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Editorial

The first issue of the Latin American Journal of European Studies is online. It's an outstanding achievement!

The Latin American Journal of European Studies (LAJES) is a publication of the Latin American Center of European Studies, created from the BRIDGE Project of Jean Monnet Network with funding from the Erasmus + Program of the European Commission. It is open access, double-blind reviewed publication in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, to create new knowledge, build bridges of dialogue, and exchange good practices between European Union and Latin America, always intending to promote economic and social development, peace, and international security.

The Journal is part of the *Red Latinoamericana de Revistas y publicaciones de Derecho Internacional* (RELAREDI) and the entire editorial team is now working hard to include LAJES in the leading international scientific indexers, and we trust that it will soon be possible.

According to its Editorial Policies, the Journal contains a specific Thematic Dossier, and the first issue topic is on *EU-Latin America trade and investment relations*. The Thematic Dossier has aroused much interest within the Academy: nine articles of the Journal have been chosen among those submitted to the homologous international event organized by Prof. Nuno Cunha Rodrigues, partner of BRIDGE Project at the University of Lisbon (Portugal), Prof. Elizabeth Accioly from the European University of Lisbon and Prof. Aline Beltrame de Moura, BRIDGE Project Coordinator

from the Federal University of Santa Catarina - UFSC (Brasil). The event hosted two sections: a Workshop to present the twelve selected articles from nine different universities, and a Seminar, that counted with the participation of academic and political authorities specialized in the theme, among the Director of the Law School and the Dean of the University of Lisbon, the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, members of the European Parliament and representatives of Latin-American countries embassies.

The first paper of the Dossier, written by Carlos Francisco del Pozo, is entitled "Las relaciones Eurolatinoamericanas en el Marco de la Nueva Trade Policy of the European Union" (Euro-Latin American relations within the framework of the new commercial policy of the European Union). The Organization Committee has selected it as the first best article of the *EU-Latin America trade and investment relations International Seminar*. The author analyzes the relationship between the European Union and Latin America by examining their trade agreements in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its projection, such as the consequence of new approaches of the New International Order that delimit global trade.

Giulia D'Agnone presents the second-best paper of the *EU-Latin America trade and investment relations International Seminar*, on "Environmental conditionality in Eu-Latin America trade relations." The proposal is to verify whether a policy of "environmental conditionality" in EU trade relations with Latin American countries aimed at environmental promotion and sustainable development can be ascertained. Thus, the essay analyses agreements and

unilateral acts to define the characteristics and the efficacy of such a policy.

The research presented in the paper “El derecho de los tratados en el arbitraje de inversión intra-Unión Europea” (The right of treaties in the arbitration of intra-European Union investment), by Rafael Tamayo Álvarez, addresses specific issues of public international law arising in the realm of intra-EU investment treaty arbitration. It also considers a recent Court of Justice of the European Union ruling according to which Intra-EU investment treaty arbitrations are incompatible with EU Law. The paper thus describes the role of some provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties in Intra-EU investment treaty arbitration.

In the paper “Uma década de política europeia de investimento estrangeiro – balanço e perspectivas futuras” (A decade of European foreign investment policy –balance sheet and future perspectives), Maria João Palma briefly analyzes the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the new competence in the area of foreign investment and the relevance of two recent CJEU Opinions in the present overall framework of EU Foreign Investment policy. Lastly, she focused on what measures are needed to have a more coherent and uniform EU Foreign Investment policy for all investors in the EU market.

The Relations between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are presented by Silvia Simont in “Unión Europea-América Latina y el Caribe: comercio e inversión. L’Acuerdo de asociación Unión Europea-Mercosur, su pilar comercial y potenciales efectos en el sector agroindustrial”

(European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean: European trade and investment. The Union-Mercosur association agreement, its commercial pillar, and potential effects on the agro-industrial sector). The study aims to identify the current situation of trade and investment relationships between the EU and LAC, in particular at the level of the Mercosur subregion (MCS), to analyze the trade pillar of the Agreement closed in 2019 and identify aspects of its potential impact on the agro-industrial o agri-food sector.

The objective of the article “La integración Centroamericana y el acuerdo de asociación entre esa región y la Unión Europea” (The Central American integration and the association between this region and the European Union), by Nancy Eunice Alas Moreno, is to introduce the current relationship between the European Union and Central America (CA), and their efforts to materialize the Central American Customs Union following the signing of an Association Agreement, as well as the challenges that CA faces in order to achieve effective implementation. The Association Agreement is an instrument that offers both regions a range of opportunities but whose potential has not yet been fully exploited because of the slow process of deep customs integration that has been achieved only between the Northern Triangle countries.

The simplification of civil processes with cross-border elements is the main topic of the Marcel Zernikow's contribution, on the “A cooperação jurídica dentro da União Europeia e do Mercosul: a agilização do processo civil internacional no âmbito da regionalização” (Judicial co-operation in the European Union and in Mercosur: simplifying international civil procedure in the

context of regionalization). The purpose of this study is to analyze three examples of judicial cooperation (cautio judicatum solvi, service of documents, recognition and enforcement of judgments) in order to demonstrate how regional integration enabled the evolution of new mechanisms in this field. Thus, the mechanisms created in both spaces are presented, comparing them with those governing legal cooperation interstates, outside the context of member states/parties.

The aim of the paper "Sistema de solución de controversias en materia de inversiones en los tratados negociados por la Unión Europea con México y el Mercosur (2019/2020): un estudio comparativo" (Investment dispute settlement in the agreements negotiated by the European Union with Mexico and Mercosur (2019/2020). A comparative study), written by Gabriela Teresita Mastaglia, is to establish the legal regime applicable to the dispute settlement system on investments in the framework of future European Union and Latin America relationship and its possible homogeneous development in the region. To this end, it has been undertaken a comparative study of two agreements negotiated, but not yet in force, between countries of different sub-regions of Latin America, specifically those reached with Mexico and the MERCOSUR.

When Brazil announced the formal request to join the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (ACG/GPA), Nuno Cunha Rodrigues writes "A abertura ao comércio internacional da contratação pública no Brasil: entre o Acordo sobre Compras Governamentais (GPA) e o acordo EU/Mercosul" (Opening

public procurement in Brazil to international trade: between the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and the EU/Mercosur agreement). The last Thematic Dossier paper analyzes the historical evolution and current legal framework of the Agreement and describes the process of joining the GPA. Furthermore, reference is made to the chapter on public procurement contained in the EU/Mercosur agreement. It concludes that the forthcoming entry into force of the EU/Mercosur agreement may represent an antechamber for the possible future adherence to the ACG/GPA of other Mercosur member countries and, possibly, of more Latin American countries.

Beyond the Dossier, the Journal also has admitted to publication contributions focusing on the editorial lines *European Union Law and Policies* and *International Relations of the European Union with third countries and Latin America*.

In the article "As implicações da proteção de dados diante de um mundo interconectado: as contribuições da União Europeia diante do cenário legislativo brasileiro" (Data protection implications through an inner-connected world: European Union's contributions towards the Brazilian administrative scenario), Beatriz Graziano Chow and Clarisse Laupman Ferraz Lima, first analyze some historical aspects that led to the constitution of data protection rights from a legislative perspective both in the European Union and in Brazil. They also address privacy, data protection, and ethics within other controversial topics, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the use of artificial intelligence. Finally, the current situation of

data protection rights in these territories is considered and presents possible setbacks to data protection worldwide.

Clarice Rangel Schreiner, Eveline Vieira Brigido, and Roberto Rodolfo Georg Uebel are the authors of "The European Union and the Turk-Cypriot issue: normative, geopolitical and migration aspect." This article analyses the normative, geopolitical, and migration aspects of the relations between Turkey, Cyprus, and the European Union, based on bibliographic and documentary research and from a qualitative approach. It aims to contextualize Northern Cyprus historically and politically, analyze Cyprus's geopolitical and regional aspects, debate the normative issues of the Brussels-Nicosia-Ankara ax, and contribute to new understandings of its impacts on European and Turkish international relations.

Finally, Jamile Bergamaschine Mata closes the present issue of the Journal with an Interview with Ignacio Ybañez - Ambassador of the European Union in Brazil, entitled "Por uma aliança estratégica Mercosul e União Européia: O papel da Europa para o fortalecimento da Sustentabilidade" (For a strategic alliance Mercosur and the European Union: The role of Europe in strengthening Sustainability) where the main theme of Sustainability is considered in the current scenario and the negotiations for the entry into force of the Mercosur-European Union Agreement, and in the context of pandemic and global economic and social recessions.

As Editors of this issue, we thank the authors and contributors who made it possible to publish the first issue of the Latin-American Journal of European Studies and wish you all a stimulating reading!

*Aline Beltrame de Moura, Naiara Posenato
& Nuno Cunha Rodrigues*