



Promoting the rule of law
in the EU

4th Annual FRA Symposium
Vienna, 7 June 2013



FRA

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS



Symposium's objectives

The fourth annual Symposium of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) concerns the rule of law and its implementation in the Member States.

The Symposium will focus on two areas:

1. Key fundamental rights elements of the rule of law, including operational indicators;
2. Existing experiences in evaluation and 'measuring' the rule of law.

Addressing these topics will provide a forum for discussing fundamental rights aspects of the rule of law in the EU, allow an exchange of ideas between policy makers, monitoring bodies and experts, and, finally, explore ways and means of promoting the rule of law.

Agenda

Thursday, 6 June

- 18:00 Welcome drink at FRA
- 19:30 Evening reception
at Restaurant Arco, Marokkanergasse 3, Vienna

Friday, 7 June

- 08.15 – 09.00 Registration and welcome coffee
Plenary moderation provided by **Friso Roscam Abbing**, FRA Head of Communication Department
- 09.00 – 09.10 Welcome and introduction by **Morten Kjaerum**, FRA Director
- 09.10 – 09.30 Keynote speech by **Kathleen Lynch**, Irish Minister of State, Department of Health and Department of Justice, Equality & Defence, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- 09.30 – 10.00 Presentations by keynote speakers
Rui Tavares, Member of the LIBE Committee, European Parliament
Emmanuel Crabit, Head of Unit 'General justice policies and judicial systems', DG Justice, European Commission
- 10.00 – 10.30 Q&A session
- 10.30 – 13.00 3 parallel working groups

Working Group questions

Working Group I – The EU: what role for the rule of law?

- Rule of law, justice and fundamental rights requirements within the EU
- Basis for monitoring the rule of law in the European Union

Working Group II – Indicators: measuring performances and trends

- Links between the rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- What indicators could best measure the rule of law?

Working Group III – Mechanisms: synergies amongst existing monitoring schemes and further developments

- How can existing mechanisms be used?
- How to develop synergy and refinement between existing mechanisms?

Working group I – The EU: what role for the rule of law?

5th Floor
Room 5/109

Moderator: **Jonas Grimheden**, FRA Head of Sector 'Access to Justice'

Rapporteur: **Constance Grewe**, Professor emeritus of Public law, University of Strasbourg and Judge of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Working group II – Indicators: measuring performances and trends

4th Floor
Room 4/122

Moderator: **Joanna Goodey**, FRA Head of Freedoms and Justice Department

Rapporteur: **Deaglán Ó Briain**, Irish EU Presidency, Chair of the Working Party of the Council of the EU on Fundamental Rights, Citizens Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP)

Working group III – Mechanisms: synergies amongst existing monitoring schemes and further developments

3rd Floor
Room 3/122

Moderator: **Martin Gramatikov**, Senior Justice Sector Advisor at Hiil-The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law

Rapporteur: **Tatiana Termacic**, Head of Support to Human Rights National Implementation Unit, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.50 Plenary - Reporting from the rapporteurs of the working group Q&A

15.50 – 16.00 Concluding remarks by **Morten Kjaerum**, FRA Director

16.00 – 16.30 Farewell coffee

Background

There are many reasons at present to focus particularly on respect for the rule of law in the EU:

- economic growth (rule of law as an incentive for investment and trade)
- freedom of movement (to create a common area of justice)
- internal-external cohesion (ensuring what is promoted in third countries also happens 'at home')
- identifying and promoting best practices

About the FRA Symposium

This annual meeting at FRA's premises in Vienna is a by invitation only event. It allows experts and practitioners to discuss topics of particular relevance to the EU policy agenda in the field of fundamental rights. The meeting takes place under Chatham House Rules to ensure a lively and open exchange of views. It is an important opportunity for experts to come together, discuss and pool expertise on a subject of paramount importance to the EU debate on fundamental rights.

Participants generally include:

EU institutions, international organisations, national governments, National Human Rights Bodies, civil society, academia, and other experts and practitioners.

Previous Symposia focused on "Strengthening the fundamental rights architecture in the EU" (2010); "Using indicators to measure the fundamental rights in the EU" (2011); "The EU data protection reform: new fundamental rights guarantees" (2012).

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