is perceived as prepared “to minimise its negative consequences”.

The contribution of Rafael Leite Pinto – “The (un)successful EU environmental policy” – addresses the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme 2020 and the Sustainable

Development Goals 2030 (set by the United Nations) in order to unravel the successes and the failures of the European Union Environmental Policy. This approach leads the reader to understand the missing pieces on the European political setting, i.e., where the EU is on default and which areas demand stronger measures to meet international standards and to overcome the difficulties the European Union is still experiencing on fulfilling its own goals.

José Calderón and João Sérgio Ribeiro address the theme «The complex situation of intermediary holding companies in the EU after the CJEU landmark decisions on the “Danish cases”». In this contribution, these authors analyse the impact of the Court of Justice’s decisions that created a relevant and complex doctrine as they interpreted anti-abuse rules and principles related to European intermediary holding companies.

In the following text, Vitor Carlos Almeida da Silva presents a contribution entitled “European Banking Union: a two-stroke reality” as the author unravels all the steps the European Union took to accomplish a Banking Union, despite lacking its last pillar, the European Deposit Insurance Scheme. In this sense, the author criticizes the European Banking Union non-completion and underlines how this can lead to its inefficiency, particularly if it comes to a time of facing a new financial crisis.

Isabel Espín Alba presents an article under the theme “Online content sharing service providers’ liability in the directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market” where it is reflected how digital technologies transformed the way creative content (protected by copyright) is produced, distributed and accessed. In this sense, the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market aims at updating copyright rules. This text focuses on Directive’s article 17 as its legal scheme changed the liability regime of the online sharing service provider.

Continuing on the new technologies’ impact on legal regimes, Iakovina Kindylidi presents a text entitled “Smart Companies: company & board members liability in the age of AI”. Departing from the reality that artificial intelligence is quickly evolving, this contribution aims at examining how it can impact the field of company law and corporate governance. On the latter, the author also addresses a change on its paramount, proposed for Smart Companies.

Still on legal implications of new technologies of information and communication, Colette R. Brunshwig presents a text with the theme “Humanoid robots for contract visualisation”, in order to challenge two assumptions made by legal operators: that contracts should consist only on words and that only human beings are able of designing the “look and feel” of contracts. The author discusses contract visualisation and how to legally communicate to those humanoid robots.

Lastly, this issue ends with the contribution of Tiago Sérgio Cabral, as the author presents “A short guide to the legislative procedure in the European Union”. In fact, in this text, the author is able to explain the legislative procedure in the European Union both in a literal and in a practical sense, exposing which moments can lead to lesser transparency and to setting aside citizens’ engagement in the procedure and, particularly, on the democratic basic value in which the European Union is found.

**The Editorial Team**